

2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies Consideration of Revised Proposals for East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire council areas

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider responses to the initial and secondary consultation on its initial proposals and whether it wishes to make changes to its proposals for East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire council areas.

Background

2. The total electorate for East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire council areas is 290,225 giving a theoretical entitlement of 3.9 constituencies.
3. The Commission's initial proposals for this area retained the four existing constituencies. A map of the constituencies is at Appendix A.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Wards
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock	72,057	East Ayrshire 8 (part), 9 South Ayrshire 3 (part), 4 - 6, 7 (part), 8
Central Ayrshire	69,779	South Ayrshire 1, 2, 3 (part), 6, 7 (part) North Ayrshire 1, 2, 3 (part)
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	74,801	East Ayrshire 1-7, 8 (part)
North Ayrshire and Arran	73,588	North Ayrshire 3 (part), 4 - 9

Representations received

4. 18 responses were received during the two consultation periods that related to East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire council areas. All responses have been shared with the Commission. All responses to the initial consultation stage are available on the Commission's consultation site www.bcs2023review.com. Each response has been allocated a reference number from the consultation site.

Summary of responses

5. During the initial consultation stage there was a low number of responses to the consultations for East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire council areas and they were mainly supportive of the initial proposals.
6. The responses in opposition to the initial proposals included suggestions to create an Ayr, Troon and Prestwick constituency.
7. The maps in this paper show alternative suggestions in block colours, existing ward boundaries are red and initial proposal boundaries are a black line.

East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Consultation Responses and Analysis

8. East Ayrshire Council (11877) and a member of the public (11747) supported no change to the existing constituency boundaries.
9. Six members of the public (11726, 11641, 11496, 12067, 12022, 12000) suggested placing Ayr, Prestwick and Troon or Ayr and Prestwick in the same constituency.

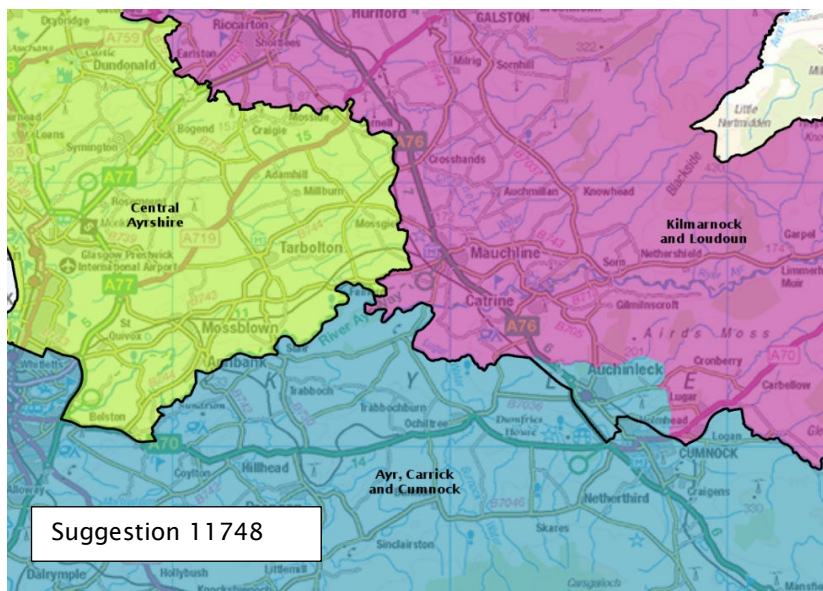
10. At its 12 April 2021 meeting the Commission considered Paper 2021-09 and an option which placed Ayr and Prestwick within the same constituency but felt that it may break local ties: by Kilmarnock, with respect to communities in the Irvine Valley; between Troon and Prestwick; and its combination of an urban coastal area at Troon with a large rural inland area may not reflect local ties as well as retaining the existing constituencies. Paper 2021-09 can be viewed on the Commission's website: https://www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/sites/default/files/BCS_2021_09_%282023_Review_Ayrshires%29.pdf.
11. The Secretariat have developed an alternative option, see Appendix B, which proposes an Ayr, Prestwick and Troon constituency, as well as: Carrick, Cumnock and Stewarton; Kilmarnock and Irvine; and North Ayrshire and Arran constituencies. All of the proposed constituencies follow ward boundaries and are within the electorate quota.

