

2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies Constituency considerations for East Lothian council area

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider its constituency design for East Lothian council area in furtherance of its 2018 Review of UK Parliament constituencies.

Background

2. On 24 February 2016, the Commission began its 2018 Review of UK Parliament constituencies with a view to making its recommendations by October 2018 in tandem with the other UK parliamentary boundary commissions.
3. The review is being undertaken in compliance with the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, as amended. The Act stipulates a UK electoral quota of 74,769.2 electors and use of the parliamentary electorate figures from the December 2015 Electoral Register. The 5% electorate limits in the Act correspond to an electorate of no less than 71,031 and no more than 78,507.
4. The Act requires the Commission to recommend the name, extent and designation of constituencies in Scotland, of which there are to be 53 in total. 2 Scottish constituencies are prescribed in the Act: Orkney and Shetland Islands constituency and Western isles constituency.
5. The Act provides some discretion in the extent of the Commission's regard to the size, shape and accessibility of constituencies, existing constituencies and the breaking of local ties. As this review is considered to be the first following enactment of the legislation (the 6th Review was ended before completion in 2013 following enactment of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013) the Commission need not have regard to the inconveniences attendant on changes to constituencies.
6. At its meeting of 16 May 2016, the Commission adopted groupings of council areas as part of its approach to constituency design for the 2018 Review, which included a constituency comprising East Lothian council area.
7. The 2015 parliamentary electorate for East Lothian council area is 76,153, with a constituency entitlement of 1.02 constituencies.
8. The existing East Lothian UK Parliament constituency boundary is coterminous with East Lothian council area and therefore its 2015 parliamentary electorate is 76,153.
9. A map of the existing East Lothian constituency and council area can be found at Appendix A.
10. The constituency name in this paper is provisional. The Commission will have the opportunity to review all constituency names and designations prior to the publication of its Initial Proposals.

Discussion

11. The existing East Lothian constituency is within the electoral quota and exactly covers East Lothian council area.

12. Retaining the existing constituency maintains a constituency that is easily recognised by the electorate.

Conclusion

13. The Secretariat recommends that the Commission agrees to adopt the existing East Lothian constituency boundary as its Initial Proposals for public consultation for this area, subject to satisfactory constituencies elsewhere in Scotland.

**Secretariat,
August 2016**



East Lothian