

2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies

Final recommendations – Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire 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 Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Council areas.

Constituencies at the start of this review

2. At the start of this review, Glasgow City had seven constituencies wholly within the council area, Inverclyde had one constituency wholly within the council area and Renfrewshire had two constituencies wholly within the council area. The constituencies are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 - Constituencies at the start of this review

Current constituency	Council areas	Designation	Electorate
Glasgow Central	Glasgow City	Burgh	67,914
Glasgow East	Glasgow City	Burgh	66,945
Glasgow North	Glasgow City	Burgh	55,722
Glasgow North East	Glasgow City	Burgh	59,954
Glasgow North West	Glasgow City	Burgh	63,110
Glasgow South	Glasgow City	Burgh	69,956
Glasgow South West	Glasgow City	Burgh	63,691
Inverclyde	Inverclyde	County	61,096
Paisley and Renfrewshire North	Renfrewshire	County	72,576
Paisley and Renfrewshire South	Renfrewshire	County	64,884
Total			645,848

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 six constituencies within Glasgow City, one constituency partly in Glasgow City Council area and partly in Renfrewshire Council area, one constituency within Renfrewshire Council area and one constituency partly in Inverclyde Council area and partly in Renfrewshire Council area.
4. We discussed our Initial Proposals for these council areas in Paper 2021/15 and Paper 2021/21. Our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meetings of 23 July 2021 and 23 August 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 Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Council areas we proposed nine constituencies within this grouping. There are currently ten constituencies. The proposed Inverclyde and Bridge of Weir constituency included the whole of Inverclyde council area, Bridge of Weir and Houston. The proposed Renfrew North and Renfrew South

constituencies maintained a north-south split of Paisley. The Renfrew North constituency includes part of Cardonald from Glasgow City council area. Glasgow City council area contains six constituencies wholly within the council area. The proposed Glasgow West constituency is similar to the existing Glasgow North West constituency except for minor changes to the boundary by Anniesland and Partick. The proposed Glasgow North constituency includes the city-centre, Maryhill and Possilpark. The proposed Glasgow Central constituency extends from Govanhill to Robroyston. The proposed Glasgow South constituency includes Castlemilk and Shawlands. The proposed Glasgow South West constituency extends from Govan to Nittshill. The proposed Glasgow East constituency follows ward boundaries and includes Shettleston and Easterhouse. A small area by Yoker is added to a West Dunbartonshire constituency.

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
Glasgow Central	Glasgow City	Burgh	72,600
Glasgow East	Glasgow City	Burgh	72,384
Glasgow North	Glasgow City	Burgh	73,316
Glasgow South	Glasgow City	Burgh	70,191
Glasgow South West	Glasgow City	Burgh	71,584
Glasgow West	Glasgow City	Burgh	71,493
Inverclyde and Bridge of Weir	Inverclyde Renfrewshire	County	70,476
Renfrew North	Glasgow City Renfrewshire	Burgh	69,899
Renfrew South	Renfrewshire	County	69,797
Total			641,740

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 67 representations in response to the initial consultation on our Initial Proposals for Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire 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 22 representations concerning Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Council areas.

Revised Proposals

10. We considered the representations received on our Initial Proposals in these council areas in Paper 2022/17 and Paper 2022/19. Our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meetings of 6 June 2022 and 18 July 2022.
11. Suggestions and comments received during the initial consultation included:
 - opposition to the proposed boundaries in the east of Glasgow;

- opposition to the breaking of local ties in Strathbungo, Glasgow;
- opposition to the proposed boundary at Cardonald with a constituency over-lapping the Glasgow-Renfrewshire Council area boundary;
- comments regarding the proposed constituency names in Renfrewshire; and
- opposition to the proposed Inverclyde and Bridge of Weir constituency.

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 propose nine constituencies as was the case in the Initial Proposals. The proposed Inverclyde and Renfrewshire constituency boundaries were unchanged from the Initial Proposals but the constituencies were re-named: Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West; Paisley and Renfrewshire North; and Paisley and Renfrewshire South. The Revised Proposals made changes to all of the Glasgow constituency boundaries. These include two new constituency boundaries in the east of Glasgow, as well as minor changes by: Arden; Strathbungo; Strathcona; and Yoker.

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
Glasgow North	Glasgow City	Burgh	73,210
Glasgow North East	Glasgow City	Burgh	75,236
Glasgow South	Glasgow City	Burgh	71,344
Glasgow South East	Glasgow City	Burgh	69,748
Glasgow South West	Glasgow City	Burgh	70,431
Glasgow West	Glasgow City	Burgh	72,499
Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West	Inverclyde Renfrewshire	County	70,476
Paisley and Renfrewshire North	Glasgow City Renfrewshire	Burgh	69,899
Paisley and Renfrewshire South	Renfrewshire	County	69,797
Total			642,640

16. On 8 November 2022 we published our Revised Proposals for constituencies in Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Council areas for the specified consultation period of four weeks. A map of the Revised Proposals (block colour) and Initial Proposals (black line) 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. 44 responses (see Annex) were received during the consultation on the Revised Proposals for Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire 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. A summary of responses by council area is provided below.
21. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party supported the Revised Proposals for these constituencies. The Scottish Liberal Democrats suggested an alternative constituency name.
22. Suggestions for constituency names are discussed later.

