

Boundary Commission for Scotland



16 October 2017

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2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies Boundary Commission for Scotland consults on revised constituencies

The Boundary Commission for Scotland today publishes its Revised Proposals for United Kingdom Parliament constituencies in Scotland as part of its 2018 Review. This marks the start of an 8 week public consultation process, lasting from Tuesday 17 October 2017 until Monday 11 December 2017.

The Commission has prepared these Revised Proposals after considering the responses to its consultations on the Initial Proposals which were published in October 2016.

The UK Parliament has decided to reduce the number of constituencies from 650 to 600. In Scotland this means that 59 constituencies will be reduced to 53.

Two of these 53 (Na h-Eileanan an Iar (the Western Isles) and Orkney and Shetland) are defined in the legislation and will not be subject to change.

As set out in legislation, each of the remaining 51 constituencies must:

- not exceed the maximum permitted area of 13,000 square kilometres; and
- be within five per cent of the UK electoral quota of 74,769.2 (ie to have between 71,031 and 78,507 electors), except where a constituency is larger than 12,000 square kilometres when it may have fewer than 71,031 electors.

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

"After careful consideration of all of the comments received during the consultations on the Initial Proposals, the Commission has designed this revised set of constituencies. Where the legislation has allowed it, we have tried to respond to the views expressed to us. However, in some areas, we have been unable to make changes because of the constraints on constituency design within which we work."

"This is the final opportunity we have to obtain views on our proposals so we can further improve them where the legislation allows us to do so. I hope people will take the opportunity to contribute, whether for or against what we have proposed."

Of the 51 mainland constituencies in the Revised Proposals: 12 constituencies are unchanged from the Initial Proposals; 7 constituencies have only their name changed; 11 constituencies have only their boundaries changed; and 21 constituencies have both their name and boundaries changed.

Among the changes from the Initial Proposals are:

- reconfiguration of constituencies around Angus, Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire council areas;
- reconfiguration of constituencies around Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Fife, Perth & Kinross and Stirling council areas;
- reconfiguration of constituencies around Renfrewshire;
- changes to the boundary in the south and east of Edinburgh;
- changes to the boundary in Kelvinside and the southside of Glasgow;
- changes to the boundary north of Fort William;
- changes to the boundary south of Airdrie and by Wishaw in North Lanarkshire;
- changes to the boundary in Bearsden and at Craigton, to the north-west of Milngavie;
- changes to the boundary by Dumfries and Annandale; and
- changes to the boundary at Cardrona, Peeblesshire.

Other points to note:

- Only one existing constituency, in addition to the two defined in legislation, is retained with boundaries unchanged since 2005 (East Lothian, which is coterminous with East Lothian council area).
- 32 of the proposed mainland constituencies are within a single council area; no constituencies contain parts of three or more council areas.
- The largest proposed constituency by area is Highland North, at 12,985 square kilometres (currently Ross, Skye and Lochaber at 12,768 square kilometres).
- The smallest proposed constituencies by area are Edinburgh North and Leith; and Glasgow Central, both 20 square kilometres (currently Glasgow North at 17 square kilometres).
- The proposed constituency with the fewest electors, at 71,118, will be Falkirk South (currently Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross at 45,898).
- The proposed constituency with most electors, at 78,477, will be Moray and Nairn (currently Linlithgow and East Falkirk at 83,593).
- We took account of the ward boundaries in place from 2007 – 2017, in line with the legislation within which we work. New wards were introduced from May 2017 and we explored using these during the development of our Revised Proposals, if someone suggested adopting them to improve local ties. However, we did so on the merits of their being better indicators of local ties, rather than because they are the current ward boundaries.
- In our Revised Proposals for the 29 mainland council areas there are 297 whole wards and 34 wards divided between constituencies in our proposals: 42 constituencies contain 1 or more part-wards.

After considering the responses to this consultation on the Revised Proposals, the Commission will develop its Final Recommendations and submit its report to the Secretary of State in September 2018.

