

Third Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements

Orkney Islands Council Area

Report to the Secretary of State for Scotland

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

Report Number E98015
July 1998

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

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Constitution of Commission

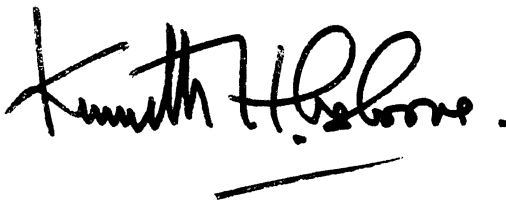
Chairman:	The Honourable Lord Osborne
Deputy Chairman:	Mr K J Clark CBE
Commissioners :	Dr E Graham
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	Mrs G Silver

The Rt. Hon Donald Dewar MP
Secretary of State for Scotland

We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland, present our proposals for the future electoral arrangements for Orkney Islands Council area resulting from our Third Statutory Review of all Scottish local authorities.

In accordance with the provisions of section 18(3) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, copies of our report, together with illustrative maps, are being sent to Orkney Islands Council with a request that the report and maps should be made available for public inspection at their offices. In addition, copies of our report, without maps, are being sent to those who received a copy of our consultation letter or who have subsequently expressed an interest by making detailed representations in respect of our provisional proposals which were published on 4 December 1997.

Notice is also being given in newspapers circulating in the Council area of the fact that the report has been made so that interested persons may inspect the report and maps at the Council's Offices.



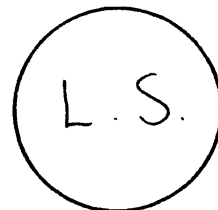
The Honourable Lord Osborne
Chairman
for Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland



R Smith
Secretary

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July 1998



Third Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements Orkney Islands Council Area

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Introduction

1. The Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 determined that on and after 1 April 1996, Scotland should be divided into local government areas as named and described in Schedule 1 to the Act and that, for each area, there should be a council consisting of a convener and councillors. It further determined that each council should have all the functions exercised immediately before 1 April in relation to their area by any existing regional, islands or district council.
2. On 1 April 1996 all local government areas existing immediately before that date which were regions and districts and all regional and district councils ceased to exist.
3. Schedule 2 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 also established that every local government area (other than the islands areas of Orkney, Shetland and Western Isles) should be divided into such electoral wards as may be specified in a direction made by the Secretary of State after carrying out such consultations as he considered appropriate. Those wards were to apply for the purpose of any election of councillors held before 'the relevant year of election' (defined as meaning the first year of ordinary election of councillors for the area in question occurring after the making of an order constituting the new electoral wards of that local government area in consequence of the review currently being undertaken by the Commission). In accordance with procedures that applied prior to the reorganisation in 1975, the views of councils were invited. However, the 1994 Act determined that in the islands councils, councillors elected for the islands areas of Orkney, Shetland and Western Isles at the ordinary election held in 1994 should continue as Councils until the second ordinary election of councillors for the new councils held under section 5 of the 1994 Act. Under the existing structure, Orkney Islands Council, therefore, retained 28 councillors.

Origin and Commencement of the Review

4. The Commission has a statutory duty under section 14 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to undertake periodic reviews of local authority electoral arrangements. The Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 amended section 20 and schedule 5 of the 1973 Act, directing that:

as soon as practicable after 1 April 1996, the Boundary Commission shall-

review the electoral arrangements for all local government areas for the purpose of considering the future electoral arrangements for those areas; and

formulate proposals for those arrangements.

5. This, therefore, is one of the statutory reviews required in terms of section 16(2) and Schedule 5 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended.
6. On 22 March 1996, the Scottish Office Development Department gave local authorities advance notice of the intention of the Commission to carry out a third statutory review of electoral arrangements. On 29 March 1996, we wrote to all councils to announce the commencement of the third statutory review of electoral arrangements and to explain the procedures to be followed. We also gave notice of the commencement of the review to all Community Councils, Electoral Registration Officers, Members of Parliament with a constituency interest and the Scottish headquarters of the political parties. In addition, public notice of the commencement of the review, which included an invitation to interested parties to apply to us for a copy of our consultation letter to councils, was given in newspapers.

Background

7. During the passage through Parliament of the 1994 Act, there was cross-Party understanding that we would review the number of councillors and boundaries of electoral wards for each council in time for changes to be implemented for the 1999 local elections. This was seen to be important because at the time of reorganisation, as mentioned above, the Secretary of State defined the electoral wards for the new councils and to a great extent based these on existing district wards. It was, however, recognised that using the existing district wards led to some councils being significantly over-represented in relation to other areas. Further, it also led to councillors within the same local authority areas representing wards with significantly different numbers of electors. Accordingly, our review was seen as important to ensure equity in representation across and within all local authorities. Further, the new authorities were now responsible for the provision of the full range of all services and, accordingly, consideration had to be given to determining an appropriate number of councillors for service provision to be effectively managed.
8. This review is, therefore, the first conducted by us which sets out to determine the appropriate number of councillors required for councils to operate efficiently and to establish the boundaries of electoral wards. To achieve both objectives our review was conducted in 2 main stages:

identification of a suitable methodology for determining numbers of councillors which, applied across all local authority areas, would be seen to be equitable and consistent; and

the division of each local authority area into the appropriate number of electoral wards in accordance with the statutory rules.

9. A copy of the statutory rules to be employed by us and the Secretary of State in considering proposals for electoral arrangements is provided at Appendix A

Number of Councillors

10. In formulating proposals for the number of councillors we have been guided by two main principles:

effective management of councils; and

equity amongst electors.

11. We recognised that the number of councillors is crucial because there is, undoubtedly, some number below which it would be impossible for a council to discharge its duty to deliver services to its population and, conversely, there is also some number above which a council becomes unwieldy and cumbersome. We were influenced in this respect by the prior considerations of two other bodies.
12. The Royal Commission on Local Government In Scotland 1966-69, under the Chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Lord Wheatley, provided a basis by which the number of regional councillors and the size of constituency to be represented might be determined by taking into account the fact that population density varies widely in Scotland as a whole and within regions. The then accepted view was that council size should not generally exceed 75 members. In England and Wales the Redcliffe-Maude Commission, which reported to Parliament in 1969, also drew attention to the management problems of large councils and endorsed the recommendation of The Committee on the Management of Local Government that a maximum number of 75 councillors should be set.
13. After careful consideration we concluded that, in the Scottish context and to provide additional flexibility, an upper limit of 80 councillors should be set. We also concluded that a minimum number of councillors should be set, recognising that even the smallest local government areas are now responsible for a wide range of functions. Accordingly, we decided that the minimum number of councillors should be 18. Further, these limits should apply to all councils.
14. Regarding equity as between voters, we considered that ideally each elector's vote should possess the same weight and significance in local government elections throughout the country; furthermore, ideally, there should be similar mutual accessibility between electors and councillors. However, since Scotland is a country of great diversity, both geographically, and demographically, a fact reflected in the areas for which councils created by the Act of 1994 are

responsible, and since we are satisfied that, in the interests of good local government, the number of councillors in any council must fall within certain limits, we concluded that these ideals are unattainable in practice. In this situation, recognising that a fair degree of homogeneity exists within certain groups of councils, which exhibit broadly similar geographic and demographic characteristics, we resolved to strive for equity in the senses mentioned within these groups, so far as that is possible within the constraints of the legislation under which we operate.

