

Andrew Kerr OBE
Chair
Independent Review
Scottish Government Elections Team
2 West
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

6 March 2026

Dear Andrew

Thank you for your letter dated 10 December 2025 providing a copy of your final report. The Secretariat shared the report with Commissioners when it was received, and it was agreed that we should meet for a full discussion. On behalf of the Commission, I would like to express our thanks for your inclusion of us in your review, and for your diligent consideration of longstanding issues for Scottish democracy.

We met on 29 January 2026, to discuss your recommendations and the likely implications for our work, which we hope will be taken up as soon as possible in the new parliamentary term. First and foremost, we welcome your recommendation that there be a move to automatic approval of boundary changes decided by this Commission. We agree that this important change is key to protecting the independence of our work against any potential political interference.

Your report also contains several recommendations about creating a more modern and inclusive consultation process. The Commission very much welcomes this and remains committed to improving the engagement process. We are also committed to working with stakeholders to develop appropriate and proportionate scrutiny measures as recommended in your report. As you acknowledge, some of the more detailed points we raised during the Independent Review about the mechanics of how these would work are better suited to future discussions.

As you recognised in your cover letter, boundaries and the processes to establish them are important tenets of fair elections and safeguard the principle of equal representation. We look forward to working with stakeholders to ensure that these

important changes are taken forward in the first year's programme of legislation after the May 2026 election.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Ailsa Henderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Professor Ailsa Henderson
Chair
Boundaries Scotland