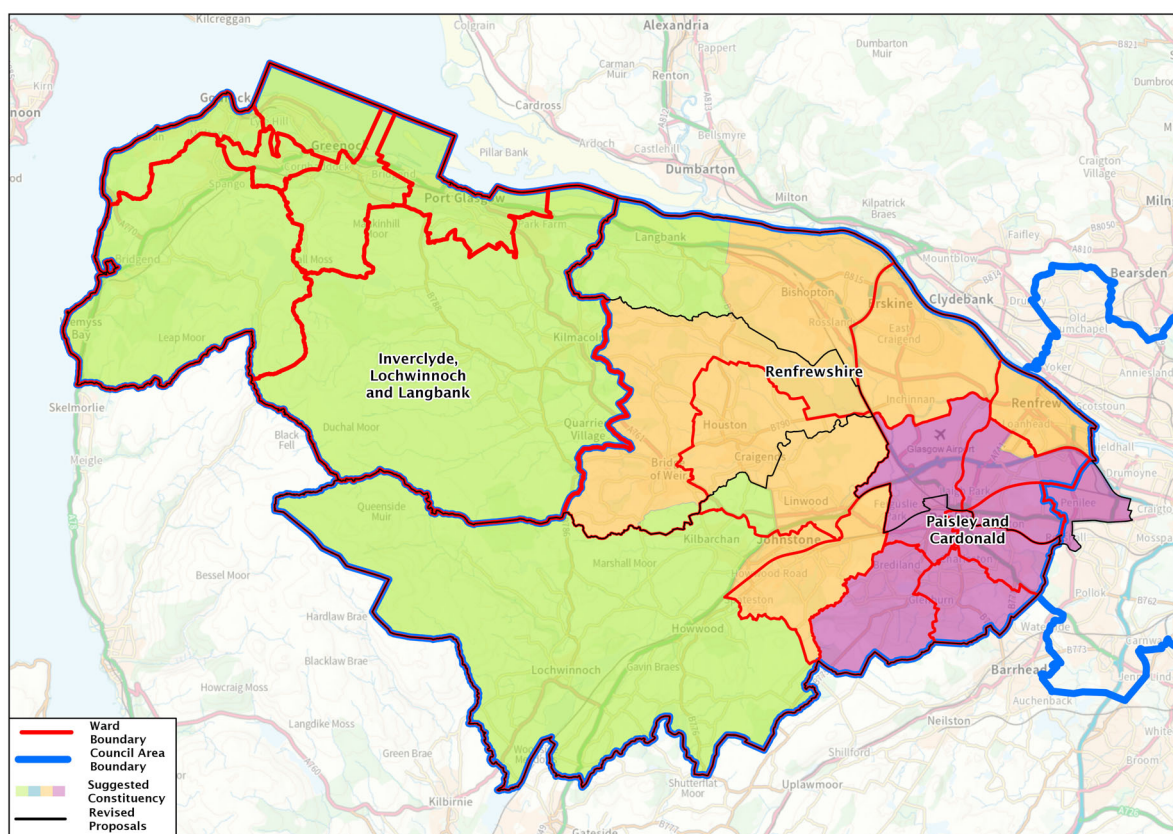
Inverclyde

23. One response supported the Revised Proposals.
24. There were two suggestions to retain the existing Inverclyde constituency but it is below the electorate quota for the 2023 Review, with 61,096 electors.
25. There was a suggestion to link Inverclyde with North Ayrshire rather than Renfrewshire because there are closer links between the areas. This suggestion was raised during the initial consultation and later discussed in Paper 2022/17 at the Commission's 6 June 2022 meeting. Paper 2022/17 stated "There are 61,096 electors in Inverclyde, therefore to create an Inverclyde constituency within the electorate quota it would have to include both Skelmorlie and Largs from North Ayrshire with approximately 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). Skelmorlie with approximately 1,800 electors could be added to Inverclyde with Langbank and Bishopton (approximately 7,500 electors) however this would create a constituency covering three council areas." The minute of that meeting stated "the Commission was not persuaded that suggestions to link Inverclyde with Ayrshire would be less disruptive to existing ties than linking it to Renfrewshire, noting that such a constituency would require changing the proposals in Ayrshire, which attracted little opposition, and were unchanged from existing constituencies."

Renfrewshire

26. One response supported the proposed boundaries but suggested alternative constituency names.

27. Two members of the public cited the lack of links between Inverclyde and areas in Renfrewshire such as Bridge of Weir and Houston as a reason to oppose the proposed constituencies.
28. There are historical precedents for these areas being in the same constituency. From 1997-2005, Bridge of Weir and Houston sat in a West Renfrewshire constituency with Port Glasgow. From 1950-1997, Bridge of Weir and Houston, sat in a Renfrew West and Inverclyde constituency or West Renfrewshire constituency with Gourock.
29. The Commission considered joining Inverclyde with Bishopton and Erskine to the north of Renfrewshire when deciding on its Initial Proposals for constituencies in this grouping but the consequence of adopting such a design would have been the splitting of Paisley between east and west constituencies rather than the long standing north and south Paisley boundary.



30. A member of the public suggested a Paisley City constituency and a Renfrewshire constituency. Unfortunately no boundary descriptions were provided with this suggestion but the Secretariat have sketched a constituency design with a Paisley constituency. It proposes a Paisley and Cardonald constituency, a Renfrewshire constituency that contains all Renfrewshire wards not designated “Paisley” wards by name. The Inverclyde, Lochwinnoch and Langbank constituency includes Inverclyde and the remaining Renfrewshire electorate. Since 1983, Paisley has been divided between Paisley North and Paisley South constituencies.

Table 4 - Design with a Paisley City constituency

Proposed Constituency	Electorate
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Paisley and Cardonald	70,523
Renfrewshire	69,593
Inverclyde, Lochwinnoch and Langbank	70,056

31. The advantages of this suggestion are it avoids splitting Paisley between constituencies.
32. The disadvantages of this suggestion are it:
- proposes an oddly-shaped Inverclyde, Lochwinnoch and Langbank constituency;
 - it is challenging to find recognised boundaries that accommodate the low average electorate in constituencies within this grouping;
 - four Renfrewshire wards are split;
 - the proposed Renfrewshire constituency is just out-with the electorate quota and would require further revision; and it
 - proposes a Paisley and Cardonald constituency which over-laps the Glasgow-Renfrewshire Council area boundary.
33. A Renfrewshire Councillor supported the proposed constituency names but opposes Renfrewshire constituencies being linked with Inverclyde or Glasgow which have no strong links.
34. The Returning Officer for Renfrewshire Council suggested that three constituencies could be created by adding Barrhead and Neilston from East Renfrewshire with Renfrewshire to create a boundary similar to a Scottish Parliament constituency. The existing Scottish Parliament Renfrewshire South constituency includes Barrhead (East Renfrewshire) and Johnstone, Lochwinnoch and Kilwinning (Renfrewshire).
35. Three constituencies could be created within East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire Council areas ($72,959 + 137,460 = 210,419 \div 3 = 70,139$) but this suggestion does not consider the electorate of neighbouring areas, such as Inverclyde or Glasgow.
36. There were suggestions to retain two constituencies within Renfrewshire but it has an electorate of 137,460, too few for two constituencies ($137,460 \div 2 = 68,730$).
37. Gavin Newlands MP for Paisley and Renfrewshire North supported the proposed Paisley and Renfrewshire North constituency name. He opposed the proposed Paisley and Renfrewshire North constituency because it over-laps a council area boundary breaking historical local ties and will cause confusion with the local electorate. He suggested an amendment to the proposed Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West constituency and Paisley and Renfrewshire North constituency boundary by Dargavel, south of Bishopton. His suggestion considers a new housing development and the boundary would follow a railway line and community council area boundary. This suggestion would affect approx. 40 electors but would ensure the new housing development at Dargavel remains within a single constituency, as it presently does. The suggested boundary would leave a sliver of constituency between the ward boundary and the River Gryfe east of Craigends and an alternative boundary is shown in the map below and transfers a further 16 electors from Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West to Paisley and Renfrewshire North.

