

Overview of Sixth Review of UK Parliament Constituencies

For noting

1. The Commission is invited to note this summary of the Sixth Review of UK Parliamentary constituencies and subsequent consideration of the relevant legislation by the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee of the House of Commons.

Sixth Review

2. The Commission began the Sixth Review of UK Parliament Constituencies in March 2011 after the passage of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011, and the publication of the electorate data required for the review. Application of the Sainte Laguë methodology to determine the allocation of constituencies, as required by statute, determined that there would be 52 constituencies in Scotland: 50 covering the mainland council areas, Orkney and Shetland constituency and Na h-Eileanan Siar constituency.
3. The Review was being carried out simultaneously for the whole of the United Kingdom by the 4 parliamentary Boundary Commissions, and would have resulted in the number of constituencies for the United Kingdom being 600. We expected to submit our recommendations for constituencies in Scotland before 1 October 2013 and for the resulting constituencies to be used in the General Election in May 2015.
4. We published our Initial Proposals for constituencies on 13 October 2011 for a 12 week initial consultation lasting until 4 January 2012. We later conducted a secondary consultation on the Initial Proposals between 1 and 28 March 2012.
5. Once we had considered all of the evidence which emerged from the consultation periods on our Initial Proposals, we published our Revised Proposals in the light of that evidence.
6. In January 2013, Parliament amended the legislation governing the Sixth Review of UK Parliament Constituencies. As a result, all 4 parliamentary Boundary Commissions stopped work on the Review which was not therefore completed.
7. The revised legislation requires the Commission to undertake the next review of UK Parliament constituencies using the electoral register from 1 December 2015, and to submit our report on that review during September 2018. The 4 parliamentary Boundary Commissions have agreed to refer to this review as "the 2018 Review."
8. The legislation governing reviews of UK Parliament constituencies is the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. The current text of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 is available on the Legislation page of the BCS website. The text of the legislation as it applied at the start of the Sixth Review is available on the Resources section of the Sixth Review pages of the website.

Consideration by the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee

9. At its meeting of 11 May 2015, the Commission considered the report of the Political and Constitutional Reform Committee (Paper BCS 2015/01) which had made a number of recommendations for further amendment to the legislation governing reviews of UK Parliamentary Constituencies.

10. The Commission agreed to await developments following the recent UK General Election, and asked the Secretariat to begin to consider the timetable for the next Review once any decisions by the incoming UK Government have been announced.
11. The Commission will wish to note that the UK Government has not responded to the report of the PCRC and there have been no changes to the legislation governing the 2018 Review.

Conclusion

12. The Commission is invited to note this update.

**Secretariat
January 2016**