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2023 Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies Boundary Commission for Scotland consults on revised constituencies

The Boundary Commission for Scotland has today published its Revised Proposals for new UK Parliamentary constituencies in Scotland as part of its 2023 Review. Today marks the start of a 4-week public consultation, running until Monday 5 December 2022.

The Commission has prepared these Revised Proposals after considering the responses to its consultations on the Initial Proposals which were published in October 2021 and again in February 2022 when the Commission held five public hearings.

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

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

As set out in legislation, each of the remaining 55 constituencies must:

- be within five per cent of the UK electoral quota of 73,393 (ie to have between 69,724 and 77,062 electors), except where a constituency is larger than 12,000 square kilometres when it may have fewer than 69,724 electors; and
- not exceed the maximum permitted area of 13,000 square kilometres.

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

“We are grateful for the responses received during our previous consultations including those presented at the five public hearings that we held across Scotland earlier this year. We have considered all representations very carefully and, where possible, have tried to respond positively to suggestions. The legislative requirements of the review do mean we are not always able to incorporate alternatives and sometimes of course we receive conflicting views or suggestions with unintended consequences for other parts of Scotland. We very much look forward to receiving views on the Revised Proposals after which we will finalise our proposals before submitting them to the Speaker of the House of Commons by 1 July next year.”

Of the 55 mainland constituencies in the Revised Proposals: 20 constituency boundaries are unchanged from the Initial Proposals; three constituencies have only their name changed; 35 constituencies have only their boundaries changed; and 20 constituencies have both their name and boundaries changed.

Among the changes from the Initial Proposals are:

- reconfiguration of boundaries in our constituency groupings of:
 - Angus, Clackmannanshire, Dundee City, Falkirk, Fife, Perth & Kinross and West Lothian council areas;
 - Aberdeenshire, Argyll & Bute, Highland and Moray council areas;
 - Dumfries and Galloway, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire council areas;
- changes to the proposed boundaries in Glasgow City council area in the south, north-west and east of the city;
- changes to the boundary in the north, south and east of City of Edinburgh council area; and
- changes to the boundary in Musselburgh, East Lothian.

Other points to note:

- Nine existing constituencies, in addition to the two defined in legislation, are retained with boundaries unchanged since 2005. The nine existing constituencies are : Ayr and Carrick; Central Ayrshire; East Renfrewshire; Edinburgh South West; Kilmarnock and Loudoun; Midlothian; North Ayrshire and Arran; Stirling; West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine. 18 existing constituencies were within quota but we have only retained nine due to the knock on consequences of neighbouring or nearby constituencies.
- The largest proposed constituency by area is Inverness-shire and Wester Ross at 11,066 square kilometres (currently Ross, Skye and Lochaber at 12,768 square kilometres).
- The smallest proposed constituencies by area is Glasgow West at 19 square kilometres (currently Glasgow North at 17 square kilometres).
- The proposed constituency with the fewest electors, at 69,748 will be Glasgow South East (currently Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross at 46,924).
- The proposed constituency with the most electors, at 77,046 will be Clackmannanshire and Forth Valley (currently Linlithgow and East Falkirk at 88,506).
- 36 of the proposed mainland constituencies are within a single council area; two constituencies contain parts of three council areas.

After considering the responses to this consultation on the Revised Proposals, the Commission will develop its Final Recommendations and submit its report to the Speaker of the House of Commons by 1 July 2023.

The consultation will run from 8 November until 5 December 2022. Members of the public and interested parties can view the Revised Proposals and submit comments on the Commission's consultation site at www.bcs2023review.com.

Further information can be found on the Commission's website:

<https://www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/reviews/2023-review-uk-parliament-constituencies>

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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 in Scotland.

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 2023 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 existing constituencies have remained unchanged since 2005 and were used in the 2005, 2010, 2015, 2017 and 2019 General Elections.

2023 BCS Review timeline

January 2021 – the electorate at 2 March 2020 was published and the four UK Boundary Commissions calculated the electorate quota and developed Initial Proposals for the 2023 Review.

October to December 2021 – Commission conducted an eight week public consultation on its Initial Proposals.

February to March 2022 - Commission conducted a six-week ‘secondary consultation’ when it published consultation responses from the initial consultation for public scrutiny. The Commission held five public hearings across Scotland.