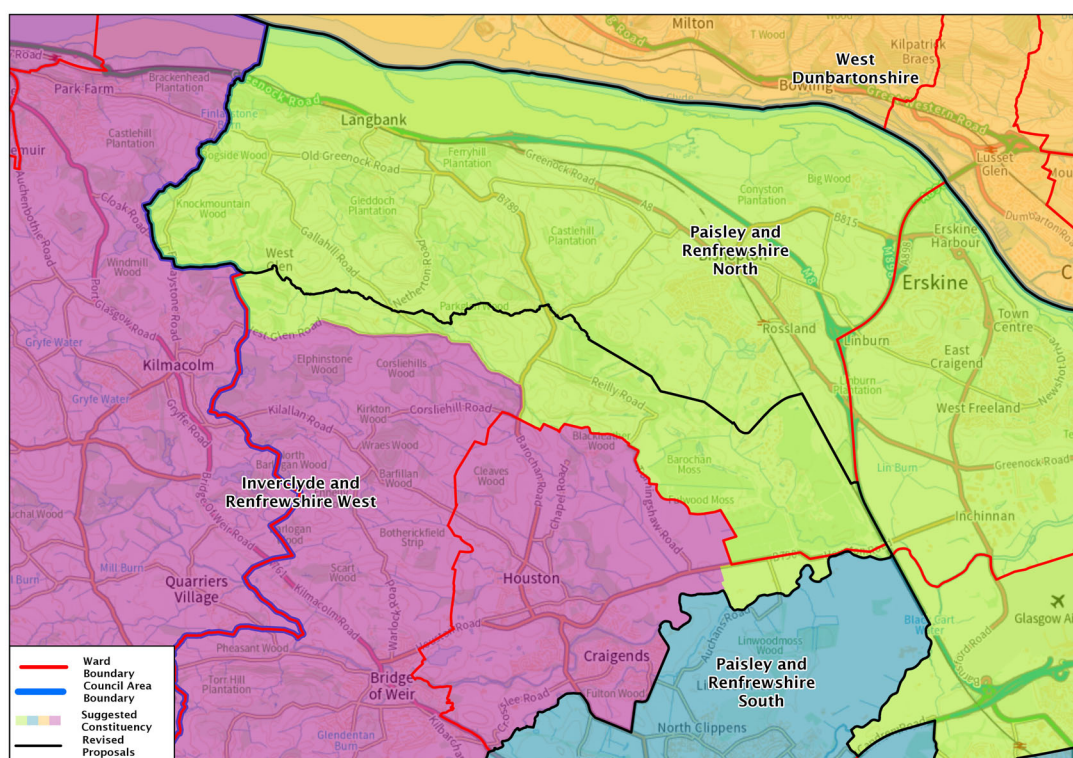


Table 5 - Gavin Newlands MP suggestion

Suggested constituency	Electorate
Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West	70,417
Paisley and Renfrewshire North	69,958

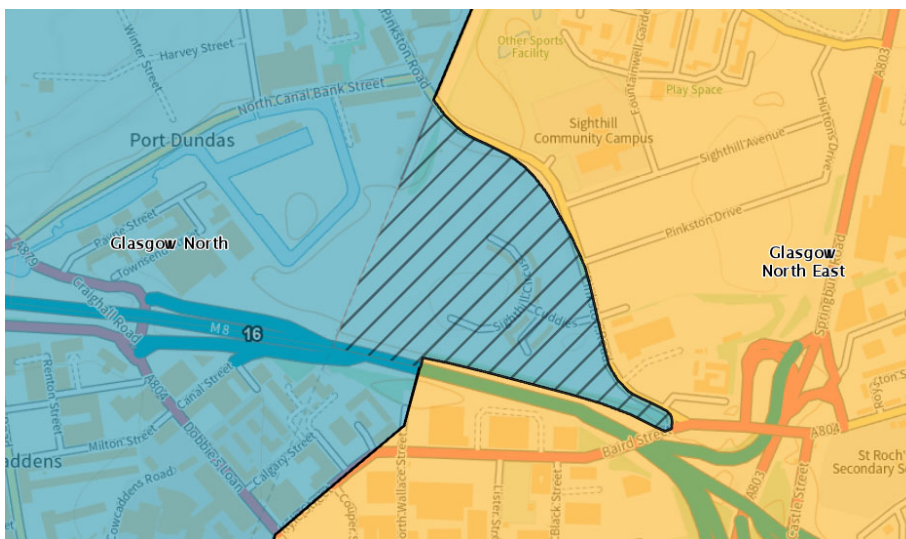
38. He also suggested that the proposed Paisley and Renfrewshire North constituency be designated as a County because the Commission proposed a Paisley and Renfrewshire South Burgh constituency.

