

Consultation Responses and Council Engagement

For noting

1. The Commission asked the Secretariat to provide further analysis and information on consultation responses and engagement following the end of its Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries.
2. This paper provides this further analysis and summarises the level of engagement for councils.

Second Review consultation responses

3. The Commission held five consultations on constituency boundaries and three consultations on region boundaries during the Second Review.
4. The number of responses reduced at each stage which was to be expected as each stage addressed concerns from the previous stage and fewer boundaries were consulted on.
5. As each round of consultation on constituencies progressed the number of public responses dropped. This was accompanied by a growth in the proportion of responses from those with a political interest in the review such as MPs, MSPs and councillors. See tables in Appendix A.
6. The consultations on regions did not see such large responses and there were no discernible patterns in the responses.
7. Appendix A also provides a list of contributors at the nine local inquiries held during the Second Review. There were council representatives at all local inquiries, except Edinburgh and Peebles. The Edinburgh local inquiry was not triggered by a council objection.
8. No data on the number of irrelevant responses, such as those outwith the legislation of the review, was collated for the consultations.

Second Review Engagement

9. As mentioned in [Paper 182 Lessons Learned](#), discussed at its 5 June 2025 meeting, the Commission publicised the consultation stages of the Second Review by:
 - advertising in national and local newspapers.
 - using social media with the assistance of a media agency.
 - display points.
 - writing to stakeholders including community councils and councils asking them to publicise the consultations.
10. A graphic design agency produced materials with a similar theme for all media.
11. 55% of the consultation respondents, where the question was asked, referenced Facebook as their source, making it the most efficient method of advertising.
12. News conferences were held at the commencement of consultation on Revised, Further and Additional (online) Proposals. These were attended by a small number of journalists with less attending as the review progressed (and number of boundaries consulting on decreased). The news conferences did produce

some coverage online through the BBC and in the written press with articles appearing in the Scotsman, Evening News and other local press outlets mostly online.

13. Schedule 1 of the Scotland Act 1998 states that a copy of the proposals must be “*open to inspection at a specified place in the constituency.*” Over 100 display points were used in the wider consultations, each received a poster and further materials explaining the Review. Only three responses out of a total of 1,686 (or 0.18%), where the data was captured, cited display points as their source for taking part in the consultation.

Social media channels

14. The table below shows the social media channels used by Boundaries Scotland and the number of followers. Some other organisations have been added for comparison.

Organisation	Facebook	X	Instagram	YouTube	Flickr	BlueSky
Boundaries Scotland	273	530	-	0	-	42
Scottish Government	229k	437k	94k	40k	800	-
Scottish Parliament	82k	164k	28k	23k	-	561
COSLA	2.3k	18k	-	51	-	704
LGBCE	2.2k	1k	-	-	-	-
DBCC	45	682	90	-	-	-
LGBCNI	25	139	-	-	-	-

15. Appendix B lists the 29 mainland councils and summarises the social media channels used by each council and whether they engaged during the Second Review. The key observations are: -

- 17 councils publicised the Second Review on their websites.
- All councils have a Facebook account but only three follow Boundaries Scotland (East Lothian, East Ayrshire, and Moray Councils)
- 26 councils have an X (Twitter) account, 12 follow Boundaries Scotland.
- 21 councils also have BlueSky accounts (similar to X) but seven of these have never posted an item. Several councils who previously had considerable followings on X have begun transitioning to BlueSky but retain an X account for urgent announcements and updates only.
- 19 councils have a YouTube channel. Boundaries Scotland also has a YouTube channel but has only published a couple of items.
- 17 councils use Instagram, six have Flickr accounts, two use TikTok and Whatsapp.

16. The Secretariat will continue to monitor the use of social media channels and follow any new trends.

Summary

17. The Commission has previously reflected on the benefits of advertising on social media (Meta) and agreed this had been a success in encouraging responses to the consultation site. All councils have a Facebook account.

18. The Commission writes to every council at the start of each round of consultation and asks them to share details of the reviews on their websites and social media channels but unfortunately not all of them do so. A council sharing information regarding a review helps raise local awareness.

19. The Commission may wish to consider the above information when discussing its strategy for engagement with councils and all interested parties prior to the 2032 Reviews of Electoral Arrangements.

