

Consultation on methodology for 2032 Reviews of Electoral Arrangements

Background

1. At its 23 September 2025 meeting the Commission considered Paper BS 196 – Methodology for determining councillor numbers. The Commission asked the Secretariat to prepare some draft questions for a stakeholder consultation regarding the Commission’s methodology for determining councillor numbers for the 2032 Reviews of Electoral Arrangements.
2. The Commission is invited to consider the draft consultation questions, a suggested list of stakeholders to consult and the timing of the consultation.

Draft Consultation - 2032 Reviews Methodology

3. A draft list of consultation questions is provided in Appendix A. The Commission is invited to review the consultation questions and suggest any amendments or additional questions.
4. The Commission’s consultation site will be used but offline written responses will also be accepted.

Consultation timing

5. The Commission consulted on its methodology for determining councillor numbers for its 5th Reviews of Electoral Arrangements in January 2011. The 5th Reviews formally commenced in February 2014.
6. The 2032 Reviews are scheduled to start after the May 2027 local government elections.
7. The Commission should avoid holding consultations during pre-election periods. The Scottish Parliament will dissolve on 9 April 2026 ahead of the 7 May election. Therefore, the Commission may wish to consult with stakeholders later in 2026.
8. Scottish Government recommends a period of 12 weeks for public consultations.

Consultation contacts

9. The distribution list used for the Commission’s 2011 Consultation on Councillor Numbers is provided below.

Contact list for 2011 Consultation on Councillor Numbers	
Councils	Scottish Government
Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Officers (SOLACE)	MSPs
COSLA	Local Authority Research and Intelligence Association (LARIA)
SOLAR	Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services (Christie Commission)
Improvement Service	Accounts Commission
National Association of Councillors - Scottish Region	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting (CIPFA)
Political parties Scottish HQs	Institute of Directors
Scottish Assessors Association	

Electoral Management Board Electoral Commission Association of Scottish Community Councils Universities with political science departments Other UK local government boundary commissions	CBI Scotland Chambers of Commerce Royal Town Planning Institute Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Consumer Focus Scotland
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10. The Secretariat suggests adding MPs, Scottish Youth Parliament, Electoral Registration Officers and SPICe (Scottish Parliament Information Centre) to the distribution list and welcomes any other suggested individuals, groups or organisations who may have an interest in the consultation.

Summary/ Conclusion

11. The Commission is invited to provide feedback on the draft consultation questions, timing of the consultation and stakeholder distribution list and to provide any alternative suggestions or revisions.

Secretariat
December 2025