39. Whilst legislation does not define the size of a Burgh or County constituency, Burgh constituencies are generally urban and County constituencies are more rural. The Revised Proposals proposed all Burgh constituencies be 107 km² or less and all County constituencies as 136 km² or more. The proposed Paisley and Renfrewshire North constituency is 79 km². The differentiation between a Burgh and a County constituency is a historical anomaly but in essence it governs the amount of election expenses a candidate can spend. In a Burgh constituency – that have generally been more urban and therefore more compact an area – a candidate can spend 6 pence per registered parliamentary elector in addition to the fixed amount of expenditure (currently £8,700). In a county constituency the amount per elector is 9 pence per registered parliamentary elector. (Data from Electoral Commission website - https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdf_file/UKPGE-Part-3-Spending-and-donations.pdf). All of the existing burgh constituencies cover an area of 120 km² or less with two exceptions: East Dunbartonshire county constituency (85 km²) and Dundee East burgh constituency (157 km²).

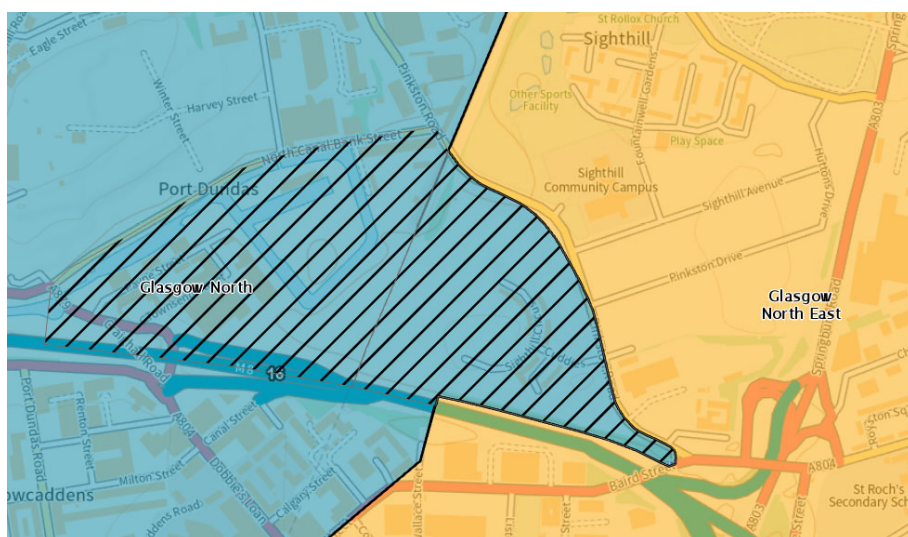
Glasgow

40. Alison Thewliss MP for Glasgow Central opposes: the removal of the existing Glasgow Central constituency; a reduction in the number of constituencies in Glasgow from 7 to 6; constituencies that over-lap council area boundaries; a lack of consideration to deprivation; an increase in MPs workload; a lack of consideration to a large number of people not on the electoral register, including immigrants; and the division of the city centre between constituencies. Cllr Alexander Belic Glasgow Central ward raised similar concerns in their response.
41. Historically there has always been a Glasgow Central constituency, except between 1997 and 2005 when a Glasgow Kelvin constituency included the city-centre. The Commission could rename the proposed Glasgow North constituency, which includes the city-centre of Glasgow, as Glasgow Central. The existing Glasgow Central constituency includes Bridgeton, Finnieston and Cowcaddens north of the Clyde as well as Govanhill, Kinning Park and Pollockshields to the south of the Clyde. The Initial Proposals and Revised Proposals adopted the River Clyde as a constituency boundary in the city-centre.
42. A response supported the revised boundary by Strathbungo.
43. A response supported the proposed Glasgow North East constituency because it considers other electoral boundaries, local communities and geographic areas.
44. A number of responses sought no change to the existing constituency boundaries including the existing Glasgow East, Glasgow Central and Glasgow North West constituencies.
45. All of the existing Glasgow constituencies are below the electorate quota for the 2023 Review except Glasgow South with 69,956 electors.
46. A response suggested Govanhill should sit within Glasgow South rather than a Glasgow South East constituency.
47. If Govanhill, part of ward 8 (Southside Central) and approximately 7,700 electors, were placed in a Glasgow South constituency it would leave the Glasgow South East constituency below the electoral quota. In order to accommodate this suggestion consequential changes would be required for all surrounding constituencies. No constituency boundary descriptions were included with this response. Govanhill currently sits within the Glasgow Central constituency.
48. A response suggested Dennistoun belongs to the city centre, rather than a Glasgow East or North-East constituency.
49. There is no historical precedent for Dennistoun being placed within a Glasgow Central constituency. Since 1997 Dennistoun has sat within a Glasgow North East constituency. Prior to that in a Glasgow Springburn constituency. The distance between Dennistoun train station and Glasgow Central train station is just over 2 miles. No constituency boundary descriptions were included with this response.
50. Four responses stated they preferred the Initial Proposals rather than the Revised Proposals. They preferred the proposed Glasgow Central and Glasgow East constituencies from the Initial Proposals and suggested Springburn, Robroyston, Sighthill and Dennistoun could sit within a Glasgow Central constituency.

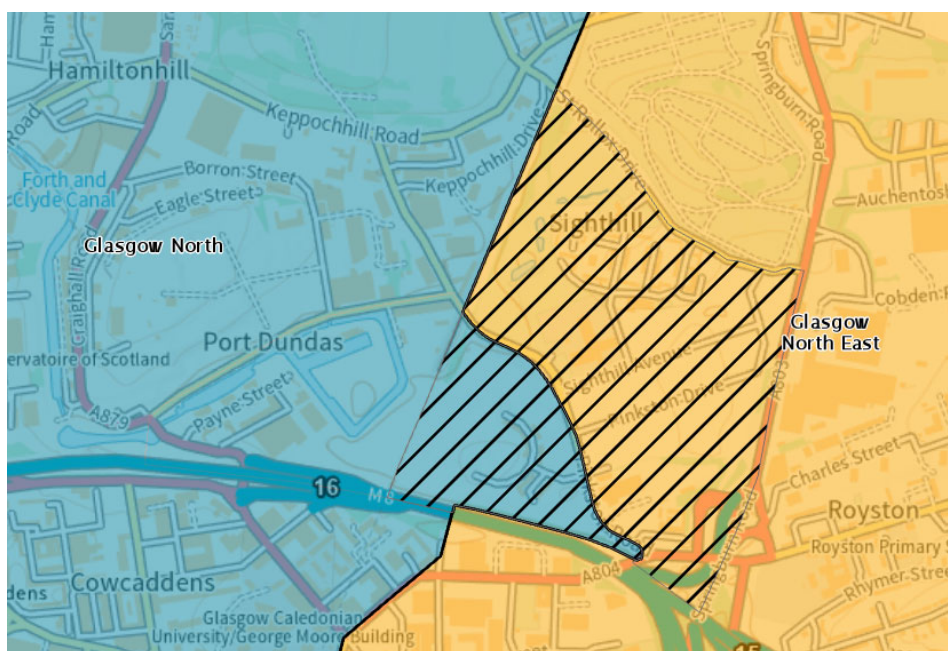
51. The Commission's Initial Proposals for Glasgow are shown in Appendix A. During the consultation on the Initial Proposals the Commission received a few suggestions for north-south constituencies in the east of Glasgow rather than east-west constituencies in that area. The responses to the initial boundaries stated transport links such as road and rail tend to run east-west. The Commission agreed revised boundaries that: partially followed existing ward boundaries, Scottish Parliament boundaries and historical UK Parliament boundaries; addressed concerns raised regarding local ties in the proposed Glasgow Central constituency; and minimised change elsewhere by amending only two constituency boundaries. The Commission could revert to its Initial Proposals in this area as it would minimise change with only two constituency boundaries being amended.
52. A response suggested less regular reviews of electoral boundaries and better alignment with ward, Scottish Parliament and UK Parliament boundaries. They also opposed the proposals in the Dennistoun area and suggested that the M8 should be used as a North / South constituency boundary to replicate the boundaries used by other public bodies. They believe the Revised Proposals split Sighthill between constituencies and suggested a boundary that follows the railway line instead.
53. Legislation determines the intervals between boundary reviews. The introduction of multi-member wards has resulted in less alignment between ward boundaries and parliamentary boundaries. The Commission's Revised Proposals follow a railway line and ward boundaries in the east of Glasgow rather than the M8. The concerns raised regarding the boundary in Sighthill are covered below in the Partick Grady MP suggestion.
54. Patrick Grady MP for Glasgow North stated the Revised Proposals will divide the new Sighthill Transformational Regeneration Area between two constituencies, an area where nearly 1,000 homes are expected to be built in the next 5 – 7 years. He acknowledges the proposed boundary follows ward boundaries but as an alternative suggests amending the boundary to ensure the area is either retained wholly in the proposed Glasgow North East constituency or in the proposed Glasgow North constituency. He suggested two options that would transfer electors from a Glasgow North constituency to a Glasgow North East constituency.
55. His first suggestion follows Pinkston Road rail bridge along the rail line to the M8 and is shown in the map below. No electors would be transferred between constituencies.



56. His second suggestion would transfer a larger area, it follows Pinkston Road rail bridge along North Canal Bank Street to the M8 and is shown in the map below. No electors would be transferred between constituencies.



57. His third suggestion proposes a boundary that follows the rail bridge on St Rollox Drive, along St Rollox Drive, down Springburn Road to Baird St/M8, bringing the Sighthill Transformational Regeneration Area and 273 electors into the proposed Glasgow North constituency. It would propose a Glasgow North East constituency with 74,963 electors and a Glasgow North constituency with 73,483 electors, see map below.



58. There was strong opposition, from two members of the public, two MP's, both Council's and a community council, to the proposed Paisley and Renfrewshire North constituency and Glasgow South West constituency whose boundary at Cardonald overlaps the Glasgow City and Renfrewshire Council area boundaries.

59. In summary they believe the proposed boundary at Cardonald:

- will confuse the local electorate;
- be problematic for local community councils and election officials;
- will result in the electorate being less well represented;
- there is little to connect Cardonald with Paisley;
- does not consider other boundaries such as polling districts, community council areas, Scottish Parliament boundaries; and
- the Commission should consider those not on the electoral register such as asylum seekers.

60. There was also strong opposition to the proposed Cardonald boundary during the initial consultation. The Commission considered responses to the initial consultation at its meeting of 6 June 2022, see Paper BCS 2022/17, and considered an option linking Renfrewshire with Govan instead. The minute of the meeting stated "The Commission acknowledged the opposition to forming constituencies comprising parts of Glasgow City council area and Renfrewshire council area, and part of Renfrewshire council area and Inverclyde council area. The Commission noted however that the low electorate totals across the three council areas in the grouping gave it limited scope to propose alternative boundaries. The Commission noted the opposition to including part of the Cardonald area of Glasgow in a constituency with Renfrewshire, but did not think that using an alternative boundary at Govan would be an improvement. Govan is divided from Renfrewshire by a dock and an industrial area, including it with Renfrewshire would produce an elongated constituency, and a boundary at Govan would likely be as disruptive to local ties as the proposed boundary at Cardonald."

