

## **2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies Secondary Consultation and Public Hearings**

### **Action required**

1. The Commission is invited to note the progress of arrangements for its secondary consultation and the holding of its Public Hearings.

### **Background**

2. For the 2023 Review the secondary consultation is to run for a six-week period. The Commission will publish all comments received during the initial consultation period for further comment and it must hold between two and five Public Hearings.

### **Timing of Secondary Consultation and Public Hearings**

3. At its meeting of 22 November 2021, the Commission decided to hold five Public Hearings in: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Oban and Perth.
4. The Secretariat recommends the secondary consultation commences on 10 February 2022 to ensure that all hearings and consultation can be concluded prior to the Scottish Government's pre-election period for the local government elections to be held in May 2022. This start date may allow some flexibility in re-scheduling any postponed Public Hearings if required.
5. The Commission also agreed to hold single-day Public Hearings. Each hearing would be made up of three separate sessions running from 10am-12pm, 2pm-4pm and 6pm-8pm. The main focus will be on the morning session of each Public Hearing, depending on interest. Each session may be concluded early if no-one wishes to make a comment.
6. The schedule of Public Hearings is at Appendix A.

### **Publication of responses received during initial consultation**

7. All responses to the initial consultation will be redacted and published on the Commission's consultation site for further comment, from 10 February 2022.
8. Due to the Public Hearings being held during the secondary consultation stage for the 2023 Review, the consultation responses will be published on the Commission's website prior to the secondary consultation, from 1 February 2022, for viewing purposes only.

### **Secondary Consultation publicity/ Booking**

9. The secondary consultation will be publicised by issuing a news release on 24 January and 10 February 2022, writing to stakeholders, placing newspaper adverts and using social media advertising.
10. The publicity materials will aim to make clear that there are alternative ways of commenting on proposals if someone is unable to attend a public hearing and all constituencies in Scotland can be commented on at any hearing, despite each hearing having a geographical focus.
11. Attendees will be invited to contact the Secretariat beforehand to book a time slot to speak at each hearing. Such an attendee booking system will allow the

Secretariat to manage numbers and ensure all appropriate Covid safety measures are met.

### **Sheriffs Principal**

12. A guidance document has been sent to each Sheriff Principal which outlines changes to the legislation regarding the Review and timings for the public hearings. The Initial Proposals Summary Booklet and Policy and Procedures Booklet have also been sent as well as information on claiming expenses. The Secretariat have offered to meet with any Sheriff Principal to discuss any concerns they may have.

### **Public Hearing Statements**

13. During the 2018 Review Public Hearings, each Sheriff Principal provided some brief background to the review and hearing before the Secretary read a 10 minute statement.
14. A sample opening statement for the Edinburgh Public Hearing is attached at Appendix B.
15. The statement summarises the options the Commission considered in developing its initial proposals and the responses received during the initial consultation. As in previous announcements, the statements will aim to correct misinformation and misconceptions regarding the Review and its impact on other local boundaries including council area, school catchments and so forth.
16. The Commission may wish to consider how/whether this statement will be repeated at the second and third sessions at each public hearing.

### **Verbatim Reporters**

17. Larking Hodge Pollock will provide a transcription service at each Public Hearing.

### **Display materials**

18. Copies of the policies and procedures booklet, summary of initial proposals booklet and maps will be available at each Public Hearing.
19. The Secretariat has also procured newly branded banners.

### **Covid issues**

20. The Secretariat will monitor protocols for holding public meetings and venue managers will offer advice to ensure the hearings are held safely. Larger venues have been identified to allow more space for attendees as capacities are likely to be reduced to accommodate social distancing.
21. Public Hearing venue restrictions or instructions will be published on the Commission's website such as taking a test, wearing a face mask or presenting a covid-status passport.
22. The Secretariat will follow Scottish Government protocols when travelling to each Public Hearing.

### **Recommendation**

23. The Secretariat invites the Commission to:
- agree the general approach outlined above for the Public Hearings;

- suggest any amendments to the Commission statement at Appendices B; and
- make any further suggestions regarding the administration of Public Hearings that it sees fit .

**Secretariat**  
**January 2021**

## Appendix A

| Date       | Sheriff Principal Location                                                                              | Focus of Hearings / Council area groupings                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16/02/2022 | Sheriff Principal Mhairi Stephen<br><br>Apex Hotel, Waterloo Place,<br>Edinburgh EH1 3BH                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian council areas</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 18/02/2022 | Sheriff Principal Marysia Lewis<br><br>Joan Knight Studio, Perth<br>Theatre, Mill Street, Perth PH1 5HZ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Angus, Clackmannanshire, Dundee City, Falkirk, Fife, Perth and Kinross, Stirling and West Lothian council areas</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 23/02/2022 | Sheriff Principal Craig Turnbull<br><br>Doubletree by Hilton, 36<br>Cambridge Street, Glasgow G2 3HN    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>East Renfrewshire council area</li> <li>Ayrshire council areas</li> <li>Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire council areas</li> <li>Dumfries and Galloway, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire and Scottish Borders council areas</li> </ul> |
| 25/02/2022 | Sheriff Principal Derek Pyle<br><br>Jury's Inn Hotel, Millburn Road,<br>Inverness IV2 3TR               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Argyll and Bute, Highland and Moray council areas</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 01/03/2022 | Sheriff Principal Duncan Murray<br><br>Corrans Hall, 54 Corran<br>Esplanade, Oban PA34 5AB              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Argyll and Bute, Highland and Moray council areas</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |