



13 October 2021

Embargo until: 00:01am, Thursday 14 October 2021

Boundary Commission for Scotland
consults on new boundaries for UK Parliament constituencies in Scotland

The Boundary Commission for Scotland has today published its initial proposals for a new map of UK Parliamentary constituencies in Scotland. Today marks the start of a 8-week public consultation on the proposals, running until the end of Wednesday 8 December 2021.

Scotland has been allocated 57 constituencies for the 2023 Review, two fewer than at present. The UK Parliament has retained 650 constituencies. England has been allocated 543 (+10), Northern Ireland 18 (no change) and Wales 32 (-8).

Two of these 57 (Na h-Eileanan an Iar (the Western Isles) and Orkney and Shetland) are protected in the legislation and will not be subject to change.

Each constituency that the Commission recommends must contain no fewer than 69,724 Parliamentary electors, and no more than 77,062 (except the **two 'protected'** constituencies of Na h-Eileanan an Iar and Orkney and Shetland).

If it considers it necessary, the Commission can recommend a constituency with an electorate lower than the minimum if it is larger than 12,000 square kilometres. No constituency can be larger than 13,000 square kilometres.

Due to the reduction in the number of constituencies, and the requirements for each constituency to have a number of electors within set limits, significant changes to existing constituencies are required. **The Commission's** initial proposals are set out today for consultation.

Lord Matthews, Deputy Chair of the Boundary Commission for Scotland, said

“I believe this is a promising start to delivering the requirements of the new rules that mean the number of constituencies in Scotland will reduce from 59 to 57, and that each mainland constituency must have broadly the same number of electors. We have set out proposals today which do that and are, we believe, a good implementation of the rules set by Parliament.

Today is the beginning of a process, and we now want to hear the views of the public. We will reflect on responses to the consultation and make changes where appropriate and where the legislation allows us to do so. We strongly encourage voters to make their views heard.

We welcome all comments on our proposals on our consultation site at www.bcs2023review.com. We particularly want to hear suggestions on two aspects, suggestions for alternative boundaries that comply with the legislative requirements and constituency names.”

ENDS

Background information

The Boundary Commission for Scotland

The Boundary Commission for Scotland is an independent advisory non-departmental public body sponsored and funded by the Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland. The role of the Commission is to review the boundaries of UK Parliament constituencies.

For the avoidance of confusion Boundaries Scotland (formerly the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland) is a separate commission which is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations for: constituencies and regions for the Scottish Parliament; the number of councillors on each council in a local government area; the number of wards for local government elections and their boundaries; and the extent of council areas.

Background to the review

The 2023 Review of UK Parliamentary constituencies is required by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended). It is being conducted simultaneously and independently by the four Boundary Commissions in Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales in their respective countries. Reviews are required to take account of changes in population size and distribution.

The four UK Boundary Commissions began reviews in 2011 (the Sixth Review) and 2016 (the 2018 Review) that would have reduced the total number of constituencies to 600. Neither of these Reviews resulted in changes to constituencies, as they were, respectively, cancelled by changes to legislation and not implemented by Parliament.

The existing constituencies have remained unchanged since 2005 and were used in the 2005, 2010, 2015, 2017, 2019 General Elections.

2023 BCS Review timeline

January 2021 – the electorate at 2 March 2020 is published and the four UK Boundary Commissions calculate the electorate quota and develop initial proposals for the 2023 Review.

October to December 2021 – Commission conducts an eight week public consultation on its initial proposals.

Early 2022: Commission conducts a six-week **‘secondary consultation’** when it publishes consultation responses from the initial consultation for public scrutiny. The Commission will hold between two and five public hearings around Scotland.

Late 2022: Commission conducts a four-week public consultation on its revised proposals.

Commission submits its recommendations by 1 July 2023.

The Boundary Commissions for England and Wales have already started or completed their initial consultations on new constituency boundaries. The Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland will begin its consultation later this year.

Electorate and Allocation of constituencies

The electoral quota for the review, which is the average electorate per constituency across the UK, is 73,393, with the electorate of each constituency having to be within five per cent of that i.e. between 69,724 and 77,062.