15. We, therefore, proposed a methodology which initially categorised council areas by density and distribution of population using data available from the 1991 Census of Population. Having classified council areas according to these criteria and adjusted the ratio of electors to each councillor to take account of similar characteristics, we have been able to achieve a broad equity of electorate across and within all council areas.
16. In our letter of 29 March 1996, all councils were informed of the proposed methodology and future pattern of representation for their council area. Councils were requested to make any representations they wished on numbers of councillors by 29 April 1996 so that a meeting could be arranged with the Deputy Chairman and Secretary to discuss the pattern of representation and any matters regarding our review that the Council wished to raise. Following visits to all councils by the Deputy Chairman and Secretary to discuss the proposed methodology and to consider alternatives which could be applied across Scotland, no alternative methodologies were offered but a number of councils suggested that the underlying classification should be amended to include an additional category.
17. At our meeting of 17 June 1996, we re-examined the criteria to be used to categorise mainland councils with similar characteristics in light of the representations made by a number of councils. We concluded that there should be 6 rather than 5 categories. The final categorisation of similar mainland councils was then agreed as follows:
 - Category 1 Large Cities Glasgow and Edinburgh.
 - Category 2 Cities Aberdeen and Dundee.
 - Category 3 Authorities with less than 60% of the population living outwith settlements of 10,000 or more persons **AND** an overall population density of one person or more per hectare.
 - Category 4 Authorities with **EITHER** 60% or more of the population living outwith settlements of 10,000 or more persons **OR** an overall population density of less than one person per hectare.

- Category 5 Authorities with 60% or more of the population living outwith settlements of 10,000 or more persons **AND** an overall population density of less than one person per hectare.
- Category 6 Authorities with 60% or more of the population living outwith settlements of 10,000 or more persons **AND** an overall population density of less than 0.2 persons per hectare.

18. In addition to the 6 categories we then determined the ratio of councillors to electorate for mainland councils that would allow for efficient management and appropriate representation, as set out in paragraphs 11 - 14 above, and considered that the following would be appropriate:

- | | |
|--------------|---------|
| • Category 1 | 1:6,000 |
| • Category 2 | 1:4,000 |
| • Category 3 | 1:3,500 |
| • Category 4 | 1:3,000 |
| • Category 5 | 1:2,500 |
| • Category 6 | 1:2,000 |

19. On 20 June 1996 we wrote to all mainland councils informing them of the revised criteria for determining councillor numbers and inviting them to prepare a draft scheme of electoral arrangements for their Council area. Following upon that, Aberdeen City Council brought a petition for Judicial Review of the decision taken by us at our meeting of 17 June, 1996 in the Court of Session. In it they sought a decree of declarator that that decision in relation to them was unlawful, ultra vires and null and void; they also sought a decree of reduction of the decision in relation to them and certain ancillary remedies. We resisted this petition, which was dismissed by the Court on 20 December 1996 after a hearing.

20. We considered the ratio of councillors to electors for the 3 islands councils at our meeting of 26 August 1996 and concluded that the appropriate ratio would be 1:750. On 28 August 1996 we wrote to these councils informing them of our decision.

21. Orkney Islands Council did not respond to our letter of 28 August 1996. However, we noted that, following our initial round of consultation, it had intimated that a council of approximately 21 members would be appropriate. Further, discussions with senior council officials subsequent to our letter of 28 August also indicated that the Council was content with the provision of 21 wards and that a draft scheme, which was to be subject to revision before submission to us, had been prepared by November 1996.

Orkney Islands Council's Proposals

22. The Council submitted the outline of a draft scheme of electoral arrangements for 22 wards by facsimile on 14 February 1997. On receipt of the facsimile, the

Secretary of the Commission queried the number of wards in the Council's draft scheme with the Chief Executive because, until this time, there had been every indication that a draft scheme of 21 wards had been prepared. The Secretary of the Commission was informed by the Chief Executive that Orkney Islands Council was not prepared to consider a draft scheme for 21 wards and, further, if such a scheme was required by us, it would be necessary for our staff to develop alternative proposals without Council support.

23. The Chief Executive was also asked to provide details of the ward boundaries, particularly for the Kirkwall and Stromness areas, because, whilst the draft proposals made it clear that these areas would eventually be divided into 7 wards of approximately 850 electors and 2 wards of approximately 790 electors respectively, it was also clear that ward boundaries had not been determined. The Chief Executive was informed that we could not consider an incomplete draft scheme of electoral arrangements.
24. The Council did, however, indicate that its draft scheme had been advertised and that interested parties had been advised to make their representations directly to us by 28 March 1997. Details of the proposed wards for Kirkwall and Stromness were then submitted by the Council on 25 April 1997 and we were informed that details would, at that time, be advertised and displayed in the Council Offices.
25. In considering the Council's draft proposals we were concerned that it had decided to prepare a draft scheme of 22 electoral wards. We recalled that during the consultation process in Orkney, and in the Islands Areas in general, we were informed that the existing smaller wards clearly contributed to a form of parochialism which resulted in some councillors being reluctant to study and address the wider and more strategic issues affecting Council activities and, further, that smaller, more focused councils might be more appropriate. We noted that the Council acknowledged it had previously determined that 21 councillors would be sufficient for the needs of its area. The Council, however, now indicated that, after further consideration of various alternatives for 21 wards, it considered that existing wards would have to be distorted to such an extent that the review would not achieve any consensus within the electorate.
26. When determining the ratio of electorate to councillors, we had considered the geographical characteristics of the area and inter-island communications links and had concluded that a scheme of 21 wards was feasible within the statutory rules. We recognised, however, that the constraints of applying the statutory rules would require us to make substantial revisions to the Council's draft proposals.
27. Our initial analysis also suggested that the Council's draft scheme was largely based upon maintenance of perceived community ties and adherence to boundaries which, in many areas, pre-dated the local authority structure set up in 1947. It paid little attention to the need for achieving, as nearly as practicable, electoral parity in the ward structure. Bearing in mind the stance adopted by the Council's Chief Executive, we instructed officers of the Commission to visit the Council area in order to examine the potential for developing alternative proposals for a

scheme of 21 wards, recognising the statutory requirements concerning electoral parity and considering, where it was practicable and possible to do so, representations received in response to the publication of the Council's draft proposals.

28. Representations received in response to the Council's draft scheme are set out below.
29. Holm and Wideford Community Council noted that Holm would have to be linked with another area but stated that it would prefer the status quo. It considered that Burray is a totally different environment, being an island with different needs from its parish. However, it noted that, if we were to adopt the draft proposals, it would wish to retain the present Community Council area.
30. Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Community Council objected to the Council's draft scheme. These objections were based on the dissimilarity of the communities in terms of structure and interests. It asserted that, in the context of Orkney, Evie and Rendal is not an island community and its residents were unlikely to be concerned with the ferry service, which they may only use once or twice in their lifetime for a casual trip to satisfy curiosity. Similarly, the state of roads and tracks on the islands would hold little interest for them. Conversely, the ferry service is vital to the islands and, for the most part, islanders' contact with Evie and Rendal is limited to driving through the area in order to get to Kirkwall and Stromness.
31. Sandwick Community Council opposed the Council's draft proposals which, it considered, changed the boundaries of the parish of Sandwick and meant the loss of part of the village of Dounby. It also suggested that the number of electors in the parish would rise over the next few years. The Community Council did not consider that it was necessary for all parishes to have approximately the same number of electors and claimed that changing the parish boundary to incorporate a larger area would not be beneficial.
32. Shapinsay Community Council wrote to say that there should be no change to the existing boundaries and that, with no road links to Mainland Orkney, change would not be in the community interest. It expressed concern about the effect that changing boundaries would have on the island of Shapinsay. It wished the island to remain an independent ward and believed that it would not be served well if embraced by a ward in Kirkwall which contains a residential rather than a farming community. It further believed that there was logic in changing wards on Mainland Orkney but considered that islands should be left as they were.
33. South Ronaldsay and Burray Community Council wrote to say that the feelings of the residents of Burray had not altered since the previous attempt to impose the proposed boundary change. It wished Burray to remain with South Ronaldsay, even though the area would be under-represented.

