

2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies

Final recommendations – East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council Areas

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to agree paragraphs 2 to 16 of this report as part of the text for its Final Report. The Commission is also invited, in paragraph 17, to agree its Final Recommendations for constituencies in East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas.

Constituencies at the start of this review

2. At the start of this review, East Ayrshire council area was covered by one constituency wholly within the council area, and one constituency which also comprised part of South Ayrshire council area. North Ayrshire council area was covered by one constituency wholly within the council area, and one constituency which also comprised part of South Ayrshire council area. South Ayrshire council area was covered by one constituency wholly within the council area, and one constituency which also comprised part of East Ayrshire council area. The constituencies are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 - Constituencies at the start of this review

Current constituency	Council areas	Designation	Electorate
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock	East Ayrshire South Ayrshire	County	72,057
Central Ayrshire	North Ayrshire South Ayrshire	County	69,779
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	East Ayrshire	County	74,801
North Ayrshire and Arran	North Ayrshire	County	73,588
Total			290,225

Initial Proposals

3. We designed constituencies for this area within our overall approach to grouping council areas for constituency design. Our proposed grouping for this area included four constituencies exactly covering the extent of East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas.
4. We discussed our Initial Proposals for these council areas in Paper 2021/09. Our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meeting of 12 April 2021. We agreed proposed constituency names and designations after considering Paper 2021/24. Our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meeting of 23 August 2021.
5. In deciding upon our Initial Proposals for East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas we agreed a constituency design that retained the existing constituencies because they considered local community ties and all constituencies were within the electorate quota for the 2023 Review.
6. Our Initial Proposals were as shown in Table 2. Details of the wards contained within each constituency in the Initial Proposals were included in the maps of our Initial Proposals which are available on our website.

Table 2 – Initial Proposals

Constituency name	Council areas	Designation	Electorate
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock	East Ayrshire South Ayrshire	County	72,057
Central Ayrshire	North Ayrshire South Ayrshire	County	69,779
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	East Ayrshire	County	74,801
North Ayrshire and Arran	North Ayrshire	County	73,588
Total			290,225

7. On 14 October 2021 we published our Initial Proposals for these council areas for the specified initial consultation period of eight weeks.
8. We received 14 representations in response to the initial consultation on our Initial Proposals for East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas.
9. On 10 February 2022 we published the representations we received during the consultation for the specified secondary consultation period of six weeks. In response, we received a further four representations concerning East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas.

Revised Proposals

10. We considered the representations received on our Initial Proposals in these council areas in Paper 2022/09. Our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meeting of 9 May 2022.
11. There was little support or opposition to the Revised Proposals.
12. Some representations contained suggestions that did not comply with the statutory rules governing this review. These mainly opposed a reduction in the number of MP's in Scotland. We did not consider those suggestions further.
13. After considering all responses to the consultation we decided to retain the existing four Ayrshire constituencies from our Initial Proposals.
14. We agreed revised constituency names and designations after considering Paper 2022/20. Our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meeting of 18 July 2022.
15. Our Revised Proposals are shown in Table 3. Details of the wards contained within each constituency in the Revised Proposals were included in the maps of our Revised Proposals which are available on our website.

Table 3 - Revised Proposals

Constituency name	Council areas	Designation	Electorate
Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock	East Ayrshire South Ayrshire	County	72,057
Central Ayrshire	North Ayrshire South Ayrshire	County	69,779
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	East Ayrshire	County	74,801
North Ayrshire and Arran	North Ayrshire	County	73,588
Total			290,225

16. On 8 November 2022 we published our Revised Proposals for constituencies in East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas for the specified consultation period of four weeks. A map of the Revised Proposals and Initial Proposals is at Appendix A.

Draft Final Recommendations

17. The Commission is invited to consider the representations received, agree if any changes are required to its Revised Proposals and agree its Final Recommendations.

Responses to Revised Proposals Public Consultation

18. Five responses (see Annex) were received during the consultation on the Revised Proposals for East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas.

19. Some representations were made, both within this grouping and nationally, that contained suggestions that did not comply with the statutory rules governing this review or which reflected general opposition to the 2023 Review.

Consideration of Representations

20. In South Ayrshire, one comment suggested an Ayr, Troon and Prestwick constituency and another stated the boundaries have “no knowledge of the practical realities of the geography of Scotland.”