The consultation will run until 11 December 2017. Members of the public and interested parties can get further information and submit views on the Commission's interactive portal at www.bcs2018.org.uk. Further information can be found on the Commission's website:

www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/2018_westminster/

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Notes for Editors

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The Boundary Commission for Scotland:

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

Background to the 2018 Review:

The 2018 Review of UK Parliamentary constituencies is required by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. It is being conducted simultaneously by the four Boundary Commissions in Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Across the UK, the number of constituencies is being reduced from 650 to 600. In Scotland there will be a decrease from 59 to 53 constituencies, with similar reductions in each part of the UK: England 501 in place of the current 533; Wales 29 in place of the current 40; and Northern Ireland 17 in place of the current 18.

The Commission commenced the 2018 Review on 24 February 2016 and will report to the Secretary of State for Scotland in September 2018, so that the new constituencies can be considered for approval by Parliament and be available for use in the General Election expected in May 2022.

The Boundary Commissions for England, Scotland and Wales will consult on their revised proposals simultaneously. The Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland expects to consult on its revised proposals at a later date.

Further details:

The electoral quota for the review, which is the average electorate per constituency across the UK, is 74,769.2, with the electorate of each constituency having to be within five per cent of that.

That means the smallest permitted electorate for a constituency is 71,031 and the largest permitted electorate is 78,507. In Scotland, exceptions to these electorate limits apply for Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency (the Western Isles), and Orkney and Shetland constituency, 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 published on 1 December 2015

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 existing council areas and electoral wards;
- existing Westminster constituency boundaries; and
- any local ties which would be broken by changes in constituencies.

Talking points

Summary for constituency grouping of Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Dundee City council areas

From our Initial Proposals we have amended the boundary in Aberdeen by Rosemount and extended the proposed **Aberdeen North** constituency to include Balmedie, Belhelvie and Potterton in Aberdeenshire. We have amended the **Aberdeen South** constituency to include Drumoak in Aberdeenshire. We have designed two constituencies in Angus council area named **Angus South and Dundee East** and **Kincardine and Angus North** to replace the constituencies of Angus Glens and Dundee East and Kincardine and Angus East from our Initial Proposals. We have amended the boundary of the proposed **Banff and Buchan** constituency by Newburgh and Methlick and the proposed **Gordon and Deeside** constituency by Banchory.

Summary for constituency grouping of Argyll and Bute, Highland and Moray council areas

From our Initial Proposals we have amended the constituency boundary north of Loch Eil and by Mallaig. We have re-named the proposed constituency of Inverness and Skye as **Highland South**.

Summary for constituency grouping of East Lothian council area

We have retained the existing **East Lothian** constituency boundary which is coterminous with the council area boundary.

Summary for constituency grouping of City of Edinburgh and West Lothian council areas

From our Initial Proposals we have amended the constituency boundary by the city centre and Newington. We have re-named the proposed constituency of Edinburgh South West and Central as **Edinburgh Southside**.

Summary for constituency grouping of Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Fife, Perth & Kinross and Stirling council areas

From our Initial Proposals we have merged the two constituency groupings of Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling council areas with Fife and Perth & Kinross council areas. From our Initial Proposals all constituency boundaries have been amended apart from the proposed **North East Fife** constituency and **Perthshire** constituency – now named **Perth and North Perthshire** constituency.

Summary for constituency grouping of Dumfries and Galloway, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire council areas

From our Initial Proposals we have renamed all the constituencies and amended the constituency boundaries by Annandale, by Dumfries, to the south of Airdrie and at Wishaw.

Summary for constituency grouping of East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire council areas

From our Initial Proposals we have amended the constituency boundary by Bearsden and Craigton by Milngavie and renamed the proposed constituencies of Milngavie and Kirkintilloch and West Dunbartonshire and Bearsden North as **Dunbartonshire East** and **Dunbartonshire West**.