8 November – 5 December 2022: Commission conducts a four-week public consultation on its Revised Proposals.

By 1 July 2023 - Commission submits its recommendations.

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 5 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.

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 UK Parliament constituency boundaries; and
- any local ties which would be broken by changes in constituencies.

Factors we do not consider

This Review is concerned solely with UK Parliament constituency boundaries and whilst we consider existing local boundaries in developing our proposals, this Review has no impact on council area boundaries, Scottish Parliament constituency boundaries, polling districts or school catchment areas.

Proposed Constituencies:

Constituency Name	Electorate	Area (sq. km)	Designation	Changes made from Initial Proposals*
Aberdeen North	76,895	104	Burgh	U
Aberdeen South	76,560	102	Burgh	U
Aberdeenshire Central	76,897	2,274	County	BN
Aberdeenshire North and Moray East	69,802	1,294	County	BN
Airdrie	72,795	238	County	BN
Argyll, Bute and South Lochaber	71,707	9,303	County	BN
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock	72,057	1,636	County	U
Bathgate and Linlithgow	71,650	221	County	BN
Bearsden and Campsie Fells	71,195	160	County	BN
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	73,779	3,764	County	U
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross	72,632	10,408	County	BN
Central Ayrshire	69,779	237	County	U
Clackmannanshire and Forth Valley	77,046	411	County	BN
Coatbridge and Bellshill	72,507	69	Burgh	B
Dumfries and Galloway	76,863	4,110	County	B
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale	71,646	4,543	County	B
Dundee East and Arbroath	76,810	422	County	B
Dundee West	75,298	42	Burgh	BN
Dunfermline and East Ochils	71,456	284	County	BN
East Kilbride and Strathaven	75,161	305	County	U
East Lothian and Lammermuirs	71,287	691	County	BN
East Renfrewshire	72,959	174	County	U
Edinburgh East	75,705	34	Burgh	B
Edinburgh North and Leith	76,770	20	Burgh	B
Edinburgh South	70,980	31	Burgh	B
Edinburgh South West	73,315	90	Burgh	U
Edinburgh West	76,723	107	Burgh	B
Falkirk	76,734	197	County	BN
Glasgow North	73,210	28	Burgh	B
Glasgow North East	75,236	39	Burgh	BN
Glasgow South	71,344	27	Burgh	B
Glasgow South East	69,748	28	Burgh	BN
Glasgow South West	70,431	30	Burgh	B
Glasgow West	72,499	19	Burgh	B
Glenrothes	70,004	192	County	BN
Hamilton and Clyde Valley	74,577	257	County	U
Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West	70,476	218	County	N
Inverness-shire and Wester Ross	73,791	11,066	County	BN
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	74,801	702	County	U
Kilsyth Hills and Cumbernauld	74,483	136	County	BN
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	69,800	151	County	B
Livingston	75,454	244	County	B
Midlothian	71,210	355	County	U
Motherwell and Clydesdale North	69,943	214	County	U
<i>Na h-Eileanan an Iar</i>	<i>21,177</i>	<i>3,268</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>U</i>

Nairn, Strathspey and Moray West	76,914	4,617	County	BN
North Ayrshire and Arran	73,588	834	County	U
North East Fife	70,452	824	County	U
North Tayside	77,006	5,532	County	BN
<i>Orkney and Shetland</i>	<i>34,824</i>	<i>2,744</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>U</i>
Paisley and Renfrewshire North	69,899	79	Burgh	N
Paisley and Renfrewshire South	69,797	150	County	N
Perth and Loch Leven	76,323	1,449	County	BN
Rutherglen	71,612	41	Burgh	U
Stirling	70,085	2,255	County	U
West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	73,634	3,272	County	U
West Dunbartonshire	70,286	183	County	B

* Changes made from Initial Proposals:

- B = boundary changed - 15 constituencies.
- BN = boundary and name changed - 20 constituencies.
- N = name changed - 3 constituencies.
- U = unchanged boundary - 17 constituencies.

Constituency Summary

The Commission developed its Revised Proposals in council area groupings. These included:

East Renfrewshire council area

The proposed East Renfrewshire constituency is unchanged from the existing arrangements and the Initial Proposals.

