

2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies Preparation for publication of Revised Proposals

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to note the preparations being made for publication of its Revised Proposals for constituencies and offer comment on the general approach and draft materials.

Background

2. The consultation period for the Revised Proposals will be eight weeks. There will not be any Public Hearings in connection with the Revised Proposals. Representations received concerning the Revised Proposals will not be published for public scrutiny.
3. The Boundary Commission for England and Boundary Commission for Wales both expect to publish their Revised Proposals in mid October 2017. The Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland will publish their Revised Proposals in 2018.
4. The Commission may wish to publish its Revised Proposals at the same time as the Boundary Commission for England and Wales to increase media coverage.
5. The Commission may wish to consider following a similar approach to the publication of its Initial Proposals in October 2016. Advice from Scotland Office communications colleagues will be sought to offer assistance.

Consultation Portal

6. Interested parties will be able to view the boundaries of the Revised Proposals on the consultation portal and submit comments on the proposals. The boundaries of our Revised Proposals, Initial Proposals and the existing constituency boundaries, as well as other boundaries can be viewed. Constituencies can be searched by postcode or council area. Maps of each constituency and further information will also be available to download.

News Release

7. A draft News Release will be drafted for comment once the Revised Proposals have been agreed.

Publication Material – Summary of Revised Proposals Booklet

8. The Secretariat have developed a booklet depicting the Revised Proposals, for illustrative purposes only – see Appendix A. This has a similar style to the Initial Proposals booklet. The draft design only uses a small sample of constituencies, as the Revised Proposals have still to be finalised. The booklet will also be available to download from the website and consultation portal.

Publication Material – Display Posters

9. The Secretariat have developed a draft poster for use at display points – see Appendix B. The posters will also be available to download from the website and consultation portal.

Display Points

10. During the consultation on its Initial Proposals, at least one public display point was used within each proposed constituency. A similar approach is expected for the consultation on the Revised Proposals with each display point receiving a:

Summary of Revised Proposals booklet; Policies and Procedures booklet; A3 Constituency poster(s); and news release.

Distribution List

11. Materials will be distributed to a similar list of contacts used during earlier consultations. Materials will also be sent to Regional Equality Engagement Officers across Scotland who can forward information on the Revised Proposals to bodies within their networks.

Media briefing

12. Prior to the launch of the Initial Proposals the Commission offered a media briefing to explain the approach to the 2018 Review and allow an opportunity for questions as well as advance sight of the proposals under embargo. At the media briefing Professor Henderson handled media interviews. The briefing was well attended and it is proposed that a similar event be arranged this year for key Scottish media.

Delivery of materials to MPs

13. At the launch of the Initial Proposals, members of the Secretariat hand-delivered the following materials to MPs: Summary of Initial Proposals booklet; Policies and Procedures booklet; poster of existing constituencies; poster of proposed constituency; all Scotland poster; and copy of the news release.
14. If the Commission commences its consultation at the same time as the Boundary Commission for England and Boundary Commission for Wales, it may wish to co-ordinate the distribution of its Revised Proposals to MPs at the same time.
15. The Secretary will consult with political parties and the Boundary Commission for England and Wales to consider a convenient approach for delivering the Revised Proposals to MPs.

Other publication materials

16. GIS shapefiles of the Revised Proposals will be made available to download from the website.
17. Social media (Twitter and Facebook) will also be used to publicise the Revised Proposals.

Recommendations

18. The Commission is invited to comment on the draft materials and proposed approach to the publication of the Revised Proposals:
 - Comment on the draft Poster;
 - Comment on the draft Revised Proposals Booklet;
 - Agree that a media briefing be held; and
 - Consider how materials are distributed to MPs.

Secretariat
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