The electoral quota is calculated by dividing the total UK electorate (less the electorate of the 5 protected island constituencies) by 645 constituencies (650 less the 5 protected islands constituencies)

Total UK electorate	47,558,398
Less electorate of protected constituencies	220,132
Balance	47,338,266
Divided by total non-protected constituencies	645
Quota	73,392.66
5% range =	69,724 to 77,062

In Scotland, exceptions to these electorate limits apply to the two protected island constituencies Na h-Eileanan an Iar (the Western Isles), and Orkney and Shetland. Likewise, exceptions to these electorate limits apply to the protected island constituencies in England (two Isle of Wight constituencies) and in Wales (Ynys Môn (Isle of Anglesey)), each of which are defined in the legislation.

An exception to the minimum electorate requirement can be made if a constituency is larger than 12,000 square kilometres which can only occur in very sparsely populated areas.

The electorate for this review is taken from the electoral register on 2 March 2020, published in December 2020.

Factors we consider

Subject to the above requirements, the legislation states that we may take into account, as we think fit, other factors, namely:

- special geographical considerations, including the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- boundaries of council areas and electoral wards;
- existing Westminster constituency boundaries; and
- any local ties which would be broken by changes in constituencies.

Existing constituencies

Based on the March 2020 electoral register 18 existing constituencies lie within the electoral quota. These are shown below:

Central Ayrshire	69,779	Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	73,288
Glasgow South	69,956	Edinburgh South West	73,315
Stirling	70,085	Perth and North Perthshire	73,523
Midlothian	71,210	North Ayrshire and Arran	73,588
Moray	71,537	West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	73,634
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock	72,057	Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill	73,996
Paisley and Renfrewshire North	72,576	Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	74,687
East Renfrewshire	72,959	Kilmarnock and Loudoun	74,801
Edinburgh West	73,102	Dumfries and Galloway	75,332

Constituency design approach

The Commission developed its initial proposals in council area groupings. These included:

- One constituency wholly within East Renfrewshire council area
- Four constituencies wholly within East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire council areas
- Seven constituencies wholly within City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian council areas
- Nine constituencies wholly within Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire council areas
- Nine constituencies wholly within Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Argyll and Bute, Highland and Moray council areas
- Twelve constituencies wholly within Dumfries and Galloway, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire and Scottish Borders council areas
- Thirteen constituencies wholly within Fife, Perth and Kinross, Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirling, Angus, Dundee City and West Lothian council areas

Proposed Constituencies:

Constituency Name	Electorate	Area (sq. km)	Designation
Aberdeen North	76,895	104	Burgh
Aberdeen South	76,560	102	Burgh
Airdrie and Shotts	72,775	239	County
Angus and Strathmore	74,051	2891	County
Argyll	71,442	9294	County
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock	72,057	1636	County
Banff and Buchan	72,837	1451	County
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	73,779	3764	County
Central Ayrshire	69,779	237	County
Coatbridge and Bellshill	72,332	69	Burgh
Dumfries and Galloway	74,916	3844	County
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale	73,593	4809	County
Dundee East and Arbroath	75,706	184	County
Dundee West and Gowrie	76,771	181	County
East Kilbride and Strathaven	75,161	305	County
East Lothian Coast	73,939	693	County
East Renfrewshire	72,959	174	County
Edinburgh East	73,187	32	Burgh
Edinburgh North and Leith	76,543	20	Burgh
Edinburgh South	70,893	31	Burgh
Edinburgh South West	73,315	90	Burgh
Edinburgh West	76,903	108	Burgh
Forth Valley South	76,431	182	County
Glasgow Central	72,600	26	Burgh
Glasgow East	72,384	42	Burgh
Glasgow North	73,316	28	Burgh
Glasgow South	70,191	27	Burgh
Glasgow South West	71,584	29	Burgh
Glasgow West	71,493	19	Burgh
Glenrothes and Loch Leven	74,155	368	County
Gordon and Moray South	73,121	3151	County
Hamilton and Clyde Valley	74,577	258	County
Highland Central	75,651	8717	County
Highland East and Elgin	72,038	3570	County
Highland North	76,654	12781	County
Inverclyde and Bridge of Weir	70,476	218	County
Kelvin North	70,773	202	County
Kelvin South	74,905	94	Burgh
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	74,801	702	County
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	74,637	154	County
Linlithgow and Bathgate	73,710	233	County
Livingston	73,394	232	County
Mid Forth Valley	74,126	263	County
Midlothian	71,210	355	County
Motherwell and Clydesdale North	70,138	214	County
<i>Na h-Eileanan an Iar</i>	21,177	3267	<i>County</i>
North Ayrshire and Arran	73,588	834	County