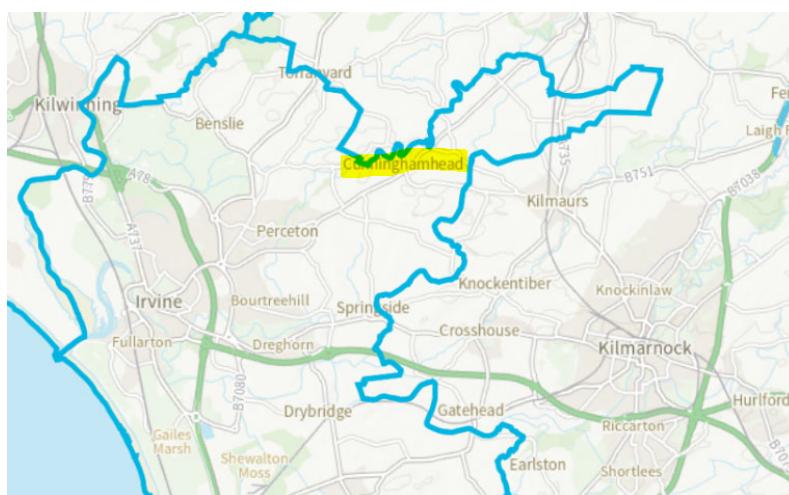
21. In South Ayrshire the existing Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock constituency, which includes Ayr, has been in place since 2005. The existing Central Ayrshire constituency contains Troon, Prestwick and Irvine. From 1983 - 2005 Ayr was placed in an Ayr constituency, which included Ayr, Troon and Prestwick. Prior to that an Ayr constituency included Ayr and Troon.

22. The Commission considered an Ayr, Prestwick and Troon constituency at its meeting of 9 May 2022, when developing its Revised Proposals. This constituency design proposed an Ayr, Prestwick and Troon constituency, as well as: Carrick, Cumnock and Stewarton; Kilmarnock and Irvine; and North Ayrshire and Arran constituencies. Appendix B provides a map of this suggestion. All of the proposed constituencies followed ward boundaries and were within the electorate quota.

Table 4 - Alternative constituency design with an Ayr, Prestwick and Troon constituency

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

23. 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.
24. 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; and
 - it would make changes where there has been some support and little opposition to the Initial Proposals.
25. The minute of the 9 May 2022 meeting stated “the Commission discussed the suggestion to place Ayr, Prestwick and Troon in the same constituency. The Commission agreed that while there might be some support for an Ayr, Prestwick and Troon constituency, as a consequence it would create a large constituency extending from Ballantrae to Stewarton and there was some support for retaining the existing constituencies and Initial Proposals.”
26. One response raised concerns with the proposed boundary by Cunninghamhead. The constituency boundary in this area follows the council area boundary, see map below, with Cunninghamhead highlighted. The legislation states the Commission may take into account: boundaries of council areas and wards; and existing constituency boundaries.



27. One response suggested re-naming the proposed Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock constituency as Ayr and South Ayrshire. The proposed Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock constituency includes part of East Ayrshire as well as Ayr and South Ayrshire.

Constituency Names

28. The Commission will have the opportunity to review all constituency names and designations prior to the publication of its Final Recommendations.

Conclusion and Recommendations

29. Taking into account all of the evidence arising from the public consultation on the Revised Proposals, the Secretariat invites the Commission to agree its Final Recommendations for East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas as its, subject to consideration of all other constituencies.

Secretariat

February 2023

Annex: Summary of Representations received during public consultation on Revised Proposals

Members of the public

1. A member of the public (12626) pointed out “why is there a section of the constituency jutting out east of Cunninghamhead into East Ayrshire? Surely the few people in this area will have more in common with their neighbours in East Ayrshire rather than the rest of the constituency.”
2. A member of the public (12876) suggested renaming the proposed Ayr, Carrick & Cumnock constituency as Ayr & South Ayrshire because Carrick and Cumnock refer to district councils abolished in 1995-1996.
3. Two members of the public commented on the proposals in South Ayrshire, they stated:
 - “I understand the desire to equalise constituencies but this plan shows no knowledge of the practical realities of the geography of Scotland. What a surprise (12392).”
 - “Troon should be returned to its original parliamentary constituency comprising of Ayr, Prestwick and other areas of South Ayrshire. Troon is in the South Ayrshire council area, and we elect councillors to South Ayrshire council, yet we're included in with North Ayrshire when it comes to Parliamentary elections (12388).”