34. Stromness Community Council requested that the present 3 wards be maintained. It suggested that the Stromness landward area had no association with part of Sandwick and that the proposals for the boundary between Sandwick and Stromness at Garson and Hillside were completely unworkable. It believed that Stromness justified 3 councillors because it was the main harbour for external shipping, had the secondary school and also the main sports and recreational facilities for western Orkney.
35. A letter asked that we give consideration to proposals which had been devised to avoid parochialism. The proposals were that Westray and Papa Westray remain as a single ward, despite their small electorate, because of their location in the outer isles. Sanday, North Ronaldsay and Eday should comprise a single ward bringing the electorate to a more reasonable figure and Shapinsay and Stronsay should also comprise a single ward, although the electorate figure was low. Further proposals were that South Ronaldsay be a single ward and that the island of Burray be linked with Holm, that the area known as Whiteness be added to St Andrew's and Deerness to form a single ward, that there was no alternative to Evie, Rendall, Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre forming a single ward and that Orphir and Stenness (two adjoining parishes which until recently formed a single ward) should again be linked. No changes were proposed in the Firth and Sunnybrae areas. The letter contended that the parishes of Harray, Sandwick and Birsay could readily be combined to form two wards based around Dounby school and church, and that Stromness and its landward area should be served by the retention of 3 wards. It considered the Council's proposals to be nonsensical. Further, it proposed 7 wards each of approximately 840 electors for Kirkwall, including Scapa, and it suggested that the least worst solution for the Stromness area would be to retain 2 wards for the whole of the area.
36. Jim Wallace MP wrote to say that he had received representations from a constituent in Rousay who was concerned about the proposals to combine an island with a Mainland parish as it may be very difficult for a councillor to represent what, at times, are two very different sets of circumstances.
37. Councillor Wyllie wrote to say that he considered proposals to associate the main part of Dounby village with Birsay to be a backward step which would cause a great deal of confusion, especially as the southern part of the village was part of Sandwick parish. An alternative boundary was proposed. Councillor Wyllie also suggested an amendment to the boundary of that part of Stromness parish which was incorporated within the Sandwick Ward.

Development of an Alternative Draft Scheme

38. In preparing a draft scheme for 21 electoral wards our officers noted that this could only reasonably be achieved within the statutory rules if the grouping of northern and southern islands in the Council's scheme was altered. They considered that, if the Council's proposals for these areas were to be maintained, considerable deviation from electoral parity would be necessary in wards on

Mainland Orkney. Discussion locally indicated that the communications in the Council area were such that they should not preclude the regrouping of islands or the linking of some island communities with Mainland Orkney. It was noted that, in many instances, the communication between islands by either ferry or air link was better than could be achieved in sparsely populated areas of the Scottish mainland. Our officers further considered that there was little possibility of meeting the statutory requirements regarding electoral parity without disrupting perceived historical associations and without some movement away from the maintenance of parish boundaries as electoral ward boundaries in a number of areas.

39. Our officers also noted that it was, by and large, not possible to assess the likely reaction to the 21 ward scheme of electoral representation they had developed vis a vis the representations already received in response to the Council's draft scheme. Having reconsidered the Council's scheme alongside that prepared by our officers, we concluded that a scheme of 21 electoral wards should be published as our provisional proposals.

Publication of Commission's Provisional Proposals

40. Public notice was given of the publication of our provisional proposals on 4 December 1997. Orkney Islands Council was asked to make copies of the electoral ward boundary descriptions, electoral statistics and illustrative maps available for inspection at its offices. Additionally, copies of our proposals were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had expressed an interest. We asked that any comments should be made to us by 9 January 1998.

Consideration of Representations

41. Nineteen letters were received:

- **Orkney Islands Council** wrote to say that the period allowed for submission of comments to us was totally inadequate and that we must surely have been aware that Council meetings are traditionally not held between mid-December and mid-January. It found it difficult to avoid the conclusion that we were disinterested in whether it was possible for consultees to submit comments timeously. The Council was extremely disappointed that its scheme of representation had not been accepted, having undertaken a great deal of consultation and exercised a great deal of care in the preparation of its draft scheme. The Council was particularly disappointed in what it considered to be our strict attention to electoral equality which, it believed, resulted in unnatural and sometimes impractical arrangements. It was concerned that our proposed Ward 11, (Orphir, Walls and Flotta), linked two communities different in character and separated by a 35 minute ferry crossing. It believed that there are no parochial, social, recreational or other links between the two parishes and

that the sole contact between them was the ferry. Our proposals for Ward 20 (Sanday, North Ronaldsay and Stronsay) and Ward 21 (Papa Westray, Westray and Eday) would mean that a councillor resident on any one of these islands would have to travel through Kirkwall to visit another part of his or her ward and that this would probably also incur an overnight stay. It believed that such a time commitment raised considerable doubts as to whether any candidates could be found to contest the proposed wards. It considered that we should be aware that local communities, through decentralisation, had been at the forefront of the Local Government agenda of the present and former administrations. By comparison with other areas of Scotland, it asserted, Orkney has a very active network of Community Councils and was, in many respects, at the vanguard of community involvement in local decision making, a process the Council intended to encourage and develop. It felt it important, if not vital, that a certain stability was maintained so that Community Councils could establish themselves. It contended that our proposals would disrupt a considerable number of Community Councils, some of which had been formed following the second statutory review of electoral arrangements. It believed that Graemsay, Hoy and Walls, Orphir and Scapa, Flotta and Stromness Community Councils would be severely disrupted. It concluded that its own scheme, based on the principles of numerical equality where possible but without losing sight of the boundaries of traditional and established communities, merited further consideration by us or the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner to conduct a public hearing.

Orkney Council wrote subsequently and acknowledged that its proposals did not provide numerical parity but wished to emphasise its belief that numerical factors should not be so predominant as to lead to situations where communities with few or no social or other ties were linked in order to achieve strict numerical harmony. In particular, it questioned the reasonableness of the workload to be expected from any councillor representing three outer islands. It stated that the change from 21 to 22 wards represented an attempt to ensure greater numerical equality and to recognise the unduly high number of electors in each ward in Kirkwall. It felt that further consultation was necessary and that an Assistant Commissioner should be appointed to hear representations.

- **Eday Community Council** wrote to say that it disagreed with our proposals and wished to retain the existing electoral ward boundaries.
- **Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council** objected to our proposals. It suggested that the needs of island and mainland communities in Orkney were different and that it would be difficult for a councillor to equally represent both. It felt that splitting the island of Hoy into 2 wards would be detrimental to the island where much of the last 30 years has been spent in an effort to integrate the communities. It noted

that the division sought to achieve electoral equity but urged that we leave the island communities as they are.

- **Orphir and Scapa Community Council** wrote to say that it was unrealistic to twin an island and mainland area in view of the fact that the needs of the communities are quite different. It viewed our proposals as entirely unrealistic and unworkable and asked that we reconsider.
- **Papa Westray Community Council** objected strongly to our proposals. It considered the linking of Papa Westray and Westray sensible but, as Eday had no direct boat service with these islands, it would take a councillor two full days to travel to a meeting and this would be an unreasonable burden. It gave support to Stronsay Community Council in its objection to our proposals and urged that we reconsider because of transport difficulties.
- **Sanday Community Council** were greatly concerned at our proposal to link its island with North Ronaldsay. It considered this link to be unworkable and impractical, given the geographical locations of the islands and the difficulties one person would have in representing the area. It concluded that, while it might be necessary to reduce the number of wards overall, the outlying islands were unsuitable for such an idea to work with any degree of success.
- **Sandwick Community Council** wished to remind us that it was unanimously opposed to our proposals which, if adopted, would change the electoral boundaries of the parish of Sandwick and involve the loss of part of the village of Dounby and the gain of a portion of the Stromness North Ward. The Community Council considered that it was not necessary for all parishes to have approximately the same number of electors.
- **Stromness Community Council** expressed concern about our proposals but recognised that any alteration of boundaries would have a knock on effect and would need careful consideration. It believed that such consideration could only be achieved by holding a public meeting. It pointed out that, prior to regionalisation, Stromness had its own Town Council and, following regionalisation, it maintained 3 distinct representatives on the Islands Council. It believed that our proposals would break up the historical identity of the traditional Stromness parish and lead to Sandwick dealing with issues concerning the town of Stromness.
- **Stronsay Community Council** expressed concern over the proposals to include North Ronaldsay with Sanday and Stronsay as one electoral ward. It stated that Stronsay had never had strong links with North Ronaldsay and that the connection would not be practical. It felt that the North Isles

and South Isles of Orkney should not be included in any future changes proposed for electoral wards.

