

## 2018 Review: Meeting with political parties

### For discussion

#### Background

1. As with the 6th Review, the Commission agreed to offer a briefing on the 2018 Review of UK Parliament constituencies to political parties. The Secretariat invited parties represented on the Electoral Commission's Scottish Parliament Political Parties Panel and all indicated that a briefing would be helpful. The meeting has been arranged for afternoon of 16 May.

#### Issues

2. By way of background information, all parties have been sent a copy of the draft policies and procedures booklet and been invited to consider any questions they might have and if possible submit these in advance.
3. The Secretariat proposes to provide attendees with a general handout on the 2018 Review and a copy of the map showing theoretical constituency entitlement by council area. These are at Appendices A and B.
4. In terms of meeting handling, the Secretariat proposes that the Secretary talk through the issues highlighted in the handout and that parties then have the opportunity to ask any questions of the Commission and feed in views. While no party has yet responded to the request to submit questions in advance, specific issues they are likely to be interested in are:
  - The shared consultation portal and its development
  - The outline timescales for the consultation on initial proposals
  - The arrangements for public hearings including locations
5. The parties may ask about plans for training in the use of software and data. As agreed at the April meeting, rather than offer formal training, the Secretariat can provide ad hoc advice and assistance as required.

#### Conclusion

6. The Commission is invited to agree the proposed approach to the meeting.

Secretariat  
May 2016

### Legislative requirements

Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 as amended:

600 constituencies in total

4 specified island constituencies, 2 in England, 2 in Scotland

Each constituency must have an electorate that is no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the UK electoral quota

No constituency larger than 13,000 sq.kms

Exception for island constituencies and any constituency larger than 12,000 sq.kms which may have an electorate lower than 95% of the electoral quota if reasonable.

### Country Electorates

Country	Electorate	Specified island electorates
England	37,399,942	105,448 (Isle of Wight)
Scotland	3,896,852	20,887 (Na h-Eileanan an Iar) 33,229 (Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands)
Wales	2,181,841	
Northern Ireland	1,243,369	

### Indicative Timescales

Review commences	24 February 2016
Publish electoral data	27 April 2016
Meet political parties	16 May 2016
Publish policies and procedures booklet	June 2016
Publication of Initial Proposals	September/October 2016 for 12 week consultation
Public hearings	Weeks 5 to 10
Publication of representations	April/May 2017
Publication of Revised Proposals	September 2017 for 8 week consultation
Submit report	Before 1 October 2018

## 2018 Review of

## UK Parliamentary Constituencies

### Electoral quota

Use electoral register, including attainers, from **1 December 2015**

Electoral quota calculated by dividing total electorate, less electorate of the specified islands, by number of seats to be allocated (596).

UK electoral quota is **74,769.2**

Acceptable range for constituency electorate is no less than **71,031** (95%) and no more than **78,507** (105%) of electoral quota

### Constituency allocations

Country	Allocated	Islands	Total
England	499	2	501
Scotland	51	2	53
Wales	29		29
Northern Ireland	17		17
Total			600

Constituency allocations agreed by all 4 UK Boundary Commissions using methodology in legislation

### Public Hearings

2 to 5 hearings to be held across Scotland during weeks 5-10 of consultation on Initial Proposals

Last 1 to 2 days

6th Review hearings held in Edinburgh, New Lanark, Glasgow, Inverness and Dundee

# Boundary Commission for Scotland 2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies Constituency Design Approach

BCS Paper 2016/12  
Appendix B

## Theoretical constituency entitlement by council area