National political parties

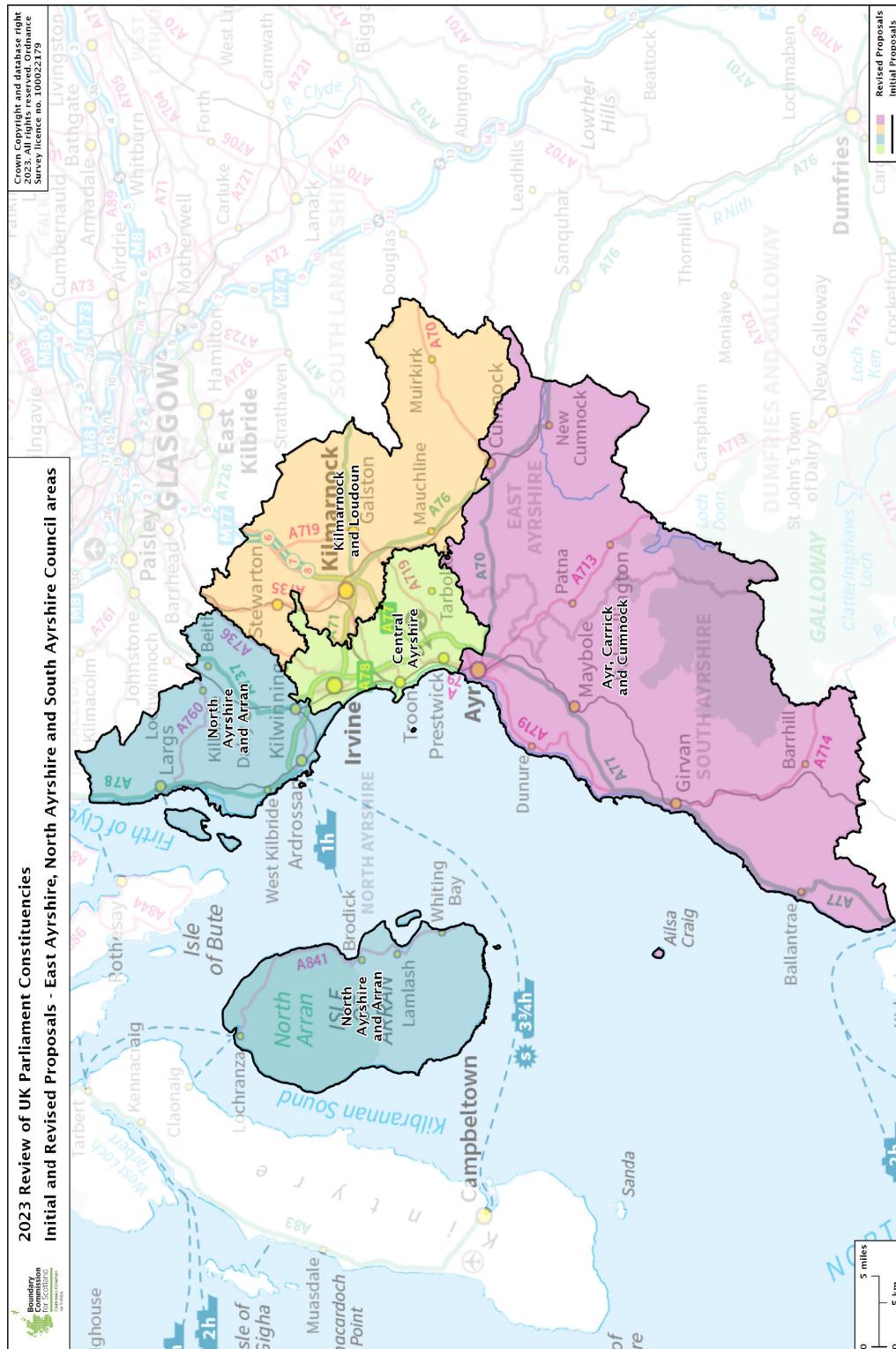
4. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party (13039) stated “we have no further comment to make on the constituencies proposed in this grouping of councils.”

Others

5. There were nearly 90 local and nationwide responses that made general comments regarding the review or made comments out-with the legislation for this review.

Appendix A

Ayrshire Constituencies - Existing, Initial Proposals, Revised Proposals



Appendix B - Alternative constituency design

