

SCOTLAND OFFICE

Issued on behalf of
the Boundary Commission for Scotland



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Provisional proposals for constituencies for the Scottish Parliament

The Boundary Commission for Scotland today publishes its provisional proposals for revised constituencies for the Scottish Parliament for public consultation. The consultation lasts for a period of one month. Information on the proposals is being made available at selected public libraries and council offices, and on the Commission's website www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk

The review of Scottish Parliament boundaries was announced on 3 July 2007, and is taking place as required by the Scotland Act 1998 as amended by the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004. The review covers all of Scotland apart from Orkney and Shetland, where the Act specifies that each will be a separate constituency. The legislation provides that there will be 71 constituencies for the Scottish Parliament apart from Orkney and Shetland, and also determines the rules which the Commission follows when proposing constituencies. Those rules include a requirement to have regard to the boundaries of local authority areas, and to design constituencies where the electorate is as close to the electoral quota as is practical. The electoral quota is the average electorate per constituency at the start of the review.

The current constituencies for the Scottish Parliament were defined in 1995, and changes in the distribution of population, as well as changes to local government areas since then, have led the Commission to conclude that a comprehensive review is required.

The Commission established the theoretical entitlement of seats at the Scottish Parliament for each local authority area by dividing the number of electors by the electoral quota of 54,728.

In the case of 9 local authority areas, the theoretical entitlement is very close to a whole number, and the Commission is proposing a whole number of constituencies exactly covering each of these local authority areas. The local authorities and their proposed constituencies are tabulated below.

In the case of 20 local authority areas, the Commission considers that it is necessary to group local authorities so that in combination they are entitled to a whole number of constituencies. The groups and their proposed constituencies are tabulated below.

For the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar area, the Commission concludes that, due to the detached nature of the Council area, it should form a single constituency, even though the electorate falls very substantially short of the electoral quota. Before reaching this conclusion, the Commission considered but rejected various options which combined the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar area with the Highland Council area.

Each constituency is designated as either a burgh constituency (BC) or county constituency (CC) – this designation affects the regulations concerning election expenditure.

The public are encouraged to comment on the Commission's constituency proposals. At a later stage in the process, the Commission will publish its proposals for the regions used in elections to the Scottish Parliament.

Proposals

In the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar area, the July 2007 electorate is 22,200. The Commission concludes that the area of the present Western Isles County Constituency should remain unchanged, although the name of the constituency should be altered. The name and designation of the provisionally proposed constituency is:

| | | |
|----------------------|----|--------|
| Na h-Eileanan an Iar | CC | 22,200 |
|----------------------|----|--------|

In the City of Edinburgh Council area the electorate is 337,280 giving an entitlement to 6 constituencies. The Commission provisionally proposes 6 burgh constituencies as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------------|----|--------|
| Central Edinburgh | BC | 55,320 |
| East Edinburgh | BC | 55,350 |
| North Edinburgh and Leith | BC | 57,240 |
| South Edinburgh | BC | 56,450 |
| South West Edinburgh | BC | 56,420 |
| West Edinburgh | BC | 56,500 |

In the Dumfries and Galloway Council area the electorate is 115,800 giving an entitlement to 2 constituencies. The Commission provisionally proposes 2 county constituencies as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----|--------|
| East Dumfriesshire | CC | 59,100 |
| West Dumfriesshire & Galloway | CC | 56,700 |

In the Dundee City Council area the electorate is 105,150 giving an entitlement to 2 constituencies. The Commission provisionally proposes 2 burgh constituencies as follows:

| | | |
|-------------|----|--------|
| East Dundee | BC | 53,540 |
| West Dundee | BC | 51,610 |

In the Falkirk Council area the electorate is 113,700 giving an entitlement to 2 constituencies. The Commission provisionally proposes 2 county constituencies as follows:

| | | |
|--------------|----|--------|
| East Falkirk | CC | 57,550 |
| West Falkirk | CC | 56,150 |

In the Fife Council area the electorate is 280,590 giving an entitlement to 5 constituencies. The Commission provisionally proposes 5 county constituencies as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------|----|--------|
| Cowdenbeath | CC | 54,490 |
| Dunfermline | CC | 53,410 |
| Kirkcaldy | CC | 59,580 |
| Mid Fife and Glenrothes | CC | 53,750 |
| North and East Fife | CC | 59,360 |

In the Glasgow City Council area the electorate is 435,600 giving an entitlement to 8 constituencies. The Commission provisionally proposes 8 burgh constituencies as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|--------|
| East Glasgow | BC | 52,130 |
| North Central Glasgow | BC | 55,490 |
| North Glasgow | BC | 54,240 |
| South Central Glasgow | BC | 51,810 |
| South Glasgow | BC | 57,710 |
| South East Glasgow | BC | 51,530 |
| South West Glasgow | BC | 56,370 |
| West Glasgow | BC | 56,320 |

In the Highland Council area the electorate is 173,760 giving an entitlement to 3 constituencies. The Commission provisionally proposes 3 county constituencies as follows:

| | | |
|----------------|----|--------|
| East Highland | CC | 61,690 |
| North Highland | CC | 56,170 |
| West Highland | CC | 55,900 |