Secretariat
September 2025

Appendix A**Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries - Consultation response types by stage and Local Inquiry Contributors**

Constituencies	Prov. Proposals	Revised Proposals	Further Proposals	Add. Proposals	Supp. Proposals	Overall
Councils	18	11	5	3	2	39
Member of the public	2,998	977	196	9	0	4,180
MSP	27	18	7	5	0	57
MP	1	5	3	2	0	11
Councillor	37	31	14	2	0	84
Other	89	33	8	0	0	130
Not Answered	78	53	18	9	2	160
Regions						
Councils	4	5	1			10
Member of the public	266	7	4			277
MSP	2	5	0			7
MP	2	0	0			2
Councillor	10	1	0			11
Other	23	3	0			26
Not Answered	3	7	1			11

Local Inquiry Contributors	Provisional Proposals (6 LI's held)	Revised Proposals (1 LI held)	Further Proposals (2 LI's held)	Overall
Member of the public	8	5	28	41
Cllr	22	3	6	31
MSP	8	1	5	14
Council Official	8	2	3	13
Political Party	10		3	13
Community Org	8		3	11
MP	1	1	1	3
Other	2			2
Total	67	12	49	128

Appendix B - Council Social Media Accounts and Engagement during 2nd Review

Council	Has X account and follows BS	Bluesky Account. None follow BS	Publicised 2nd Review on website	Other social media channels used
Aberdeen City	Does not follow	Yes	Yes, when final recommendations submitted	Facebook Instagram
Aberdeenshire	Yes	Yes	Link to homepage	Facebook LinkedIn YouTube
Angus	Yes	Yes	Yes, when final recommendations submitted	Facebook Instagram YouTube
Argyll and Bute	Does not follow	Yes	Part of council business	Facebook Instagram
City of Edinburgh	Does not follow	Yes	No	Facebook LinkedIn YouTube
Clackmannanshire	Does not follow	No	No	Facebook Flickr Instagram LinkedIn
Dumfries and Galloway	Does not follow	No	No	Facebook Instagram LinkedIn
Dundee City	Does not follow	Yes	No	Facebook Instagram LinkedIn Tiktok YouTube
East Ayrshire	Yes	Yes – no posts	Part of council business and shared on Facebook	Facebook Flickr YouTube
East Dunbartonshire	Does not follow	No	Part of council business	Facebook LinkedIn Instagram YouTube
East Lothian	Yes	Yes – no posts	Meetings and news articles throughout review	Facebook YouTube
East Renfrewshire	No longer on X, left Feb 2025	No	Yes, when review was ongoing	Facebook Instagram
Falkirk	Yes	No	Part of council business	Facebook YouTube
Fife	Yes	Yes – no posts	Yes, when review was ongoing	Facebook Instagram WhatsApp
Glasgow City	Does not follow	Yes	No	Facebook YouTube

Highland	Yes	Yes	Yes, when review was ongoing	Facebook Flickr LinkedIn Instagram YouTube
Inverclyde	Does not follow	No	Part of council business	Facebook
Midlothian	Does not follow	No	Yes, when review was ongoing	Facebook Flickr YouTube
Moray	Does not follow	Yes	No	Facebook YouTube
North Ayrshire	Yes	No	No	Facebook Instagram LinkedIn YouTube
North Lanarkshire	Yes	Yes	Yes, when review was ongoing	Facebook Instagram LinkedIn Tiktok YouTube
Perth and Kinross	Does not follow	Yes – no posts	No	Facebook LinkedIn
Renfrewshire	Not on X	Yes	No	Facebook LinkedIn Instagram
Scottish Borders	Does not follow	No	Part of council business	Facebook Flickr Youtube
South Ayrshire	Yes	Yes – no posts	No	Facebook Instagram LinkedIn YouTube
South Lanarkshire	X – alerts and urgent info only	Yes	No	Facebook LinkedIn RSS Youtube
Stirling	Yes	Yes	No	Facebook Instagram LinkedIn YouTube
West Dunbartonshire	Does not follow	Yes – no posts	Yes, when final recommendations submitted	Facebook Instagram
West Lothian	Yes	Yes – no posts	Part of council business and shared on Facebook	Facebook Flickr Instagram WhatsApp YouTube