- A letter was received welcoming our proposed changes. Our proposals to link islands or parts of islands with mainland constituencies were considered sensible. It stated that wards in the recent past had done too much to promote geographical loyalties in either historical parishes or islands with histories of enmity towards another area, often to the detriment of the best interests of the people of Orkney as a whole. It claimed that too often islands councillors range against mainland councillors and rural parishes against town wards and that this type of myopic parochial interest would diminish if representatives looked to a broader perspective of representation. It concluded that, with excellent air and sea links between all the isles, discrete communities were much more a thing of the past with island dwellers regularly shopping on the mainland and commuting to Kirkwall to work. It urged a further reduction in the number of councillors to around 12 - 15.
- **Councillor Clyde** wrote to say that she had seen the recent letters from the Council intimating the views of the majority of councillors but said that these views were not unanimous. She believed that there was a need for a more equitable division of electors in Orkney which was in accordance with the principle of democracy.
- **Councillor MacDonald** expressed dismay at some of the logic which had been applied to our provisional proposals. He considered that linking some islands to parts of the mainland was simplistic in the extreme and that natural boundaries such as stretches of water must be taken into account. He contended that slavish adherence to electoral equality, whilst highly admirable, is guaranteed to create artificial boundaries which will lead to a breakdown of social and community organisations. He mentioned that, in his own area of central Kirkwall, our proposed alterations were the third in three consecutive elections and that this would inevitably cause chaos and confusion in the minds of the electorate.
- **Councillor Cormack** wrote to express his profound disappointment at our proposals. He felt that we had ignored the statutory rules as far as boundaries, community ties and special geographical considerations were concerned. He contended that the Council scheme had been exhaustively discussed by elected representatives who had considerably more insight into local conditions than we had. He was of the opinion that it would have been better if we had asked the Council to redraw a scheme of 21 wards rather than making changes on the basis of an inadequate understanding of how different islands could be grouped. He considered that island wards cannot be readily amalgamated with Mainland Orkney because problems and concerns were different, mainly due to lack of communications. He considered that representing an urban ward is infinitely easier and was of the view that the number of Kirkwall wards

could be reduced. He thought our proposals would make the business of local government more difficult. It was his view that the principle that Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles were different from the rest of Scotland for local government purposes was already accepted and he wondered why Orkney's islands were being treated differently.

- **Councillor Groundwater** considered that our proposals for the Stromness area were worse than those submitted by the Council. He considered that long-standing communities should not be destroyed by an objective of achieving electoral parity and wished Stromness to have three councillors rather than two. He believed that councillors in Stromness and Kirkwall should have wards based on 1,000 electors. He concluded that Hoy, Walls, Flotta and Graemsay should remain unchanged because of the scattered population, that the parishes of Sandwick, Harray and Birsay should be formed into 2 electoral wards in order to maintain current common interests, that the parish of Stenness should be linked with Orphir as it had previously been and that the town and landward area of Stromness should be retained as one entity.
- **Councillor Halcro-Johnston** objected to our proposals for Ward 11 which linked Orphir with the south end of the island of Hoy thus creating a hybrid ward divided by a 30 minute boat journey. He stated that Orphir and Stenness had been linked since 1981, that they are adjacent and very similar in character, that the churches are linked and that one Community Council serves both parishes. He noted that, despite the fact that local government in Orkney was not reorganised at the time of the Scottish mainland reorganisation and in the face of local opposition, Orphir and Stenness were split and Orphir linked with Scapa - an arrangement which provided Scapa with a Community Centre. It would be a tragedy to destroy this community so soon after it had been created. He felt that it would be impossible for any councillor to represent the proposed new ward and urged us to retain the present electoral arrangements.
- **Councillor Hagan** expressed concern over our proposals to link Papa Westray, Westray and Eday as a single ward. He stated that there were no direct ferry links with Eday and that it would take two days of a members time to attend an evening meeting of the Community Council or School Board. He thus had grave concerns as to whether anybody would be prepared to contest this ward. He pointed out that similar problems would arise with our proposals for Ward 20. He stated that Orkney is proud of its strong links between the Council and Community Councils and that the Council was also pursuing other means of promoting decentralisation. He believed that the linking of Papa Westray, Westray and Eday would inevitably mean that the islands would be represented by someone living on the mainland, which was a backward step. He urged a rethink of our proposals based on the Council's proposals.

- **Councillor Thom** wrote in support of the proposals submitted by Orkney Islands Council although he had submitted alternative proposals to the Council which agreed with two of our proposals. He contended that we had not properly interpreted the statutory rules in that we had ignored community ties and special geographical considerations. He mentioned the likelihood of confusion arising from our proposals for Kirkwall as was the case when ward boundaries had changed in 1993 and he noted that, under our proposals, the existing boundaries within Kirkwall would drastically change to accommodate Shapinsay. He stated that Kirkwall did not have a Community Council to consider our proposals and that in view of the festive holiday, insufficient time was available to consult locally on our proposals.
- **Jim Wallace MP** wrote to say that he had received a number of letters from Community Councils expressing their opposition to and dismay at our proposals. He asked how we had determined that 21 councillors would be appropriate for Orkney Islands Council area and thought that the decision was somewhat strange given that the Islands Councils were not affected by the Local Government reforms of 1995 and were not, therefore, trying to integrate district and regional wards. He noted that there had not been a significant change in the population and, whilst he was prepared to concede that between 24 and 28 wards might be appropriate, he thought that the proposed reduction to 21 wards had given rise to some of the practical concerns. He wished to emphasise the important distinctness felt in both the North and South Isles and the fact that these areas generate issues which are of greater priority in the Isles and do not match those of Mainland Orkney. He considered that there would be a conflict of interest if a councillor had to represent both an Island and part of the Mainland. He felt that there were further difficulties relating to travel. Whilst he acknowledged that the ferry terminal for Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre is within the Evie and Rendall Ward, the addition of three inhabited islands to a sizeable part of the Mainland would require a considerable increase in travel for a councillor. He considered that the question of Community Councils was a considerable one as, to date, they have followed ward boundaries and our proposals would lead to a councillor having regard to a plurality of Community Councils within his or her ward. He raised the question of travel in respect of Papa Westray, Westray and Eday and also Stronsay, North Ronaldsay and Sanday. He supported the opposition of Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council to our proposals. He noted that objections to our proposal linking Shapinsay and Kirkwall Harbour had previously been upheld following a local inquiry. He very much hoped that we would be minded to hold a public inquiry. He concluded by drawing attention to the statutory rules regarding special geographical considerations and strongly urged us to have regard to the position of islands within Orkney

42. We considered in detail the representations made in response to the publication of our provisional proposals. We noted the desire of a number of Community Councils and others to maintain historical boundaries and community associations. However, we consider that it is not possible, in the interests of electoral equality, to accommodate these requests. We note, for example, that in other council areas Community Council boundaries are not constrained by electoral ward boundaries and that elsewhere it is not unusual for councillors to represent a constituency with diverse areas of interest.
43. We considered the views of the Council and others that there were communications problems arising from our decision to regroup a number of the northern islands to achieve electoral equity. In doing so we carefully considered both the communications problems faced by the electorate in these areas and established community ties. However, we noted the pattern, frequency and duration of the various communications links and considered that our proposal was equitable, bearing in mind the statutory rules. In determining the ratio of electors to councillors for island areas at 750:1 we recognised the geographical and communications problems but remained of the view that alternative proposals for electoral arrangements, which looked to maintain reasonable electoral equity across the whole of the council area, would not resolve the issues which had been raised.
44. We considered the views of those concerned by our proposals to link a number of islands with areas of Mainland Orkney. We noted that the Council's proposals had moved towards linking such communities where there were direct communications links. We further considered the pattern, frequency and duration of the communications links and remain of the view that, in these areas in particular, the journey times involved in travelling between island and mainland communities was markedly better than could be achieved in many electoral wards on the Scottish mainland where, in terms of geography and number of electors, ward sizes were considerably larger and communications links were arguably not as good. Accordingly, we believe that there are no acceptable reasons why electoral wards in Orkney Islands Council area should not, where necessary, embrace both islands and mainland communities in a single ward. We note concerns regarding the structure of Community Councils but remain of the view that the boundaries of these areas are for local communities to determine together with the Council and, further, that they cannot be a constraint on our considerations of the areas appropriate for the election of councillors to Orkney Islands Council, particularly when there is a significant adverse impact on electoral equality.