Summary for constituency grouping of Glasgow City council area

From our Initial Proposals we have amended the constituency boundaries by:

Bellahouston Park, Cathcart, Kelvinside and Shawlands. We have re-named the proposed constituency of: Glasgow North as **Glasgow North East**; and Glasgow West as **Glasgow North West**.

Summary for constituency grouping of Midlothian and Scottish Borders council areas

From our Initial Proposals we have amended the constituency boundary by Cardrona and renamed the proposed Midlothian and Peebles constituency as **Midlothian and Upper Tweeddale**.

Summary for constituency grouping of East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and South Ayrshire council areas

From our Initial Proposals we have amended the constituency boundary in Renfrewshire by Bishopton, Erskine and Foxbar and by Largs in North Ayrshire. We have re-named the proposed constituencies of: Cunninghame West as **Arran and Cunninghame**; Cunninghame East as **Eastwood and Loudoun**; Inverclyde as **Inverclyde and Erskine**; and West Renfrewshire as **Renfrewshire West**.

Table of mainland constituencies

Constituency	Electorate	Area (sq. km)	Designation	Changes made from Initial Proposals*
Aberdeen North	77,677	133	Burgh	B
Aberdeen South	77,106	131	Burgh	B
Angus South and Dundee East	71,383	607	County	BN
Argyll, Bute and Lochaber	77,661	9,916	County	B
Arran and Cunninghame	74,566	667	County	N
Ayr and Carrick	77,352	1,107	County	U
Banff and Buchan	78,079	1,776	County	B
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	73,812	3,992	County	B
Clackmannanshire and Dunfermline	75,735	339	County	BN
Dumfriesshire and Lanarkshire South East	78,301	3,723	County	BN
Dunbartonshire East	76,393	169	County	BN
Dunbartonshire West	72,459	188	County	BN
Dundee	76,317	43	Burgh	U
East Lothian	76,153	701	County	U
Eastwood and Loudoun	71,251	437	County	N
Edinburgh East	74,455	40	Burgh	B
Edinburgh North and Leith	71,541	20	Burgh	U
Edinburgh Pentland and Livingston	78,164	226	County	U
Edinburgh Southside	76,583	38	Burgh	BN
Edinburgh West	77,738	91	Burgh	U
Falkirk South	71,118	190	County	BN
Fife South	77,327	226	County	BN
Galloway and Dumfries	74,882	4,168	County	BN
Glasgow Central	73,735	20	Burgh	B
Glasgow East	75,433	33	Burgh	U
Glasgow North East	71,443	38	Burgh	N
Glasgow North West	75,983	30	Burgh	BN
Glasgow South East	73,621	23	Burgh	B
Glasgow South West	76,138	33	Burgh	B
Gordon and Deeside	78,028	3,775	County	B
Highland North	73,147	12,985	County	U
Highland South	78,133	10,381	County	BN
Inverclyde and Erskine	77,184	244	County	BN
Kilmarnock, Cumnock and Doon Valley	78,431	1,082	County	U
Kincardine and Angus North	73,849	2,342	County	BN
Lanarkshire North	77,877	188	County	BN
Lanarkshire North East	72,316	175	County	BN
Lanarkshire North West	74,263	83	Burgh	N
Lanarkshire South West	76,833	403	County	N
Lanarkshire West	76,341	57	Burgh	N
Linlithgow	78,026	289	County	U
Mid Fife	75,166	139	Burgh	BN
Mid Lanarkshire	76,158	125	Burgh	BN
Midlothian and Upper Tweeddale	76,824	1,106	County	BN
Moray and Nairn	78,477	2,612	County	U
North East Fife	76,900	834	County	U
Paisley	75,648	106	Burgh	B
Perth and North Perthshire	72,831	3,981	County	N
Renfrewshire West	71,422	382	County	BN
Stirling and Falkirk North	71,177	191	County	BN
Stirlingshire and South Perthshire	71,299	3,626	County	BN

* Changes made from Initial Proposals:

U = unchanged; B = boundary changed; N = name changed; BN = boundary and name changed