61. The Revised Proposals are unchanged from the Initial Proposals at Cardonald. No alternative boundaries were suggested to resolve any of the concerns raised in Cardonald. The boundary between Glasgow City and Renfrewshire Council areas at Cardonald follows garden fence-lines in a residential area, there are no strong bounding features.
62. A response opposed the proposed West Dunbartonshire constituency boundary because it included a small area of Yoker and Yoker was divided between constituencies.
63. The existing West Dunbartonshire constituency has 67,795 electors and there are no strong physical features demarcating the boundary between Glasgow and West Dunbartonshire in Yoker. As an alternative the Commission could link West Dunbartonshire with Bearsden from East Dunbartonshire but this would split Bearsden between two constituencies. The Commission could link West Dunbartonshire with Cardross from Argyll and Bute Council area. A hill, community council area and school catchment area boundary act as a boundary between Cardross and Helensburgh. A West Dunbartonshire and Cardross constituency would meet the electorate quota but would require consequential changes in Lochaber. This is discussed in more detail in the Argyll and Bute, Aberdeenshire, Highland and Moray Paper as well as the Dumfries and Galloway, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, Scottish Borders, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Paper.
64. The Glasgow City Council Elections Team raised similar concerns regarding the boundary at Cardonald and Yoker where the constituency boundaries over-lap the city council area boundary at Cardonald and Yoker. They believe the proposals would result in shared polling places, cause confusion for electors and be more challenging for them to manage elections.
65. Glasgow City Council area currently has seven constituencies. They are all under the electorate quota except for Glasgow South with 69,956 electors. The Commission could propose six Glasgow constituencies ($446,575 \div 6 = 74,429$), however neighbouring Inverclyde and Renfrewshire both have a low electorate and it is not possible to retain an Inverclyde constituency and two Renfrewshire constituencies ($137,460 + 61,096 = 198,556 \div 3 = 66,185$).
66. The Commission could consider linking East Renfrewshire with Renfrewshire and Inverclyde with Ayrshire but the Revised Proposals were supported in Ayrshire. These areas have a very low electorate so it challenging to design strong constituencies within a close electorate quota. Further, amending the boundary by Cardonald may simply raise similar issues elsewhere. Few recognised or natural features act as bounding features between Glasgow and neighbouring areas especially at Cardonald and Yoker, where the council area boundary follows residential streets or back garden fence-lines.
67. The Commission could consider a single, rather than two, constituency boundaries overlapping the Glasgow City Council area boundary. Extending the proposed West Dunbartonshire constituency westwards to include Cardross rather than Yoker may be more acceptable.

Constituency Names

68. The Commission will have the opportunity to review all constituency names and designations prior to the publication of its Final Recommendations.
69. There was a suggestion to avoid the use of compass points for constituency names in Glasgow. The suggested constituency names included: Glasgow Woodside; Glasgow Riddrie; Glasgow Langside; Glasgow Bridgeton; Glasgow Govan; Glasgow Scotstoun; and the Renfrewshire constituencies Paisley North and Paisley South. The Scottish Parliament name Glasgow constituencies with localities rather than compass points.
70. There was a suggestion, from David Linden MP for Glasgow East, that Glaswegians consider the River Clyde when explaining what is north or south of Glasgow. They suggested Glasgow East rather than Glasgow South East.
71. There was a suggestion to rename the proposed Glasgow South East constituency as Glasgow East Central or Glasgow East.
72. The Scottish Liberal Democrat Party suggested naming the proposed Paisley and Renfrewshire North constituency as Paisley, Renfrewshire North and Cardonald.
73. There was a suggestion that the use of Renfrewshire for three constituency names could cause confusion. They suggested:
- Paisley and Renfrewshire North be named Renfrew and Erskine;
 - Paisley and Renfrewshire South be named Paisley and Johnstone; and
 - Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West be named Greenock and Port Glasgow.

Conclusion and Recommendations

74. Taking into account all of the evidence arising from the public consultation on the Revised Proposals, the Secretariat invites the Commission to decide to agree its Final Recommendations for Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Council areas, 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 - Inverclyde*

1. A member of the public (12229) supported the proposals.
2. Two members of the public (12352, 12354) wished to retain the existing constituency boundary because it follows the council area boundary. They believe extending the existing constituency into neighbouring areas will confuse electors and reduce their representation.
3. A member of the public (12469) stated there are no ties between Bridge of Weir or Johnstone and Inverclyde. They suggest Skelmorlie and Largs have closer ties with Inverclyde.

Members of the public – Glasgow

4. A member of the public (12876) suggested alternative constituency names that avoid the use of compass point, they include: Glasgow Woodside (a Glasgow constituency that existed from 1950 to 1974). Woodside is very central to the constituency; Glasgow Riddrie; Glasgow Langside; Glasgow Bridgeton is a historic constituency once represented by James Maxton; Glasgow Govan; Glasgow Scotstoun that is central to the new boundaries and describes this Clyde riverside constituency and is a historic Glasgow constituency name; and the Renfrewshire constituencies Paisley North and Paisley South.
5. A member of the public (12282) suggested renaming the proposed Glasgow South East constituency as Glasgow East Central because it combines elements of the two existing constituencies and the proposed name may cause confusion.
6. A member of the public (12194) opposes the proposed Glasgow South East constituency because Govanhill and Shettleston have little in common. They wish to retain the existing Glasgow East constituency.
7. A member of the public (12328) seeks no change to the existing Glasgow North West constituency.
8. A member of the public (12420) seeks no change to the existing boundaries and wishes smaller constituencies so MPs better understand local issues.
9. Two members of the public (12270, 12303) opposed the proposals and wish to retain the existing Glasgow Central constituency.
10. Two members of the public (12270, 12555) opposed the proposals. They state Cardonald has little in common with Paisley and the proposals will confuse electors as the constituency overlaps the council area boundary and Scottish parliament boundary. They believe it would weaken representation in Cardonald.
11. A member of the public (12364) opposed the proposed Glasgow South East constituency because it does not consider local communities.

12. A member of the public (12433) opposed the proposed Glasgow South East constituency name because it includes large areas to the north of the River Clyde and will cause confusion among electors. They suggest Glasgow East instead.
13. A member of the public (12466) suggested Govanhill should sit within Glasgow South rather than a Glasgow South East constituency.
14. A member of the public (12744) and resident of Dennistoun believed Dennistoun belongs to the city centre, rather than the east or north-east.
15. A member of the public (12676) supported the revised boundary by Strathbungo.
16. A member of the public (12800) supported the proposed Glasgow North East constituency because it considers ward boundaries, Scottish parliament boundaries, local communities and geographic areas.
17. A member of the public (12730) preferred the Initial Proposals and the proposed Glasgow East constituency.
18. A member of the public (12683) supported the Glasgow Central constituency from the Initial Proposals.
19. Two members of the public (13006, 13007) preferred the Initial Proposals which placed Dennistoun within a Glasgow Central constituency. They state Dennistoun is short walk to the city centre, where it has close links with the universities, hospitals and for socialising. They claim “places such as, Greenfield, Springboig, Barlarnock and Easterhouse could never be described as North East of the city. So keeping an existing Glasgow East seat makes more sense. Equally Springburn, Robroyston, Sighthill and Dennistoun to name but a few comfortably fall geographically into a central position.”
20. A member of the public (12731) wished to retain a Glasgow Central constituency.
21. A member of the public (12745) wished a better standard of representation in the existing Glasgow North East constituency.
22. A member of the public (12922) opposed the proposed Glasgow West constituency because it splits Yoker and does not consider the council area boundary. They believe that some electors will believe they reside in West Dunbartonshire if they are in a West Dunbartonshire constituency. They wish to retain the existing constituency boundary in Yoker.
23. A member of the public (12720) stated “In my experience, there are significant barriers to democratic engagement in the frequently changing and different boundaries between wards, Scottish Parliament constituencies and UK Parliament constituencies in the north, east and north east of Glasgow. In many of these communities, there is traditionally poor electoral turnout, low trust in democratic systems and a high sense of alienation. Barriers to democratic engagement need to be taken seriously and removed, not solidified.