East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire council areas

The four proposed Ayrshire constituencies (Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock, Central Ayrshire, Kilmarnock and Loudoun and North Ayrshire and Arran) are unchanged from the existing arrangements and the Initial Proposals.

City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian council areas

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

The proposed Midlothian constituency is unchanged from the existing arrangements and the Initial Proposals.

In Edinburgh, the proposed Edinburgh South West constituency is unchanged from the existing arrangements and the Initial Proposals. The other Edinburgh constituency names are unchanged from the existing arrangements and Initial Proposals but there are changes to the proposed constituency boundaries from the Initial Proposals at Pilton, Craigmyle and Gilmerton, with minor changes at Bruntsfield and Moredun. The proposed Edinburgh East constituency now includes a larger part of Musselburgh than the Initial Proposals.

In East Lothian we have amended the constituency boundary at Musselburgh and re-named the proposed constituency as East Lothian and Lammermuirs to reflect the extensive geography of the constituency and that it no longer follows East Lothian council area boundary.

Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire council areas

There are currently ten constituencies within this grouping, the Revised Proposals propose nine constituencies as was the case in the Initial Proposals.

The proposed Inverclyde and Renfrewshire constituency boundaries are unchanged from the Initial Proposals but the constituencies are re-named: Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West; Paisley and Renfrewshire North; and Paisley and Renfrewshire South.

The Revised Proposals have made changes to all of the Glasgow constituency boundaries. These include two new constituency boundaries in the east of Glasgow, as well as minor changes by: Arden; Strathbungo; Strathcona; and Yoker.

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

There are currently ten constituencies within this grouping, the Revised Proposals propose nine constituencies as was the case with the Initial Proposals.

The proposed West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine constituency is unchanged from the existing arrangements and the Initial Proposals.

The proposed arrangements for Aberdeen City are unchanged from the Initial Proposals with two constituencies wholly within the council area boundary.

The proposed Argyll, Bute and South Lochaber constituency has a minor boundary change from the Initial Proposals, north of Kinlochleven. The constituency name has been amended from the Initial Proposals.

Elsewhere in Aberdeenshire, Highland and Moray council areas we have a proposed: a smaller constituency in the north of Highland, named Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross; and Moray is now divided between two rather than three constituencies.

Dumfries and Galloway, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, Scottish Borders, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire council areas

This grouping proposes no change to the overall number of constituencies – 12.

We have made changes from our Initial Proposals in East Dunbartonshire where we have proposed: a Kilsyth Hills and Cumbernauld constituency that includes Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch; and a Bearsden and Campsie Fells constituency that includes Bearsden, Milngavie, Bishopbriggs, Stepps and Chryston.

The proposed Dumfries and Galloway constituency and Dumfriesshire, Tweeddale and Clydesdale constituency are similar to the Initial Proposals except for minor changes to the boundary by Dumfries at Dunscore and Lochar Water.

We have also made minor changes to the Initial Proposals at Coatdyke by Coatbridge and at Yoker.

We have renamed the Airdrie and Shotts constituency as Airdrie. All other constituency names and boundaries are unchanged.

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 proposed Stirling constituency is unchanged from the existing arrangements and Initial Proposals.

The proposed North East Fife constituency is unchanged from the Initial Proposals.

Elsewhere we are proposing a new design of constituencies for this grouping.

In West Lothian council area: Broxburn now sits within a Livingston constituency; and Whitburn within a Bathgate and Linlithgow constituency.

In Falkirk council area: Skinflats is added to a Falkirk constituency; and Denny and Stenhousemuir, with most of Clackmannanshire and Auchterarder create a Clackmannanshire and Forth Valley constituency.

In Fife council area: Dollar is included in a Dunfermline and East Ochils constituency; the Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency boundary is amended at Kelty and West Wemyss; and the Glenrothes constituency includes Scotlandwell from Kinross-shire.

In Perth and Kinross council area: a Perth and Loch Leven constituency includes Kinross-shire, Perth, Strathearn and Carse of Gowrie; and a North Tayside constituency includes north Perthshire, Brechin, Forfar and Montrose.

In Angus and Dundee City council areas we are proposing a Dundee West constituency and a Dundee East and Arbroath constituency.

Other

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

Notes for Editors:

For further information contact Isabel Drummond-Murray, Secretary to the Commission, 0131 244 2007 / isabel.drummond-murray@scottishboundaries.gov.uk