

2019 Reviews of Electoral Arrangements Final Report Template

For decision

1. At its meetings of 11 March and 13 April, the Commission considered a revised draft of a final report for Orkney Islands council area, to be used as the template for producing all six reports for the 2019 Reviews of Electoral Arrangements (LGBCS Paper 2555 and 2588).
2. Following comments made at the meetings the Secretariat have used the template to produce final reports for the 6 council areas covered by the Islands Reviews. These are in Appendices A–F:
 - Appendix A – Final Proposals: Na h-Eileanan an Iar
 - Appendix B – Final Proposals: Orkney
 - Appendix C – Final Proposals: Shetland
 - Appendix D – Final Proposals: North Ayrshire
 - Appendix E – Final Proposals: Argyll and Bute (draft)
 - Appendix F – Final Proposals: Highland (draft)
3. One particular issue the Commission wished to consider further relates to how to cover the factors that can and cannot be taken account of in considering consultation responses. Paragraphs 38–41 (Orkney) offer a revised reference to this.
4. In terms of timing, it has been agreed with Scottish Government officials that at least 3 reports should be submitted by 28 May to enable them to begin work on preparing the Orders that will be laid before the Scottish Parliament by the end of August. The remaining reports should be submitted by 10 June.

Conclusion

5. The Commission is invited to provide any final comments on the reports. It would be helpful if comments on the text which is common to all 6 reports could be made by reference to the report for Orkney. Any agreed changes will then be made to the other 5 reports. Where the Secretariat has general points for the Commission’s consideration these are highlighted on the Orkney report. Comments relating to the specific proposals for each council areas should be made on the relevant report.

Secretariat
May 2021

Note: we suggest removing the sentence “Councillors will represent more/ less electors in this ward than strict parity would require” in the ward map/ descriptions in all reports. It doesn’t differentiate between large and small variations from parity and any variation from “strict parity” requires special geographical considerations to apply. The table provides the information and we suggest only including reference where we have considered special geographical circumstances.