In the North Ayrshire Council area the electorate is 106,390 giving an entitlement to 2 constituencies. The Commission provisionally proposes 2 county constituencies as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------|----|--------|
| North Cunninghame | CC | 56,150 |
| South Cunninghame | CC | 50,240 |

In the Perth and Kinross Council area the electorate is 108,160 giving an entitlement to 2 constituencies. The Commission provisionally proposes 2 county constituencies as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------------|----|--------|
| North Perthshire | CC | 52,310 |
| South Perthshire and Kinross | CC | 55,850 |

In the Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray Council areas the electorate is 491,270 giving an entitlement to 9 constituencies. The Commission provisionally proposes 2 burgh constituencies and 7 county constituencies as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|--------|
| East Aberdeen | BC | 53,800 |
| South Aberdeen and North Kincardine | CC | 56,610 |
| West Aberdeen | BC | 55,130 |
| East Aberdeenshire | CC | 54,690 |
| West Aberdeenshire | CC | 53,060 |
| East Angus and Mearns | CC | 54,520 |
| West Angus | CC | 51,210 |
| Buchan Coast | CC | 56,140 |
| Moray | CC | 56,110 |

In the Argyll and Bute, West Dunbartonshire, Inverclyde, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire Council areas the electorate is 390,820 giving an entitlement to 7 constituencies. The Commission provisionally proposes 2 burgh constituencies and 5 county constituencies as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|--------|
| Argyll and Bute | CC | 55,240 |
| Dumbarton and Helensburgh | CC | 57,040 |
| Greenock and Inverclyde | CC | 56,350 |
| South East Paisley and Barrhead | BC | 54,890 |
| Central Paisley and West Renfrewshire | CC | 56,210 |
| East Renfrewshire | CC | 54,730 |
| North Renfrewshire and Clydebank | BC | 56,360 |

In the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Council areas the electorate is 101,950 giving an entitlement to 2 constituencies. The Commission provisionally proposes 2 county constituencies as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----|--------|
| Clackmannanshire and Dunblane | CC | 51,000 |
| Stirling | CC | 50,950 |

In the East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and West Lothian Council areas the electorate is 879,450 giving an entitlement to 16 constituencies. The Commission provisionally proposes 5 burgh constituencies and 11 county constituencies as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----|--------|
| North Ayr and Troon | CC | 53,610 |
| South Ayr, Carrick and Doon Valley | CC | 52,260 |
| Coatbridge and Central Airdrie | BC | 59,940 |
| Cumbernauld and East Airdrie | CC | 56,910 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|--------|
| Cumnock and Clydesdale | CC | 51,630 |
| East Kilbride | BC | 58,630 |
| North Hamilton and Bellshill | BC | 56,360 |
| South Hamilton and Larkhall | CC | 58,460 |
| Kilmarnock | CC | 51,280 |
| Kirkintilloch, Chryston and Kilsyth | CC | 52,990 |
| Lanark, Shotts and Whitburn | CC | 54,930 |
| Linlithgow and Bathgate | CC | 54,230 |
| Livingston | CC | 54,840 |
| Milngavie and Bishopbriggs | CC | 51,530 |
| Motherwell and Wishaw | BC | 54,780 |
| Rutherglen | BC | 57,070 |

In the East Lothian, Midlothian and Scottish Borders Council areas the electorate is 223,580 giving an entitlement to 4 constituencies. The Commission provisionally proposes 4 county constituencies as follows:

| | | |
|--|----|--------|
| Haddington | CC | 55,070 |
| North Midlothian and Musselburgh | CC | 56,940 |
| South Midlothian, Tweeddale and Lauderdale | CC | 57,430 |
| Roxburgh, Selkirk and Berwickshire | CC | 54,140 |

Notes for News Editors

Background

This is the first review of constituencies for the Scottish Parliament. The boundaries of the current constituencies were established following the Commission's Fourth Periodical Report of Parliamentary Constituencies for the purpose of returning Scottish members to the Westminster Parliament which was published in 1995. The Scotland Act 1998 envisaged that the boundaries of constituencies for the Westminster and Holyrood parliaments would be coterminous. This was amended by the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004 which fixed the number of constituencies for the Scottish Parliament at 73 and thus broke the link between the Holyrood and Westminster constituencies. The Commission's Fifth Periodical Review was completed in 2004 and resulted in the number of Scottish constituencies for Westminster being reduced to 59.

The 2004 Act, amongst other things, requires the Commission to complete a review of constituencies for the Scottish Parliament between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2010.

At previous reviews of parliamentary constituencies in Scotland, the Commission relied on the use of local government wards in place at the time of a review as building blocks. In 2007, a structure of local government electoral arrangements which would accommodate proportional representation for local

authority elections in Scotland was introduced. Such wards return either 3 or 4 members and early work for this review of Scottish Parliament constituencies made it clear that in many areas across Scotland it would not be possible to use the significantly enlarged wards as building blocks to design revised constituencies within the terms of the statutory rules, which appear in full below. As a consequence, the Commission has designed revised constituencies using spatially referenced electorate data from the July 2007 electoral register held within its geographic information systems. The boundaries for the proposed constituencies have been selected from whichever geographic feature or boundary creates a constituency of the right size, while respecting community ties wherever possible.