Final Recommendation

45. Having conducted the third statutory review of electoral arrangements for Orkney Islands Council area in accordance with the procedures described above, we **recommend** that future electoral arrangements for the said Council should provide for a Council of 21 members.

46. The designation of the electoral wards that we recommend for Orkney Islands Council, together with information as to the 1996 electorate and forecast 2001 electorate of the proposed wards are set out at Appendix B to this report.
47. The boundaries of the proposed electoral wards are described in Appendix C and the following illustrative maps accompany this report:

Map	Area	Scale
1	Orkney Islands Council Area	1:100,000
2	Kirkwall	1:10,000
3	Stromness	1:10,000

**Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973: Schedule 6
(As amended by the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994)
Rules to be Observed in Considering Electoral Arrangements**

1. (1) This schedule applies to the consideration by the Secretary of State or the Boundary Commission of electoral arrangements for election of councillors of local government areas.
 - (2) Having regard to any change in the number or distribution of electors of a local government area likely to take place within the period of five years immediately following the consideration-
 - (a) the number of local government electors shall be, as nearly as may be, the same in every electoral area of that local government area.
 - (3) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) above, in considering the electoral arrangements referred to in sub-paragraph (1) above regard shall be had to-
 - (a) the desirability of fixing boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable;
 - (b) any local ties which would be broken by the fixing of any particular boundary.
2. The strict application of the rule stated in paragraph 1(2)(a) above may be departed from in any area where special geographical conditions appear to render a departure desirable.

Orkney Islands Council Area Proposed Electoral Wards

Number	Name	Electorate	
		1996 (Actual)	2001 (Estimated)
a	b	c	d
1	Pickaquoy	697	807
2	Berstane and Work	781	789
3	Warrenfield	783	770
4	Lynnfield	735	824
5	Brandyquoy	797	798
6	Papdale	784	811
7	Scapa and Kirkwall South West	731	731
8	Shapinsay and Kirkwall Harbour	773	777
9	Stromness North	783	800
10	Stromness South, Graemsay and North Hoy	772	747
11	Orphir, Walls and Flotta	744	757
12	Firth and Sunnybrae	693	750
13	Harray and Stenness	699	685
14	Evie, Rendall, Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre	727	725
15	Birsay and Dounby	677	710
16	Sandwick and Stromness Landward	798	794
17	St Andrew's Deerness and Wideford	738	765
18	Holm and Burray	760	795
19	South Ronaldsay	745	755
20	Sanday, North Ronaldsay and Stronsay	745	751
21	Papa Westray, Westray and Eday	719	699
Total		15,681	16,040

**Orkney Islands Council Area
Proposed Electoral Wards
Descriptions of Boundaries**

Notes:

In the following description of boundaries:

- ♦ a reference to a road, footpath, railway line, river, burn or canal shall, where the context so admits, be construed as the centre line of the feature concerned; and
- ♦ the following abbreviations are used:

EW for Electoral Ward

NG Ref for National Grid
Reference as published on
Ordnance Survey Maps.

**Ward 1
Pickaquoy**

Commencing at an indeterminable point in the Bay of Kirkwall southeast of Quaterness Skerry and in line with the Burn of Hatston; then southeastward along the said bay to a point in line with Burnmouth Road; then southward in a straight line to and across the A965 road to and southward and southeastward along Burnmouth Road to its junction with Junction Road; then northeastward along the said road to an unnamed lane north of the Albert Hotel; then eastward, southeastward and northeastward along the said unnamed lane to and southeastward along an unnamed road to its junction with Albert Street, Bridge Street and Bridge Street Wynd NG Ref HY 4505 1112; then northeastward along the said wynd to and northeastward along Garden Street to its junction with Queen Street NG Ref HY 4519 1114; then southwestward along the said street and its continuation as King Street to a point in line with Copland's Lane; then southwestward to and along the said lane to and northwestward along Palace Road to and generally southwestward along Watergate to its junction with Victoria Road; then westward along the said road to and southward along Victoria Street to and northwestward along Union Street to its junction with Junction Road; then southward along the said road to a point in line with an access lane leading to Nos 96-100 Junction Road; then southwestward to and along the said lane to a point on the rear curtilage of No 9 Wellington Street NG Ref HY 4463 1050; then southwestward along the said curtilage to and

continuing southwestward along the rear curtilages of the properties to the north of Wellington Street and High Street to and southwestward along the western curtilage of a property known as Korsgarth and its prolongation in a straight line to its junction with High Street, Old Scapa Road and Glaitness Road; then generally westward along Glaitness Road to and generally northward along Sunnybank Road to a point in line with a field boundary at NG Ref HY 4295 1183; then northwestward to and along the said field boundary to the Burn of Hatston at NG Ref HY 4277 1219; then generally northeastward along the said burn to where it enters the Bay of Kirkwall at NG Ref HY 4354 1300; then northeastward in a straight line to the point of commencement.

**Ward 2
Berstane and Work**

Commencing at NG Ref HY 4567 1189 on the southern shore of the Bay of Kirkwall in line with the rear curtilages of the properties on the eastern side of Weyland Bay Housing Estate; then northwestward and northward along the Bay of Kirkwall passing to the west of Iceland Skerry and to the north of Thieves Holm to and generally southeastward along the centreline of The String and Shapinsay Sound to a point in line with the centreline of Inganess Bay; then southwestward to and along the centreline of the said bay to a point in line with the Point of Grimsetter; then southwestward in a straight line to the said point and continuing southwestward in a straight line across Kirkwall Airport to a point on the A960 road at NG Ref HY 4771 0771; then generally northwestward along the said road to its junction with an unnamed road leading passed a property known as Quooydandy Cottage NG Ref HY 4593 0922; then northeastward along the said unnamed road to and northwestward along Inganess Road to and northeastward along Berstane Loan to its junction with Berstane Road; then northwestward along the said road to a point in line with the southern curtilage of a property known as Yggdrasil NG Ref HY 4636 1036; then southwestward to and along the said curtilage to and northwestward along the rear curtilage of the said property to and continuing northwestward along the rear curtilages of the properties to the south of Berstane Road to a boundary fence at NG Ref HY 4611 1060; then southwestward, northwestward and southwestward along the said boundary fence to and continuing southwestward along the rear curtilages of Nos 22-34 Reid Crescent to and

Appendix C

northwestward along the western curtilage of No 34 Reid Crescent and its prolongation in a straight line to Reid Crescent; then northwestward along the said crescent to and across The Meadows to and continuing northwestward along the northern boundary of Kirkwall Grammar School and its prolongation in a straight line to an access road within the school grounds at NG Ref HY 4566 1083; then southwestward along the said access road to and northwestward along Willowburn Road to a point in line with the western boundary of Kirkwall Infant School; then northeastward to and along the said boundary to and continuing northeastward along the western boundary of Papdale Halls of Residence to a point in line with the southern curtilage of a property known as Norlands NG Ref HY 4544 1104; then northwestward to and northwestward and northeastward along the southern and western curtilages of the said property and its prolongation in a straight line to Berstane Road; then northwestward along the said road to and northeastward along East Road to and northward along Weyland Terrace to a point in line with the southern curtilage of a property known as Heatherlea NG Ref HY 4534 1131; then northeastward to and along the said curtilage to and continuing northeastward along the rear curtilages of the properties to the south of Eastquoy Road to and northeastward along the southern curtilage of a property known as Corston to the eastern curtilage of the said property; then northwestward along the said curtilage to and continuing northwestward along the rear curtilages of the properties to the north of Eastquoy Road to and northwestward along the northern curtilage of a property known as Dalwhinnie to the southern boundary of Weyland Park TA Centre NG Ref HY 4540 1146; then northeastward along the said boundary to NG Ref HY 4551 1153; then southeastward and northeastward along the southeastern boundaries of the Weyland and Weyland Bay Housing Estates to NG Ref HY 4587 1179; then northwestward to and along the rear curtilages of the properties on the eastern side of Weyland Bay Housing Estate and its prolongation in a straight line to the point of commencement.