Proposed constituency	Electorate
Ayr, Prestwick and Troon	72,080
Carrick, Cumnock and Stewarton	69,861
Kilmarnock and Irvine	72,484
North Ayrshire and Arran	75,800

12. The advantages of this suggestion are:
- there would likely be support for an Ayr, Prestwick and Troon constituency similar to an Ayr constituency from 1983-2005; and
 - it follows ward boundaries.
13. The disadvantages of this suggestion are:
- Kilmarnock and Irvine have never been placed in the same constituency;
 - it proposes a large Carrick, Cumnock and Stewarton constituency;
 - the existing boundaries have been unchanged since 2005; and
 - it would make changes where there has been some support and little opposition to the initial proposals.
14. A member of the public (11876) made a similar suggestion for Ayr but their design was linked with Dumfries and Galloway, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire council areas, see Appendix C and table below. However their suggestion is linked with Dumfries and Galloway where there has been some support for the initial proposals.

Alternative suggestion (11876)		
Ayr	South Ayrshire wards 1 - 6	72,080
Inverclyde and Largs	Inverclyde – all wards North Ayrshire ward 8	74,573
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	East Ayrshire wards 1-6 North Ayrshire ward 10	72,373
North Ayrshire and Arran	North Ayrshire wards 1-6, 9	73,672
Stranrear, Carrick and Cumnock	East Ayrshire wards 7-9 South Ayrshire wards 7-8 Dumfries and Galloway wards 1-2	70,469
Paisley South and Johnstone	North Ayrshire ward 7 Renfrewshire 4(part), 5-9	73,158

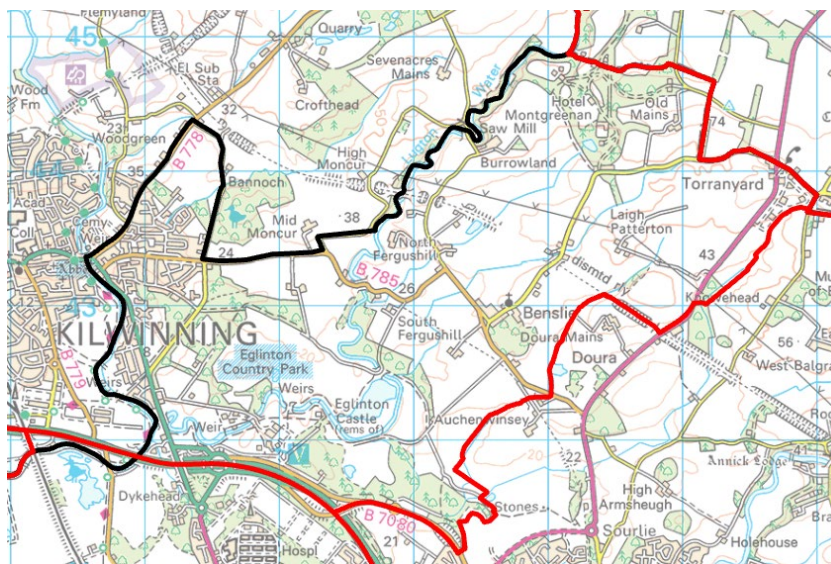
15. A member of the public (11748) suggested placing the following towns in the same constituency: Irvine and Kilwinning; and Cumnock, New Cumnock and Auchinleck. They also suggested extending the Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock constituency northwards to include Prestwick, while further boundary changes by Cumnock/ New Cumnock or Stewarton could be made to balance constituency electorates.



16. The initial proposals placed Cumnock and New Cumnock within an Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock constituency while Auchinleck sat within a Kilmarcrock and Loudoun constituency. Cumnock, Auchinleck and New Cumnock are all linked by the A76 road and sit within a Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley Scottish Parliament constituency. Auchinleck with approx 2,750 electors could be added to an Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock constituency with all constituencies remaining within the electoral quota. (Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock plus approx. 2,750 = 74,807 electors. Kilmarcrock and Loudoun less approx. 2,750 = 72,051).
17. The initial proposals place Irvine, with approx. 30,000 electors, within a Central Ayrshire constituency and Kilwinning, with approx. 13,000 electors, within a North Ayrshire and Arran constituency. Adding Kilwinning to the proposed Central Ayrshire constituency would create a Central Ayrshire constituency with approx. 82,800 electors. Subsequent boundary changes would be required in all four Ayrshire constituencies to fit within the electorate quota.
18. A member of the public (11382) supported a Central Ayrshire constituency and suggested that a Scottish Parliament constituency should follow the same boundary.
19. Three Scottish Parliament constituencies cover the proposed Central Ayrshire constituency: Ayr; Cunninghame South; and Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley. There are 73 Scottish Parliament constituencies and the 2023 Review will recommend 57 UK Parliament constituencies therefore very few if any Scottish and UK Parliament constituencies can follow the same boundary. There are five Scottish Parliament constituencies within Ayrshire but only four UK Parliament

constituencies within Ayrshire. Reviews of Scottish Parliament boundaries are now the responsibility of Boundaries Scotland.