The creation for 2017 of the new Council ward of Dennistoun across the boundary of the M8 has created confusion and a real sense of disconnect. At the next review of ward boundaries it would be my sincere hope that Dennistoun ward is entirely re-thought, in order to address these concerns. In the interim, I can only urge the Commission to take seriously the impact on the local community of boundaries that do not make sense locally, and not to replicate these in these proposals for Westminster constituencies.

The fundamental issue is that the M8 (and the Monklands Canal before it) forms a physical barrier that means for generations, communities north and south of the M8/M80 have viewed themselves as separate.

Police Scotland boundaries follow the M8 as a boundary, so different area commands operate north and south of the motorway. It is neither efficient nor conducive to good local relationship building to have two different operational areas in one electoral ward.

In addition, Glasgow school catchment areas and school groupings (learning communities) also follow the M8 as a dividing line. This again cements the local sense of the M8 as the divider between north and east end. Care should be taken to align electoral boundaries with the boundaries that are in day to day use.

The areas of Sighthill, St Rollox and Royston and Germiston have historically been grouped with Springburn, and residents there identify with Springburn and the north of the city. Grouping these areas with communities south of the M8 has resulted in another barrier to electoral engagement as residents do not identify with 'Dennistoun' or understand which elected representatives are theirs to contact.

'Glasgow North East' is a nebulous construct, and will not align with existing communities' sense of place for the above areas closer to the city centre, who view themselves as being in the north of the city.

These proposals also cut the new Sighthill in half, based on the old outline of the now-demolished Sighthill Park, rather than the proposals for new housing development. This would be an error. Following the railway line and keeping the entirety of Sighthill in one constituency would be better.

Finally, the proposal for the southern boundary of the new Glasgow North East to follow the railway line south of Duke St, rather than Duke St itself, is welcome. The ward boundary here is the middle of Duke St, which is very frustrating and again creates a barrier to democratic engagement because people who live between Duke St and the railway line live in Dennistoun, not Calton."

Members of the public – Renfrewshire

24. Two members of the public (12223, 12733) opposed the proposals in Renfrewshire. They state Bridge of Weir and Houston have no historical, geographical, industrial, commercial or political links with Inverclyde.
25. A member of the public (12293) believed the focus of an Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West constituency MP will be Inverclyde and the MP will have no interest in Renfrewshire.
26. A member of the public (12430) supported the proposed boundaries but suggests alternative constituency names as the use of Renfrewshire for three constituency names could cause confusion. They suggest:
 - Paisley and Renfrewshire North be named Renfrew and Erskine
 - Paisley and Renfrewshire South be named Paisley and Johnstone

- Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West be named Greenock and Port Glasgow.
27. Three members of the public (12447, 12527, 12746) wished to retain the existing constituencies and there is little to link Inverclyde and Renfrewshire.
28. A member of the public (12876) suggested a Paisley city constituency and a Renfrewshire constituency.

Local Community Groups

29. South Cardonald and Rosshall Community Council (13041) believed the 2023 Review should consider population rather than electorate as it would represent everyone within a constituency. They oppose a reduction in the number of MPs in Glasgow as it faces large challenges with the economy and poverty. They oppose splitting the Cardonald ward as it will make a local councillor's and community council's job more difficult, liaising with different MPs. Their main concerns are the proposals do not consider: current polling districts which will cause confusion with the electorate voting at different locations; community council area boundaries; non-electors such as asylum seekers; Scottish Parliament boundaries; and the inconvenience to the communities affected.

National political parties

30. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party (13039) accepted the proposals in this grouping. They are "pleased to note that the Revised Proposals have restored Paisley's name in Paisley and Renfrewshire North and Paisley and Renfrewshire South.
31. The Scottish Liberal Democrat Party (12932) suggested naming the proposed Paisley and Renfrewshire North constituency as Paisley, Renfrewshire North and Cardonald.

MPs and MSPs

32. Patrick Grady MP for Glasgow North (12802) stated the proposals will divide the new Sighthill Transformational Regeneration Area in two, an area where nearly 1,000 homes are to be built in the next 5 – 7 years. He acknowledges the proposed boundary follows ward boundaries but as an alternative suggests:
- A boundary running from the Pinkston Road rail bridge along the rail line to the M8, bringing the whole area into proposed Glasgow North East.
 - Boundary running from the Pinkston Road rail bridge along North Canal Bank Street to the M8, bringing a slightly larger area into proposed Glasgow North East.
 - Boundary running from the rail bridge on St Rollox Drive, along St Rollox Drive, down Springburn Road to Baird St/M8, bringing the TRA into the proposed Glasgow North.
33. Chris Stephens MP for Glasgow South West (13038) reiterated the points he made during the earlier consultation that: the review should consider population rather than electors; and he opposes Cardonald being split between two constituencies with one part joining Renfrewshire, making it challenging for Councillors and MPs to represent the area. He raises five

points, the proposals do not consider; polling district boundaries; community council area boundaries; Scottish Parliament boundaries; those not on the electoral register such as asylum seekers; or the disruption and inconvenience to local community councils and election officials.

