

# SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Issued on behalf of  
The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland



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before 0001 Hours on 25 February 2014**

## **The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland commences its Fifth Reviews of Electoral Arrangements**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland has begun reviews of Scotland's local government electoral arrangements. The Commission today starts a series of meetings with each individual council to discuss the reviews. The reviews will result in recommendations for the number of councillors on each council and the number and boundaries of wards for the election of those councillors. They will not look at the external boundaries of council areas.

The last set of reviews was completed in 2006 following the introduction of multi-member wards for Scottish council elections. The number of councillors on each council was last reviewed shortly after the councils' establishment in 1996.

The reviews will look at each of Scotland's 32 local authorities.

The Commission has drawn up recommendations for the number of councillors on each council based on a methodology that, for the first time, takes into account levels of deprivation as well as population distribution. Using these factors, similar councils are grouped together for the purpose of determining councillor numbers.

This stage of the reviews comprises consultation with councils on the number of councillors. The next stage will be consultation with the public on councillor numbers, expected to commence in May 2014. Later stages will comprise consultation on proposed ward boundaries.

When reviewing electoral arrangements the Commission is required to take account of the following factors:

- the interests of effective and convenient local government;
- within each council, each councillor should represent the same number of electors as nearly as may be;
- local ties which would be broken by making a particular boundary;
- the desirability of fixing boundaries that are easily identifiable; and
- special geographical considerations.

The Commission expects to make its recommendations to Scottish Ministers in 2016, and that the resulting wards will be available for the local government elections in May 2017.

Ronnie Hinds, Chair of the Commission, said: “There have been many changes in Scotland since our last reviews, and it is important that electoral arrangements for Scottish councils take account of those changes as part of ensuring effective local democracy.”

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Information on the review can also be found on the Commission’s website:  
[www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk)

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## Notes for News Editors

We are the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland, and have been responsible for reviewing local government boundaries and electoral arrangements in Scotland since we were established by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The 1973 Act also defines our constitution and procedures (in Part II and Schedules 4 and 6 of the Act).

We are an advisory Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) which is sponsored and financed by Scottish Ministers. We are required to conduct electoral reviews of each local authority at intervals of 8 to 12 years.

The Commission is an independent, non-political body which is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations for:

- the number of councillors in each local authority;
- the number of wards for local government elections and their boundaries; and
- the extent of council areas.

We conducted our Fourth Reviews between 2004 and 2006. The Fourth Reviews recommended the current multi-member wards which have been used for local government elections in Scotland in 2007 and 2012.

The electorate data for this review will be based on the September 2013 electoral register.

Full information about the Commission and its work is available on the Commission's website: [www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk) .

A general introduction to the Commission and its work appears in our Information Paper "The Commission: a general guide" which is available from the Publications section of the website <http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/publications/> .

Information on this review is available from the **Reviews in Progress** section of the website:  
<http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/reviews/>.