Ward 3

Warrenfield

Commencing at NG Ref HY 4471 1059 at its junction with Junction Road and Union Street on the southern boundary of EW 1; then southeastward along the said EW boundary to its junction with Victoria Street, Union Street

and Clay Loan; then southeastward along Clay Loan to and southeastward along Dundas Crescent to and southeastward along Bignold Park Road to a point in line with the southern boundary of Claymore Creamery NG Ref HY 4545 0994; then southwestward to and along the said boundary to the A961 (Holm Road); then northward along the said road to and northwestward along Quoybanks Crescent to a point in line with the southeastern curtilage of No 23 Pipersquoy Road NG Ref HY 4499 1023; then southwestward to and along the said curtilage to and northwestward along the southwestern curtilage of the said property to and northwestward along the southwestern curtilage of No 21 Pipersquoy Road and its prolongation in a straight line to Pipersquoy Road; then southwestward in a straight line to and along the southeastern curtilage of No 19 Pipersquoy Road to and westward along the rear curtilage of the said property and the rear curtilage of No 17 Pipersquoy Road to an unnamed road leading between No 17 Pipersquoy Road and a property known as Vestabor; then northward along the said unnamed road to and westward along Pipersquoy Road to its junction with Broadsands Road; then generally northward along the said road to and westward along Manse Road to its junction with Junction Road; then northward along the said road to the point of commencement.

Ward 4

Lynnfield

Commencing at NG Ref HY 4499 1023 at its junction with Quoybank Crescent, Summerdale Drive and Pipersquoy Road on the southern boundary of EW 3; then generally southeastward along the said EW boundary to the A960 road at NG Ref HY 4545 0994; then southeastward along the said road to a point in line with the northern curtilage of a property known as Ballochmyle NG Ref HY 4551 0987; then northeastward to and along the said curtilage and its prolongation in a straight line to Inganess Road; then southeastward along the said road to a point in line with the rear curtilage of No 1 Bellvue Park NG Ref HY 4575 0973; then southwestward to and along the said curtilage to and southwestward along the rear curtilages of the unnumbered properties on the south side of Bellvue Park and its prolongation in a straight line to the A960 road; then southeastward along the said road to a point in line with the southern curtilages of the properties at Lynnside NG Ref HY 4573 0955;

then generally southwestward and northwestward along the southern and western curtilages of the said properties to an unnamed road at NG Ref HY 4566 0956; then southwestward and northwestward along the said unnamed road to the A961 road at NG Ref HY 4512 0933; then northeastward along the said road to a point in line with the southern boundary of the Highland Park Distillery NG Ref HY 4514 0940; then northwestward to and northwestward and northeastward along the southern and western boundaries of the said distillery to an unnamed burn at NG Ref HY 4500 0963; then generally northwestward along the said unnamed burn to where it is crossed by New Scapa Road; then northwestward along the said road to and eastward along Scapa Crescent to a point in line with the rear curtilages of the properties known as Dell'ovo, Lynnwood and Laleham on New Scapa Road NG Ref HY 4479 1015; then northward to and along the said curtilages to the rear curtilages of the properties on the southern side of Pipersquoy Road; then eastward along the said rear curtilages to and northward along an unnamed road to the southern boundary of EW 3; then generally eastward along the said EW boundary to the point of commencement.

Ward 5 Brandyquoy

Commencing at NG Ref HY 4530 1118 at the junction of Berstane Road and East Road on the western boundary of EW 2; then generally southeastward along the said EW boundary to a point in line with a path leading to Thoms Street NG Ref HY 4548 1072; then southwestward to and along the said path to and across Thoms Street to an access road leading to Bignold Park; then southwestward along the said access road to the northeastern boundary of Bignold Park; then southeastward and southwestward along the northern and eastern boundaries of the said park and its prolongation in a straight line to an unnamed road leading to the A960 road; then southwestward along the said unnamed road to the A960 road and the eastern boundary of EW 3; then generally northwestward along the said EW boundary to and generally northeastward along the southern boundary of EW 1 to its junction with Queen Street, Garden Street and East Road; then northeastward along East Road to the point of commencement.

Ward 6 Papdale

Commencing at NG Ref HY 4548 1072 where the eastern boundary of EW 5 meets the western boundary of EW 2; then generally southeastward and southwestward along the western boundary of EW 2 to the A960 road at NG Ref HY 4594 0923; then northwestward along the said road to the eastern boundary of EW 4; then generally northwestward along the said EW boundary to and northwestward along the eastern boundary of EW 3 to the southern boundary of EW 5; then generally northeastward along the eastern boundary of EW 5 to the point of commencement.

Ward 7 Scapa and Kirkwall South West

Commencing at NG Ref HY 4113 1161 on the summit of Wideford Hill; then southeastward in a straight line to an access road leading to a property known as Sunnybrae; then southeastward along the said access road to the western boundary of EW 1; then southward and eastward along the western and southern boundaries of EW 1 to the western boundary of EW 3; then generally southeastward along the said EW boundary to the northern boundary of EW 4; then generally southwestward and southward along the northern and western boundaries of EW 4 to NG Ref HY 4482 0977 on the B9148 road; then southward along the said road to a point in line with the southern curtilage of Harbour House, Scapa NG Ref HY 4431 0804; then northwestward to and along the said curtilage to and continuing northwestward in a straight line to the centreline of Scapa Bay; then southwestward along the centreline of Scapa Bay and Scapa Flow to an indeterminate point in Scapa Flow northeast of the Calf of Flotta; then northward along Scapa Flow to and northwestward along the centreline of Waulkmill Bay to the Mill Burn, flowing from Loch of Kirbister; then northwestward along the said burn to where it is crossed by the A964 road; then eastward along the said road to a track leading to Harabreck; then northward along the said track to where it crosses the Burn of Swartaback at NG Ref HY 3746 0722; then southeastward, northeastward and northward along the said burn to its confluence with an unnamed tributary at NG Ref HY 3899 0909; then northeastward in a straight line to the summit of Burrey Brae at NG Ref HY 3978 1004; then eastward to and northeastward along a drain to where it is crossed by Old Finstown Road to the east of Smerquoy at NG Ref HY

4021 1106; then northeastward in a straight line to the point of commencement.

Ward 8

Shapinsay and Kirkwall Harbour

Commencing at NG Ref HY 4471 1123 at its junction with the A965 road and Burnmouth Road on the eastern boundary of EW 1; then northward along the said EW boundary to and continuing northward along the centreline of the Bay of Kirkwall to and northward and northeastward along the centreline of Wide Firth passing to the west of Taing Skerry and the east of Holm of Boray and Gairsay, to an indeterminable point on the Stronsay Firth southeast of Little Green Holm; then southeastward, southward and southwestward along the centreline of the said firth to and generally westward along the centreline of Shapinsay Sound to the western boundary of EW 2; then northwestward, southwestward, southeastward and southwestward along the northern and western boundaries of EW 2 to the northern boundary of EW 5; then southwestward along the said EW boundary to and generally westward and northward along the eastern boundary of EW 1 to the point of commencement.

Note: EW 8 includes the islands of Shapinsay and Helliar Holm.