North East Fife	70,452	824	County
<i>Orkney and Shetland</i>	34,824	2744	<i>County</i>
Perth and Tay	74,589	4156	County
Renfrew North	69,899	79	Burgh
Renfrew South	69,797	150	County
Rutherglen	71,612	41	Burgh
Stirling	70,085	2255	County
West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	73,634	3272	County
West Dunbartonshire	71,186	184	County
West Fife	70,011	299	County

The initial proposals retain nine existing constituencies

Central Ayrshire	69,779	Kilmarnock and Loudoun	74,801
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock	72,057	North Ayrshire and Arran	73,588
Stirling	70,085	West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	73,634
Midlothian	71,210	East Renfrewshire	72,959
Edinburgh South West	73,315		

The range of electors per constituency was 41,582. The constituency with the smallest electorate was Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross (46,924 electors). The constituency with the largest electorate was Linlithgow and East Falkirk (88,506 electors).

The range of electors per constituency under the initial proposals will be 7,124, from Central Ayrshire with 69,779 electors to Edinburgh West with 76,903 electors.

The largest proposed constituency by area is Highland North, at 12,781 square kilometres (currently Ross, Skye and Lochaber at 12,768 square kilometres).

The smallest proposed constituency is Glasgow West, at 19 square kilometres (currently Glasgow North at 17 square kilometres).

One constituency covers three council areas: Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale. It follows a similar boundary to the existing Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale constituency.

The proposals will be on display within each constituency, see our website for the display point locations.

Constituency Summary

The Commission developed its initial proposals in council area groupings. These included:

East Renfrewshire council area

The existing East Renfrewshire constituency is unchanged.

East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire council areas

The four existing Ayrshire constituencies (Central Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and Arran, Ayr, Carrick & Cumnock and Kilmarnock and Loudoun) are unchanged.

City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian council areas

This grouping proposes no change to the overall number of constituencies – 7.

The existing Midlothian constituency is unchanged.

In Edinburgh, the existing Edinburgh South West constituency and the existing constituency names are unchanged. There are minor changes to the boundary between the Edinburgh West and Edinburgh North and Leith constituencies at Craighleith and the Dean Village. The boundary between the Edinburgh East and Edinburgh South constituencies has been amended at Prestonfield. The Edinburgh East constituency now includes the western half of Musselburgh.

In East Lothian, due to the electorate growth, part of Musselburgh has been added to an Edinburgh East constituency. The constituency is named East Lothian Coast as it no longer follows the East Lothian council area boundary.

Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire council areas

There are currently ten constituencies within this grouping, the Initial Proposals propose nine constituencies.

The proposed Inverclyde and Bridge of Weir constituency includes the whole of Inverclyde council area, Bridge of Weir and Houston.

The proposed Renfrew North and Renfrew South constituencies maintain a north-south split of Paisley. The Renfrew North constituency includes part of Cardonald from Glasgow City council area.

Glasgow City council area contains six constituencies wholly within the council area. The proposed Glasgow West constituency is similar to the existing Glasgow North West constituency except for minor changes to the boundary by Anniesland and Partick. The proposed Glasgow North constituency includes the city-centre, Maryhill and Possilpark. The proposed Glasgow Central constituency extends from Govanhill to Robroyston. The proposed Glasgow South constituency includes Castlemilk and Shawlands. The proposed Glasgow South West constituency extends from Govan to Nittshill. The proposed Glasgow East constituency follows ward boundaries and includes Shettleston and Easterhouse. A small area by Yoker is added to a West Dunbartonshire constituency.

Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Argyll and Bute, Highland and Moray council areas

There are currently ten constituencies within this grouping, the Initial Proposals propose nine constituencies.

The existing West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine constituency is unchanged.

Two constituencies sit wholly within the Aberdeen City council area boundary. The proposed boundary between the Aberdeen North and Aberdeen South constituencies follows ward boundaries, except by Rosemount.

The proposed Argyll constituency contains the whole of Argyll and Bute council area, Ardnamurchan, Glen Coe and Loch Leven.

The proposed Highland Central constituency includes Inverness, Fort William and Skye.

The proposed Highland North constituency contains the northern half of Highland council area.

The proposed Highland East and Elgin constituency includes Badenoch and Strathspey, Nairn and Elgin.

The proposed Banff and Buchan constituency follows Aberdeenshire ward boundaries and is similar to the existing constituency as it follows the Aberdeenshire north coast.

The proposed Gordon and Moray South contains Ellon, Huntly and Glenlivet.

Dumfries and Galloway, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire and Scottish Borders council areas
This grouping proposes no change to the overall number of constituencies – 12.

The proposed Dumfries and Galloway constituency is similar to the existing constituency except for minor changes to the boundary by Dumfries.

The proposed Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk constituency is similar to the existing constituency except for minor changes to the boundary by Galashiels.

The proposed Dumfriesshire, Tweeddale and Clydesdale constituency is similar to the existing constituency except for minor changes to the boundary by Lanark.

The boundaries of both the proposed East Kilbride and Strathaven constituency and Rutherglen constituency follow ward boundaries within South Lanarkshire council area.

The proposed Hamilton and Clyde Valley constituency extends from Hamilton to Lanark and Lesmahagow.

The proposed Motherwell and Clydesdale North constituency includes Motherwell, Wishaw, Carluke and Forth.

The proposed Airdrie and Shotts constituency is similar to the existing constituency except for minor changes to the boundary by Cleland.

The proposed Coatbridge and Bellshill constituency is similar to the existing Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill constituency **but doesn't include Chryston.**

The proposed Kelvin South constituency includes Cumbernauld, Stepps and Kirkintilloch.

The proposed Kelvin North constituency includes Kilsyth, Bishopbriggs and Bearsden.

The proposed West Dunbartonshire constituency includes the whole of the council area and a small area by Yoker.

Angus, Clackmannanshire, Dundee City, Falkirk, Fife, Perth and Kinross, Stirling and West Lothian council areas

This grouping proposes no change to the overall number of constituencies – 13.

The existing Stirling constituency is unchanged.

The proposed Livingston constituency contains Livingston and Whitburn.

The proposed Linlithgow and Bathgate constituency **also includes Bo'ness** from Falkirk council area.

The proposed Forth Valley South constituency contains Falkirk, Grangemouth and Bonnybridge.

The proposed Mid Forth Valley constituency contains Clackmannanshire council area and Denny and Stenhousemuir from Falkirk council area.

The proposed West Fife constituency is similar to the existing Dunfermline and West Fife but the boundary follows the M90 and includes Crook of Devon from Perth and Kinross council area.

The proposed Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency follows ward boundaries within Fife council area.

The proposed North East Fife constituency is similar to the existing constituency except for minor changes to the boundary by Leven. It follows ward boundaries within Fife council area.

The proposed Glenrothes and Loch Leven constituency follows ward boundaries in Fife and includes Kinross.

The proposed Perth and Tay constituency follows ward boundaries within Perth and Kinross council area.

The proposals retain an east-west split in Dundee City council area where the constituency boundaries follow Dundee ward boundaries. The proposed Dundee West and Gowrie constituency splits the Perth and Kinross Carse of Gowrie ward by following higher ground above the A90 road. The proposed Dundee East and Arbroath constituency includes the coastal Angus towns of Arbroath, Carnoustie and Monifieth.

The proposed Angus and Strathmore constituency includes the Angus Glens, Forfar, Montrose and Blairgowrie from Perth and Kinross council area.

Other

The existing Na h-Eileanan an Iar and Orkney and Shetland Islands constituencies are both protected by legislation and unchanged.

Notes for Editors:

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