Boundary Commission for Scotland

BCS Paper 2018/24

2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies Media coverage following submission of Final Recommendations

Action

1. The Commission is invited to note online media coverage following the submission of its 2018 Review Report in September 2018.

Background

- 2. The Secretariat monitors online media coverage by making use of Google Alerts. Google Alerts highlight any mention of the Commission or key words relating to the Commission's work.
- 3. Appendix A provides links to online news articles in the local and national press since the Commission's report was submitted in September 2018.

Media Coverage

- 4. Google Alerts highlighted a total of 33 articles. The majority of these were featured in the local press.
- 5. 14 articles commented on the recommended constituencies generally. Some of the articles mentioned the impact the review would have after Brexit, mainly concerning higher workloads for MPs.
- 6. There were 19 local media articles focusing on specific areas. The main issues were: criticism of the size of the Argyll, Bute and South West Highland constituency, making it difficult for an MP to represent all communities within such a large area; and that three constituencies cover Renfrewshire.

Conclusion

7. The Secretariat will continue to monitor news coverage and keep the Commission informed of any significant issues raised in the media.

Secretariat October 2018

Appendix A - Links to news articles since submission of 2018 Review Report

National Comments

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-45468142

https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/sep/10/uk-parliamentary-

boundary-changes-final-plans-unveiled

https://www.aol.co.uk/news/2018/09/10/final-proposals-to-redraw-scottish-political-map-lodged/?guccounter=1

http://www.itv.com/news/2018-09-10/final-proposals-to-redraw-scottish-political-map-lodged/

https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/six-scottish-mps-would-be-lost-under-proposed-boundary-shake-up-6ksk3hjkh

https://www.eveningexpress.co.uk/news/scotland/final-proposals-to-redraw-scottish-political-map-lodged/

https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/opinion/brian-monteith-snp-are-masters-of-the-fine-art-of-fake-grievance-1-4798174

https://www.holyrood.com/articles/news/snp-and-labour-slam-boundary-review-proposals-scotland

https://fullfact.org/law/constituency-boundary-change-proposals/

https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16832995.snp-big-guns-affected-by-boundary-change-proposals/

https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/politics/1559649/politicians-react-as-final-proposals-to-redraw-scottish-political-map-lodged/

https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/politics/scottish-

politics/722065/conservative-bid-to-reduce-number-of-mps-in-scotland-branded-frankly-astonishing/

https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/plan-to-cut-number-of-scottish-mps-can-t-see-light-of-day-1-4797828

http://www.thenational.scot/news/16833150.ludicrous-boundaries-proposals-reduce-scotlands-voice-in-uk/

Local Comments

Argyll, Bute and South West Highland

https://thelochsidepress.com/2018/09/11/larger-constituency-will-be-unworkable-says-ohara/

https://www.buteman.co.uk/news/politics/vow-to-oppose-commission-proposal-1-4800979

https://www.obantimes.co.uk/2018/09/20/boundary-changes-an-outrageous-attack-on-highland-democracy/

East Renfrewshire/ Renfrewshire

http://www.barrheadnews.com/news/16888638.all-change-for-barrhead-as-boundaries-are-redrawn/

http://www.barrheadnews.com/news/16888669.boundary-change-for-barrhead-expert-opinion/

http://www.the-gazette.co.uk/news/16892917.carved-up-like-a-christmas-turkey-renfrewshire-politicians-on-boundary-changes/

Fife

https://www.fifetoday.co.uk/news/politics/anger-at-tory-power-grab-as-fife-boundaries-redrawn-1-4799849

Stirlingshire, Strathearn and Kinross

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https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/boundary-set-change-ochil-south-13243175

Clyde Coast

http://www.greenocktelegraph.co.uk/news/16833734.the-greenock-and-inverclyde-name-could-be-set-to-disappear-after-nearly-200-years/

Scottish Borders

http://www.peeblesshirenews.com/news/16881844.mps-to-decide-if-innerleithen-and-peebles-should-be-split-in-proposed-boundary-shake-up/https://www.thesouthernreporter.co.uk/news/scottish-secretary-faces-being-ousted-from-the-borders-1-4802375

Highland

https://www.north-star-news.co.uk/News/North-consituency-could-be-bigger-than-Jamaica-13092018.htm

https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/sep/10/boundary-changes-seats-facing-major-shake-up

Dunbartonshire East and Dunbartonshire West

http://www.dumbartonreporter.co.uk/news/16898540.west-dunbartonshire-boundaries-to-now-include-half-of-bearsden/

https://www.kirkintilloch-herald.co.uk/news/boundary-change-plans-for-east-dunbartonshire-constituency-1-4817272

Lanarkshire

https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/motherwell-wishaw-ward-change-blasted-13304562

https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/monklands-mps-oppose-plans-redraw-13394354

Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale

https://www.dng24.co.uk/voting-shake-up/