Ward 9

Stromness North

Commencing at NG Ref HY 2628 1008 where the Mill Burn is crossed by Cairston Road; then northeastward along the said road to its junction with an unnamed road leading to a property known as Navershaw; then southward and eastward along the said unnamed road to and eastward along the northern curtilage of Navershaw to a field boundary at NG Ref HY 2663 0960; then eastward along the said field boundary to and southward along a field boundary to NG Ref HY 2682 0924; then southward in a straight line to and along the centreline of the Bay of Navershaw to and generally westward along Cairston Roads, passing to the north of Inner Holm, to and westward across Stromness Harbour to a point in line with the northern curtilages of Nos 36-40 Dundas Street NG Ref HY 2532 0887; then westward to and along the said curtilages to Dundas Street; then northward along the said street to and generally northwestward along Khyber Pass to Franklin Road; then southward, southwestward and westward along the said

road to and northwestward along Hellihole Road to its junction with Back Road; then generally northeastward along the said road to and northwestward along Grieveship Road and its continuation as a track to a path at NG Ref HY 2479 0939; then northeastward along the said path, passing over the summit of Brinkies Brae, to a path at NG Ref HY 2530 0985; then southeastward along the said path to and northward along a track leading passed a property known as East Brae, to a point in line with the southern curtilage of a property known as Wilmar NG Ref HY 2542 1026; then westward to and westward and northward along the southern and western curtilages of the said property to an unnamed road leading passed a property known as Wardhill; then northeastward along the said unnamed road to a point in line with a field boundary NG Ref HY 2555 1038; then northward to and northwestward along the said field boundary to and northeastward along a field boundary to and northeastward along the northern curtilage of a property known as Didcot to an unnamed road leading passed a property known as Millfield; then southeastward along the said unnamed road to a point in line with the western boundary of an Electricity Sub Station NG Ref HY 2569 1046; then northeastward to and along the said boundary to and continuing northeastward along the rear curtilages of the properties known as Clairhome, Bumbank and Ruahine and its prolongation in a straight line to Hillside Road; then northeastward along the said road to where it crosses the Mill Burn; then southeastward along the said burn to the point of commencement.

Ward 10

Stromness South, Graemsay and North Hoy

Commencing at NG Ref HY 2500 0937 on the western boundary of EW 9; then southeastward, southwestward and generally eastward along the said EW boundary to an indeterminable point on Cairston Roads to the east of Inner Holm; then generally southeastward along the centreline of Cairston Roads, passing to the east of Outer Holm, to and continuing southeastward along the centreline of Clestrain Sound, passing to the east of Graemsay, to Bring Deeps; then southward across the said deeps to and southward along Chalmers Hope to a point in line with a path NG Ref HY 2870 0057; then southwestward to and along the said path to a track leading to the B9047 road at NG Ref HY 2866 0050; then southwestward in a straight line to summit point 399 on Knap of Trowieglein NG Ref ND 2398 9847; then southward in a straight line to and generally southwestward

along the Summer Burn to and continuing southwestward in a straight line to the western boundary of Orkney Islands Council; then generally northwestward and northeastward along the said Council boundary to and eastward along the centreline of Hoy Sound to an indeterminable point west of the Staigs of Nethertown and in line with Nethertown Road; then northeastward in a straight line to and generally northeastward along the said road to its junction with Back Road; then northward along the said road to and northwestward along an unnamed road leading passed a property known as Skansen, to and across Outertown Road to and northwestward along an unnamed road leading passed a property known as Brownstown, to a point in line with the northwestern boundary of Marwick Playing Field NG Ref HY 2481 0921; then northeastward to and along the said boundary to the point of commencement.

Ward 11

Orphir, Walls and Flotta

Commencing at NG Ref HY 3978 1004 on the summit of Burrey Brae and the western boundary of EW 7; then generally southward along the said EW boundary to an indeterminable point on Scapa Flow northeast of the Calf of Flotta; then southeastward along Scapa Flow, passing to the northeast of Nevi Skerry, to and southwestward along the centreline of the Sound of Hoxa to and continuing southwestward in a straight line, passing to the southwest of the islands of South Ronaldsay and Swona, to the southern boundary of Orkney Islands Council; then northwestward along the said Council boundary to the southern boundary of EW 10; then generally northeastward and northward along the said EW boundary to an indeterminable point on Clestrain Sound northeast of Graemsay; then northward along the said sound towards the Bay of Ireland to a point in line with Moo Taing; then eastward in a straight line to Moo Taing and continuing eastward in a straight line to an unnamed burn at NG Ref HY 2949 0787; then southeastward along the said unnamed burn to where it is crossed by the A964 road at NG Ref HY 3014 0745; then eastward in a straight line to summit point 268 on Ward Hill at NG Ref HY 3355 0799; then northeastward in a straight line to summit point 201 on South Rusky Hill at NG Ref HY 3411 0957; then northeastward in a straight line to a point on Germiston Road at NG Ref HY 3486 1048; then northwestward along the said road to where it crosses an unnamed burn south of Upper Nisthouse at NG Ref HY

3475 1089; then eastward in a straight line to summit point 176 on the Hill of Lyradale at NG Ref HY 3629 1105; then southeastward in a straight line to summit point 220 on Keelylang Hill at NG Ref HY 3780 1031; then southeastward in a straight line to the point of commencement.

Note: EW 11 includes the islands of Holm of Houton, Cava, Rysa Little, Fara, Flotta, Switha and South Walls.

Ward 12

Firth and Sunnybrae

Commencing at NG Ref HY 3928 1801 in the Bay of Isbister at a point in line with a track leading to the A996 road; then eastward and southeastward along the Bay of Isbister to and southeastward across the Wide Firth to and generally southwestward along the western boundary of EW 1 to the northern boundary of EW 7; then northwestward and southwestward along the said EW boundary to and generally northwestward along the northern boundary of EW 11 to summit point 176 on the Hill of Lyradale at NG Ref HY 3629 1105; then northwestward in a straight line to the source of the Burn of Lyradale at NG Ref HY 3615 1151; then generally westward and northwestward along the said burn to where it is crossed by an unnamed track leading to Heddle Road at NG Ref HY 3476 1186; then northward along the said track to and northwestward along the said road to and northwestward along an access road leading to a property known as Park of Heddle to a point in line with a field boundary at NG Ref HY 3441 1300; then northwestward to and along the said field boundary to an unnamed burn at NG Ref HY 3430 1261; then northwestward in a straight line to a track at NG Ref HY 3412 1338; then southwestward in a straight line to and southwestward along the northern curtilage of a property known as Stymilders to and northwestward along a field boundary and its prolongation in a straight line to its junction with the A965 road and A986 road; then northeastward in a straight line to where an unnamed burn flows from the southern end of Loch of Wasdale at NG Ref HY 3420 1455; then generally northward along the western shore of the said loch to and northwestward, northward and generally northeastward along the Burn of Syradale to an unnamed tributary at NG Ref HY 3518 1592; then northward and northeastward along the said unnamed tributary and its prolongation in a straight line to a point on Burrien Hill at NG Ref HY 3562 1641; then northward in a straight line

to summit point 202 on the said hill at NG Ref HY 3558 1665; then northward in a straight line to summit point 213 on Ernie Tooin at NG Ref HY 3557 1959; then southeastward in a straight line to where the western and southern boundaries of a property known as Upper Cottascarth meet at NG Ref HY 3664 1908; then northeastward, eastward and northward along the southern and eastern boundaries of the said property to an access road to the said property at NG Ref HY 3669 1911; then eastward and southward along the said access road to where it crosses an unnamed burn flowing to the Bay of Isbister at NG Ref HY 3679 1898; then eastward and southward along the said unnamed burn to where it is crossed by Lyde Road at NG Ref HY 3758 1837; then eastward along the said road to and across the A966 road to a track leading to the Bay of Isbister; then southeastward and northeastward along the said track and its prolongation in a straight line to the point of commencement.

Note: EW 12 includes the islands of Holm of Grimbister, Damsay and Quanterness Skerry.

Ward 13 Harray and Stenness

Commencing at NG Ref HY 3583 2073 on a triangulation pillar on Mid Tooin; then southward in a straight line to and generally southward along the western boundary of EW 12 to the northern boundary of EW 11; then generally southwestward along the said EW boundary to an indeterminable point on Clestrain Sound in line with Moo Taing; then northward along the said sound to and northward along the centreline of the Bay of Ireland to and generally northward along The Bush to the Loch of Stenness; then northward and northeastward along the centreline of the said loch to and northward along the centreline of Loch of Harray to a point in line with an unnamed burn flowing from the west side of Loch of Bosquoy to Loch of Harray; then eastward in a straight line to and along the said unnamed burn to where it is crossed by Russland Road; then generally northeastward along the said road to and northwestward along the A986 road to a point in line with the rear curtilage of a property known as Lochview NG Ref HY 2976 2042; then northwestward to and along the said curtilage to and continuing northwestward along the rear curtilages of the properties on the eastern side of the A986 road to and northwestward along the eastern boundary of Dounby Primary School to and continuing northwestward along the eastern

curtilage of Ongar Cottage and its prolongation in a straight line to the B9057 road at NG Ref HY 2962 2085; then northeastward along the said road to its junction with an access road leading to a property known as Newhouse; then eastward in a straight line to the point of commencement.

