# 2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies News coverage following publication of Revised Proposals

# **Background**

- 1. The Commission is invited to note the news coverage regarding its Revised Proposals. The 4-week revised consultation period started on 8 November and ended on 5 December 2022.
- 2. The news coverage has been collated from the Google Alert service. These alerts highlight any mention of the Commission or key words relating to the Commission's work.

## **Media Coverage**

- 3. During the consultation, there were 30 articles published in the media that mentioned the 2023 Review. Links to the news articles can be found in Appendix A.
- 4. Eight articles focussed on the changes for the whole of Scotland, in particular, the number of constituencies dropping to 57.
- 5. Six articles focussed on the revised proposals in Highland. They mentioned the size of the Highland constituencies and losing an MP.
- 6. Five stated that the proposals will break local community ties in Moray.
- 7. Two stated that communities within the proposed Clackmannanshire and Forth Valley constituency have little in common.
- 8. Two reports commented on the proposals in East Lothian and they will break local community ties in Musselburgh.
- 9. Two focused on the proposed changes in Angus and the proposed name.
- 10. The other articles focussed on the following areas: Argyll and Bute; City of Edinburgh; Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders.

#### Conclusion

11. The Secretariat will continue to monitor news coverage during the 2023 Review and will keep the Commission informed of any significant issues raised.

Secretariat December 2022

#### **Appendix A - Media coverage on Revised Proposals**

#### All Scotland general comments

- Scotland to lose two Commons seats in latest Boundary Commission proposals | Scotland | The Guardian
- Boundary reviews: Revised proposals and next steps (parliament.uk)
- Two senior Tory MPs in jeopardy as plans for major shake-up of UK's constituencies revealed | Politics News | Sky News
- How might Scotland's electoral map be changing? BBC News
- Boundary Commission for Scotland: 2022 2023 Review Revised Proposals consultation begins | The Highland Council
- <u>SNP under-fire for bemoaning MP boundary changes despite independence</u> vow <u>Scottish Daily Express</u>
- <u>SNP rages as 'disgraceful' proposal for Scotland to lose 2 MPs and England gain 10 | Politics | News | Express.co.uk</u>
- <u>Boundary Commission Scotland: Plans could change our political future</u> (pressandjournal.co.uk)

#### **Highland comments**

- New Highland constituency plans slammed as a 'ridiculous' numbers exercise (strathspey-herald.co.uk)
- <u>DREW HENDRY: They draw lines on a map to make the numbers fit</u> Remembrance thanks (inverness-courier.co.uk)
- New Highland constituency plans slammed as 'ridiculous' (ross-shirejournal.co.uk)
- <u>Council to challenge Boundary Commission for Scotland proposals | The</u> Highland Council
- <u>Highland Council to challenge Boundary Commission for Scotland</u> constituency change proposals; plans include enlarging the Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross constituency (northern-times.co.uk)
- DAVID STEWART: Proposed changes to boundaries make very little sense (inverness-courier.co.uk)

#### **Argyll and Bute comment**

• Councils diverge on MP boundary changes - Campbeltown Courier

#### Aberdeenshire/Moray comments

- <u>Final consultation starts on revised Parliamentary constituencies</u> (grampianonline.co.uk)
- Councillor blasts 'absurd' proposals to split up Moray (grampianonline.co.uk)
- Changes to Moray UK parliament seat will sever Elgin communities (pressandjournal.co.uk)
- Moray Council opposes Boundary Commission for Scotland proposals
- Moray Council officially objects to constituency breakup plan (northern-scot.co.uk)

## City of Edinburgh comment

• Edinburgh constituencies: New boundaries for Edinburgh and Lothian seats by the next UK general election | Edinburgh News (scotsman.com)

#### Clackmannanshire/Falkirk comments

- Consultation begins on revised boundaries for Falkirk area seats at Westminster | Falkirk Herald
- MSP "upset" over plans to carve up Wee County Westminster constituency boundary Daily Record

#### **East Lothian comments**

- <u>Boundary Commission review: Most of Musselburgh set to be moved | East Lothian Courier</u>
- <u>Musselburgh: South Scotland MSP criticises boundary change plans | East Lothian Courier</u>

#### **Angus comments**

- <u>Fury as Scotland to lose TWO MPs in plan to cut Westminster constituencies</u> | The National
- Angus World | Council, Politics | Councillors oppose Angus constituency proposals (anguscountyworld.co.uk)

#### **Lanarkshire comment**

Lanarkshire MPs criticise Westminster boundary changes – Daily Record

#### **Scottish Borders comment**

- Gerrymandering claims over 'broken link' to Galashiels | The Southern Reporter
- Tweeddale constituency shake-up plan splits opinion at meeting | Peeblesshire News