Number of constituencies being reviewed

Although there are 73 constituencies returning members to the parliament, only 71 are subject to review – for Orkney and Shetland, the Act specifies that each will be a separate constituency.

Electoral Quota

On the basis of the Electoral Register in force at July 2007, the Commission established that the electoral quota for the Review is 54,728. That figure is calculated by taking the number of local government electors on the Electoral Register in Scotland at the review start date, excluding electors in the Orkney Islands and the Shetland Islands, and dividing it by 71. The electoral quota is fixed and is used throughout the life of the review.

Maps of Current and Proposed Constituencies

The Commission has produced sets of maps showing current constituency boundaries and its provisional proposals. The relevant maps are displayed at selected Council Offices, Libraries etc. The locations for display are listed in Statutory Notices which are being published today in newspapers. The maps are also available in PDF, GIF and TIF format on the Commission's website at www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk.

Representations

The Commission is required to consider any representations concerning its provisional proposals made within a limited period of **one month** from the date of publication of the Statutory Notice. Representations should be addressed to The Secretary, Boundary Commission for Scotland, 3 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 7QJ, by email to representations@bcomm-scotland.gov.uk, or by fax to 0131 538 7511. The Statutory Notices provide these details of the arrangements for making representations. Copies of the Statutory Notices are also available at the locations where maps

are displayed for public consultation. The representation period ends on 14 March 2008.

Where representations objecting to a provisional proposal are made by a local authority covering the constituency, or by a body of 100 or more electors resident in the proposed constituency, the Commission will hold a local inquiry. After considering the result of the inquiry, if the Commission decides to alter its provisional proposal, the revised recommendation will be published - a further local inquiry may be held, but is not obligatory.

Once it has considered representations on its proposals for constituencies, the Commission will publish for consultation its provisional proposals for the regions used for elections to the Scottish Parliament.

Those who make representations are requested to state whether they approve of or object to the Commission's proposals and to give their reasons. In particular, objectors are advised to state what they propose in place of the Commission's proposals and should note that an objection accompanied by an alternative proposal is likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection.

Implementation of the Recommendations

The Commission is required to report on the review for the whole of Scotland by 30 June 2010 in a report to the Secretary of State for Scotland. It is the Secretary of State for Scotland's duty to lay the Commission's report before the UK Parliament together with a draft Order in Council giving effect to the recommendations. The draft Order is submitted to both Houses of Parliament for approval and the new constituency boundaries take effect at the next general election to the Scottish Parliament following the making of the Order.

A copy of the Commission's report must also be laid before the Scottish Parliament.

Statutory Rules

The rules for the design of constituencies set out in legislation are as follows:

Rule 1

- (1) So far as is practicable, regard must be had to the boundaries of local authority areas.
- (2) "Area" and "local authority" have the same meanings as in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Rule 2

- (1) The electorate of a constituency must be as near the electoral quota as is practicable, having regard to Rule 1.

(2) The Boundary Commission for Scotland may depart from the strict application of Rule 1 if they think that it is desirable to do so to avoid an excessive disparity between the electorate of a constituency and the electoral quota or between the electorate of a constituency and that of neighbouring constituencies.

(3) The electoral quota is the number obtained by dividing the total electorate by 71.

(4) The electorate of a constituency is the aggregate of the persons falling within paragraphs (5) and (6) below.

(5) A person falls within this paragraph if his name appears on the register of local government electors in force on the enumeration date under the Representation of the People Acts for a local government area which is situated wholly in the constituency.

(6) A person falls within this paragraph if his name appears on the register of local government electors in force on the enumeration date under the Representation of the People Acts for a local government area which is situated partly in the constituency and his qualifying address is situated in the constituency.

(7) The total electorate is the total number of persons whose names appear on the registers of local government electors in force on the enumeration date under the Representation of the People Acts for all of the local government areas in Scotland (except the local government areas of Orkney and Shetland).

(8) The enumeration date is, in relation to a report of the Boundary Commission for Scotland, the date on which notice with respect to the report is published in the Edinburgh Gazette in accordance with paragraph 7(1) above.

(9) "Qualifying address" and "local government area" have the same meanings as in the Representation of the People Act 1983 (c. 2).

Rule 3

The Boundary Commission for Scotland may depart from the strict application of Rules 1 and 2 if they think that special geographical considerations (including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency) render it desirable to do so.

Rule 4

The Boundary Commission for Scotland need not aim at giving full effect in all circumstances to Rules 1 to 3 but they must take account (so far as they reasonably can) —

(a) of the inconveniences attendant on alterations of constituencies other than alterations made for the purposes of Rule 1, and

(b) of any local ties which would be broken by such alterations.

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