Ward 14 Evie, Rendall, Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre

Commencing at an indeterminable point on the Westray Firth midway between Killi Holm and Rusk Holm; then southward along the said firth, passing to the east of Egilsay and the west of Muckle Green Holm, to the northern boundary of EW 8; then generally southwestward and southward along the northern and western boundaries of EW 8 to the northern boundary of EW 1; then northwestward along the said EW boundary to and generally northwestward along the northern boundary of EW 12 to the eastern boundary of EW 13; then northward along the said EW boundary to a triangulation pillar on Mid Tooin at NG Ref HY 3583 2073; then northwestward in a straight line to a triangulation pillar on Mid Hill at NG Ref HY 3357 2487; then northwestward in a straight line to the summit of Himmon Hill; then northwestward in a straight line to where the southern and eastern boundaries of the properties at Crismo meet at NG Ref HY 3156 2880; then northwestward and northeastward along the eastern boundary of the said properties and its prolongation in a straight line to the A966 road; then northwestward in a straight line to summit point 150 on Costa Hill at NG Ref HY 3112 2970; then northwestward in a straight line to Costa Head and continuing northwestward in a straight line to the western boundary of Orkney Islands Council; then eastward along the said Council boundary to and along the centreline of the Westray Firth to the point of commencement.

Note: EW 14 includes the islands of Eynhallow, Rousay, Wyre, Holm of Scockness, Killi Holm, Egilsay, Sweyn Holm, Gairsay, Holm of Boray, Holm of Rendall and Puldrite Skerry.

Ward 15 Birsay and Dounby

Commencing at an indeterminable point on the western boundary of Orkney Islands Council and the western boundary of EW 14; then southeastward along the said EW boundary to and generally westward along the northern

boundary of EW 13 to a point on the A968 road in line with the southern curtilage of a property known as Lochview NG Ref HY 2976 2042; then northwestward along the said road to and southwestward along the B9057 road to where it crosses the Burn of Hourston at NG Ref HY 2885 2011; then generally northwestward along the said burn and its continuation as the Burn of Ess and the Burn of Warth to a point in line with an unnamed road leading from the A967 road passed a property known as Rosebank NG Ref HY 2694 2238; then westward to and along the said unnamed road to its junction with an unnamed road leading passed a property known as Bryameadow Farm; then westward in a straight line to Outshore Point at NG Ref HY 2266 2269; then westward in a straight line to the western boundary of Orkney Islands Council; then northeastward along the said Council boundary to the point of commencement.

Note: EW 15 includes all islands along its northwestern coastal extent, including Brough Head.

Ward 16 Sandwick and Stromness Landward

Commencing at an indeterminable point on the western boundary of Orkney Islands Council and the southern boundary of EW 15; then generally eastward and southeastward along the said EW boundary to and generally southward along the western boundary of EW 13 to and southward along the western boundary of EW 11 to the eastern boundary of EW 10; then generally northwestward along the said EW boundary to and generally eastward, northwestward and southwestward along the southern, eastern, northern and western boundaries of EW 9 to the northern boundary of EW 10; then generally southwestward along the said EW boundary to the western boundary of Orkney Islands Council; then northward along the said Council boundary to the point of commencement.

Note: EW 16 includes all islands along its western coastal extent.

Ward 17 St Andrew's Deerness and Wideford

Commencing at NG Ref HY 4482 0977 where the eastern boundary of EW 7 meets the western boundary of EW 4; then southeastward and northeastward along the western and southern

boundaries of EW 4 to and southeastward along the western boundary of EW 6 to the western boundary of EW 2; then generally southeastward and northeastward along the western, southern and eastern boundaries of EW 2 to the southern boundary of EW 8; then northeastward along the said EW boundary to an indeterminable point on the Stronsay Firth southeast of Shapinsay; then southeastward in a straight line south of Auskerry to the eastern boundary of Orkney Islands Council; then southwestward along the said Council boundary to an indeterminable point southeast of Copinsay in line with South Outflow NG Ref HY 5396 0152; then northwestward in a straight line to South Outflow; then northwestward in a straight line to a point on a track leading to the properties known as Upperbigging and Midbigging where it crosses an unnamed burn at NG Ref HY 5238 0347; then southwestward in a straight line to the summit of Swart Howe; then northwestward in a straight line to the summit of Howe of Staneloof at NG Ref HY 4824 0699; then southwestward in a straight line to a triangulation pillar at NG Ref HY 4567 0591; then southwestward in a straight line to the summit of Gaitnip Hill; then northwestward in a straight line to Haddiewell and continuing northwestward in a straight line to the eastern boundary of EW 7; then northward along the said EW boundary to the point of commencement.

Note: EW 17 includes all islands along its northern and eastern coastal extent, including Blaster Hole, Horse of Copinsay, Copinsay, Corn Holm, Ward Holm and Black Holm.

Ward 18 Holm and Burray

Commencing at NG Ref HY 5089 0327 on the summit of Swart Howe and the southern boundary of EW 17; then eastward and southeastward along the said EW boundary to the eastern boundary of Orkney Islands Council; then southward along the said Council boundary to an indeterminable point southeast of Burray in line with Water Sound; then northwestward to and along the centreline of the said sound to and across the mid point of Churchill Causeway No 4 to and continuing westward along the centreline of Water Sound to the eastern boundary of EW 11; then northwestward along the said EW boundary to and northeastward along the eastern boundary of EW 7 to and southeastward, northeastward and southeastward along the southern boundary of EW 17 to the point of commencement.

Note: EW 18 includes the islands of Lamb Holm, Glimps Holm, Burray and Hunda.

Ward 19 South Ronaldsay

Commencing at NG Ref ND 4786 9519 on the mid point of Churchill Causeway No 4 on the southern boundary of EW 18; then eastward along the said EW boundary to the eastern boundary of Orkney Islands Council; then southward and westward along the eastern and southern boundaries of Orkney Islands Council to the eastern boundary of EW 11; then northeastward along the said EW boundary to the southern boundary of EW 18; then southeastward along the said EW boundary to the point of commencement.

Note: EW 19 includes the islands of South Ronaldsay, Swona and Pentland Skerries.

Ward 20 Sanday, North Ronaldsay and Stronsay

Commencing at an indeterminable point on the Stronsay Firth where the northern boundary of EW 17 meets the eastern boundary of EW 8; then generally northward along the said EW boundary to a point in line with the centreline of Eday Sound west of Linga Holm; then northwestward to and northward along the centreline of the said sound to and northeastward along the centreline of Lashy Sound to an indeterminable point east of the Calf of Eday; then northeastward along The North Sound passing to the west of the Holms of Ire to the northern boundary of Orkney Islands Council; then eastward and southward along the northern and eastern boundaries of Orkney Islands Council to the northern boundary of EW 17; then northwestward along the said EW boundary to the point of commencement.

Note: EW 20 includes the islands of North Ronaldsay, Sanday, Holms of Ire, Holms of Spurness, Little Linga, Holm of Huip, Stronsay, Linga Holm, Papa Stronsay, Ingale Skerry and Auskerry.

Ward 21 Papa Westray, Westray and Eday

Commencing at an indeterminable point on the Atlantic Ocean where the northern boundary of EW 14 meets the western boundary of Orkney

Islands Council; then northward and eastward along the western and northern boundaries of Orkney Islands Council to and southward along the western boundary of EW 20 to and westward along the northern boundary of EW 8 to the eastern boundary of EW 14; then northward and northwestward along the eastern and northern boundaries of EW 14 to the point of commencement.

Note: EW 21 includes the islands of Papa Westray, Holm of Papa, Holm of Aikerness, Westray, Wart Holm, Holm of Faray, Faray, Eday, Calf of Eday, Rusk Holm, Muckle Green Holm and Little Green Holm.