

2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies

Constituency considerations for Fife and Perth and Kinross council areas

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider alternative designs of constituencies for Fife council area in furtherance of its 2018 Review of UK Parliament constituencies.

Background

2. At its meeting in August 2016, the Commission had considered paper 2016/29 and 3 options for 5 constituencies exactly covering the combined extents of Fife and Perth and Kinross council areas.
3. The Commission had agreed that Option 1 split few wards between constituencies and appeared to offer the greatest degree of continuity of existing constituency boundaries. The Commission believed the design of Option 1 could be improved and asked the Secretariat to prepare an alternative version that amended the boundary by Ladybank and Methil.
4. At its meeting of 5 September 2016, the Commission considered paper 2016/37 and the new design, Option 4. The Commission was content with the amended boundaries presented at both Ladybank and Methil in Option 4.
5. The Commission agreed that the proposed changes had the benefit of requiring the division of only 1 ward between constituencies; the Cupar and St Andrews constituency is similar to the existing UK Parliament constituency in the area; the Perthshire constituency resembles the existing UK Parliament constituency of Perth and North Perthshire, expanded to contain all of Perth and Kinross ward 5 (Strathtay) and aligned to the northern boundary of Perth and Kinross ward 6 (Strathearn); and finally the proportion of electors from each council area in Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath constituency is well-matched: 46% of electors are in Perth and Kinross council area and 54% in Fife council area.
6. The Commission asked the Secretariat to investigate the possibility of aligning the boundaries between Dunfermline constituency and Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath constituency with the existing UK Parliament constituency in the area, as is shown in Appendix A.

Option 5

7. Option 5 offers an alternative constituency boundary between the proposed Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath constituency and Dunfermline constituency (see Appendix B) by amending the boundary: near Kelty to place part of ward 7 (The Lochs) in Dunfermline constituency; and near Aberdour to place part of ward 6 (Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay) in Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath constituency.
8. The electorate and ward composition for Option 5 are shown in the table below:

constituency	Electorate	Wards
Dunfermline CC	76,961	Fife - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6pt, 7pt
Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath CC	77,073	Fife – 6pt, 7pt, 8, 9, 10 Perth and Kinross - 6, 7, 8, 9

Discussion

9. The suggested Dunfermline constituency uses the western boundary of Aberdour Community Council area in the southeast, and the existing constituency boundary and, in part, the western boundary of Kelty Community Council area in the northeast. Both these amendments bring the proposed boundary more into alignment with the existing UK Parliament constituency boundary in the area.
10. It is not possible to reinstate the existing constituency boundary near Dalgety Bay, without significant changes elsewhere, because of the number of electors in the town and the legislative limits on constituency electorates.
11. While resulting in greater alignment with the existing constituency boundary in the area, Option 5 requires the division of 2 further wards between constituencies relative to Option 4, so the Commission, mindful of the policy of using whole wards where appropriate, may wish to consider whether or not the possible additional administrative complexity brought about by a ward division is a price worth paying.

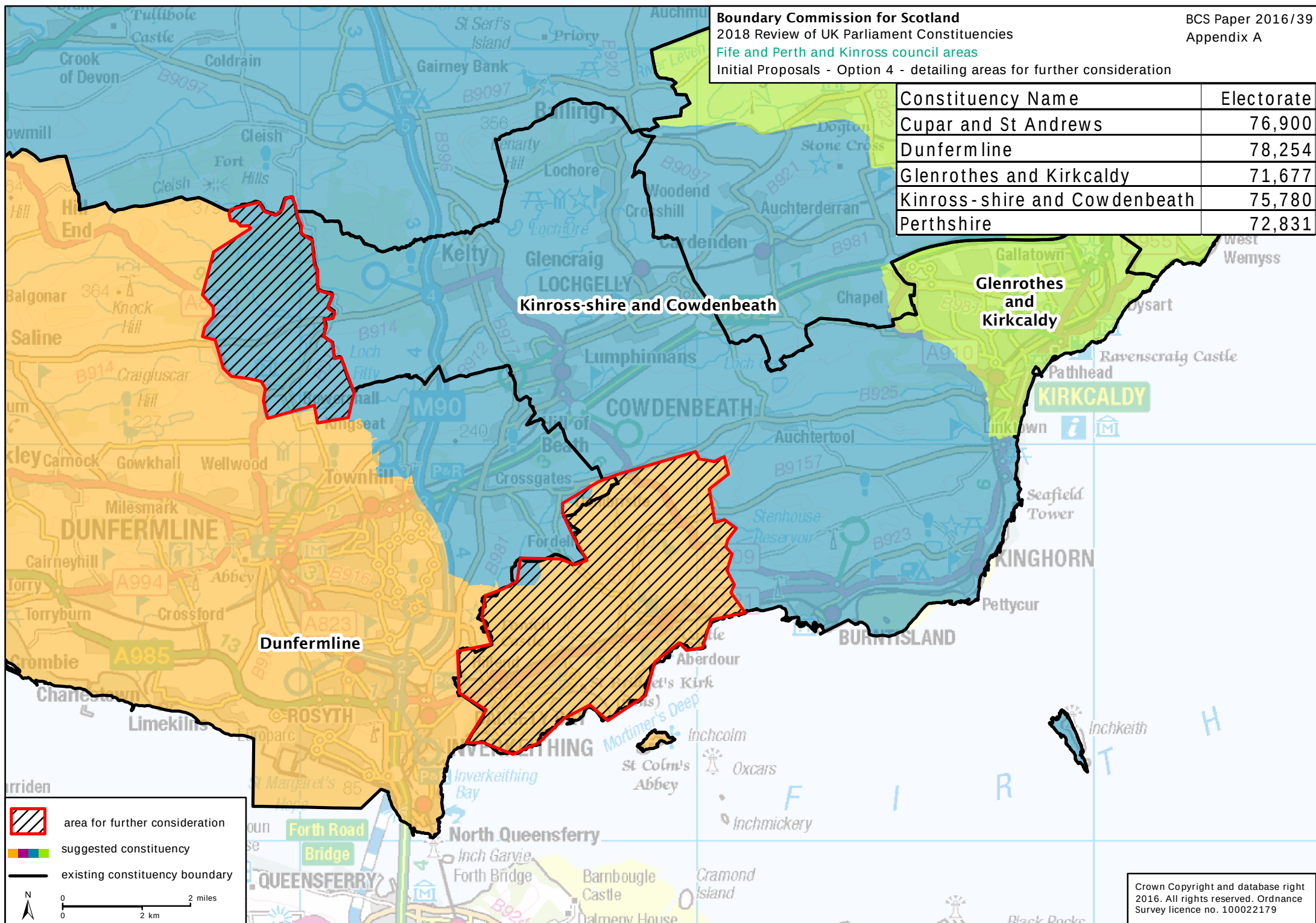
Conclusion

12. The Commission is invited to agree its initial proposals for public consultation, subject to satisfactory constituencies elsewhere in Scotland.

Secretariat
September 2016

Initial Proposals - Option 4 - detailing areas for further consideration

Constituency Name	Electorate
Cupar and St Andrews	76,900
Dunfermline	78,254
Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy	71,677
Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath	75,780
Perthshire	72,831



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