20. A member of the public (11534) made a suggestion out-with the legislation for this review, a single-member Cumbrae ward.
21. A North Ayrshire Councillor (11202) suggested aligning constituency boundaries with new ward boundaries which will come into force at the May 2022 local government elections. They advise communities in the new wards have common interests and it could be confusing to know who their elected representatives are.
22. This suggestion is shown in the map below. The proposed North Ayrshire and Arran constituency boundary (black line) could be extended southwards to follow the ward boundary (red line). This suggestion would add approx. 2,250 electors to the proposed North Ayrshire and Arran constituency ($73,588 + 2,250 = 75,838$) electors. The proposed Central Ayrshire constituency would lose 2,250 electors and be out-with the electorate quota unless further boundary changes were made to the two other Ayrshire constituency boundaries ($69,779 - 2,250 = 67,529$).
23. The advantage of this suggestion are it would avoid splitting Kilwinning between two constituencies.
24. The disadvantages are it would make changes where there has been some support and little opposition to the initial proposals.



25. Although out-with this grouping, Inverclyde Council (11951) responded with comments from their main political groups. One group suggested linking Inverclyde with North Ayrshire rather than Renfrewshire because the areas share leisure facilities and access to local hospitals.
26. There are 61,096 electors in Inverclyde, therefore to create a Inverclyde constituency within the electorate quota it would have to include both Skelmorlie and Largs from North Ayrshire with approx. 11,100 electors. However this

would make it challenging to maintain four Ayrshire constituencies (total Ayrshire electorate of 290,225 less 11,100 = 279,125 ÷ 4 = 69,781).

27. A member of the public (12051) suggested linking Arran with Argyll and Bute because they have common interests.
28. Arran and Cumbrae were both situated within the County of Bute until 1975. There are 3,855 electors on Arran and 1,061 on Cumbrae. Arran could be added to the proposed Argyll constituency and both the Argyll constituency and North Ayrshire and Arran constituency would remain within the electorate quota but it would make changes where there has been some support and little opposition to the initial proposals.

All Scotland Consultation Responses that apply to this grouping and Analysis

29. There were approximately 140 general responses to the initial consultation opposing the 2023 Review or making comments out-with the legislation for the review.
30. A member of the public suggested that the Commission should not group council areas for designing constituencies because it offers less flexibility in constituency design and may bring political bias. They also suggested constituency names based on the principle of a main area or town and a subsidiary area (12161).
31. A member of the public (11879) suggested smaller constituencies across Scotland.
32. A member of the public (11844) submitted an all Scotland suggestion which made no changes to the initial proposals in Ayrshire.
33. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party (11960, 12170) were generally supportive of the initial proposals in Ayrshire.

Constituency names

34. No alternative names for the initial proposals were submitted for this council area grouping.
35. A member of the public submitted a general comment on constituency names and enclosed an article from Political Quarterly "What's in a Name? The Length of Westminster Constituency Titles, 1950-2024" (11977).
36. The constituency names in this paper are provisional. The Commission will have the opportunity to review all constituency names and designations prior to the publication of its revised proposals.

Summary

37. The initial proposals retained the four existing Ayrshire constituency boundaries, which have been in place since 2005.
38. There has been a low level of response to the initial proposals and few alternative suggestions were submitted.

39. There were suggestions to place Ayr, Prestwick and Troon in the same constituency. Only one alternative suggestion was presented with electorate data. It suggested an Ayr constituency containing Ayr, Prestwick and Troon but the suggestion extended into Dumfries and Galloway, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire council areas and the Commission would need to consider amending its constituency groupings to accommodate this. An Ayr, Prestwick and Troon constituency can be designed within the Ayrshire grouping by following ward boundaries. This is similar to an Ayr constituency from 1983-2005. The Commission could consult on this during revised proposals consultation period and if unpopular revert to the existing constituencies.

Recommendations

40. Taking into account all of the evidence arising from the public consultations on the initial proposals, the Secretariat invites the Commission to decide whether:

- to adopt any of the alternative suggestions or options; or
- to adopt without amendment the initial proposals for East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire council areas as the Commission's revised proposals (as in Appendix A), subject to consideration of all other constituencies.

Secretariat
April 2022

Appendix A

Initial proposals – East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire council areas