34. Alison Thewliss MP for Glasgow Central (13035) opposes: the removal of the existing Glasgow Central constituency; a reduction of number of seats in Glasgow from 7 to 6; constituencies that over-lap council area boundaries; a lack of consideration to deprivation; Glasgow and East Dunbartonshire have different social issues; an increase in MPs workload; a lack of consideration to a large number of people not on the electoral register, including immigrants; and the division of the city centre between constituencies.
35. David Linden MP for Glasgow East (13016) opposes the proposed Glasgow South East constituency name because it includes areas north of the River Clyde. He states locals use the Clyde to identify the north and south of Glasgow. He suggests naming the constituency Glasgow East.
36. Gavin Newlands MP for Paisley and Renfrewshire North (12813) supports the proposed Paisley and Renfrewshire North constituency name but comments on its designation, "While I appreciate the Commissions rules state that proposed constituencies smaller than 109 km² are typically classified as burgh constituencies, the proposed designation of Paisley and Renfrewshire North as a burgh constituency does not address the substantial rural area encompassed by the proposed boundary. While there a number of urban centres within the proposed Paisley and Renfrewshire North constituency, they are not contiguous and are spread broadly longitudinally along the south bank of the River Clyde and Clyde Estuary. In comparison to other burgh constituencies where communities are contiguous or where very short distances separate urban centres, the proposed constituency encompasses non-contiguous distinct communities. Langbank is surrounded entirely by agricultural and open land to the west, south and east with the Clyde estuary to its north. Bishopton and Dargavel equally are a distinct community with patchy public transport links to other parts of the constituency. The Erskine/Inchinnan conurbation sits independently from all other settlements, again surrounded by open land and the river, while Renfrew, Paisley and the south western portion of Glasgow are, while contiguous, each distinct communities. Designation as a county constituency would also bring Paisley and Renfrewshire North into line with Paisley and Renfrewshire South, ensuring that both constituencies substantially covering Renfrewshire share the same designation."
- He also made comments on a number of areas. In Glasgow, "the communities of Penilee, Hillington, Rosshall, and North Cardonald are all part of Glasgow, both in terms of the council boundaries but also with regards community links. Historically these communities have always been part of constituencies wholly within the Glasgow boundaries. The revised constituency will break those links with the rest of Glasgow, and place these communities in a constituency which has no historic precedent and which there would be little identification. Whilst geographically these areas may be near to, for example, Renfrew, transport links are minimal and a journey from North Cardonald to Renfrew requires a minimum of two buses and around 45 mins, while a similar journey to Glasgow City Centre would take around 15 mins. I am also

concerned that the breaking of local authority boundaries with the potential for a substantial degree of confusion. Given no part of Glasgow has previously been combined with a neighbouring local authority area for the purposes of Westminster boundary reviews, electors there would be entitled to believe that this will continue to be the case. There is a real possibility that voters will be unhappy at losing their parliamentary link to Glasgow as a result of these proposals. “

In Bishopton/Dargavel, “the revised boundary currently follows the line of the Glasgow-Gourock railway line from it leaving the immediate vicinity of the M8 motorway, then veers roughly west until reaching the boundary with Inverclyde Council north-north-east of Kilmacolm. This appears to be concurrent with the current boundary between Bishopton and Houston Community Councils.

This means that the area of the former Royal Ordnance site will be split between the proposed Paisley and Renfrewshire North and Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West constituencies. This would mean that any further development of the site to the south would result in new housing, developed as part of the contiguous community of Dargavel and part of the wider community of Bishopton, coming under the new Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West constituency, while the rest of Dargavel and Bishopton would continue in the new Paisley and Renfrewshire North constituency.

It would be simpler to simply follow the ward boundary between Ward 10 & 11 until its junction with the road B789 and thence west along West Glen Road to the Inverclyde boundary.

This would affect a small number of voters currently on the register, but would ensure the development at Dargavel remains in a single constituency as is now the case, ensuring community cohesion and lessened confusion about which elected member represents the area.

As Ward 11 (Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Langbank) is already being split by the Revised Proposals, amending the proposed boundary in this way would not involve additional division of existing council ward boundaries.

Given the small number of electors involved, this would allow the draft constituency to stay within the 5% variance from quota while allowing the Commission to use Rule 5 to ensure that local ties in the area are maintained under the new boundaries.

In Bridge of Weir, Houston, and Craigends, “the proposals currently place Bridge of Weir, Houston, and Craigends in the draft Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West constituency.

These settlements are clearly a part of the wider Renfrewshire community with substantial, long-lasting, and historic ties between these areas and the rest of Renfrewshire.

There are no transport links between Bridge of Weir, Houston, and Craigends, and the majority of Inverclyde, save a single bus service with 5 and 6 return journeys a day to and from Kilmacolm. The vast majority of transport links are there to connect these West Renfrewshire settlements with other places in Renfrewshire.

Private transport routes are also less well-used facing west as opposed to east. The A737 and A761 provide relatively quick and good quality routes to Johnstone, Paisley, and beyond. By contrast journeys to Inverclyde can be much slower.

The fact that a previous Renfrew West and Inverclyde constituency was scrapped by the Commission at its 3rd Periodic Review demonstrates that previous attempts to remove these communities from Renfrewshire-based

constituencies were not satisfactory, and I would submit the same applies today.

Local authorities

37. The Glasgow City Council Elections Team (13019) are disappointed the Commission has not addressed the concerns they raised during the earlier consultation regarding constituencies which over-lap the city council area boundary at Cardonald and Yoker. They believe the proposals would result in shared polling places, cause confusion for electors and be more challenging for them to manage elections.
38. The Renfrewshire Council Returning Officer (13051) is disappointed that Renfrewshire has been linked with Inverclyde and Glasgow to meet the electorate quota. They suggest East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire or East Renfrewshire could be linked with Glasgow and that Inverclyde could be linked with North Ayrshire and Arran. They believe this would recognise local geographical, transport and community connections. They state there are no community or geographical links between Cardonald and the rest of the Paisley and North Renfrewshire constituency but Cardonald has closer community and geographical links with South Nitshill and Darnley, and Mansewood and Newlands. They suggest Cardonald remain in a Glasgow constituency but Barrhead and Neilston from East Renfrewshire could be added to a Paisley and Renfrewshire South constituency to reflect the existing Scottish Parliament constituency

Councillors

39. Cllr Alexander Belic (12728) Glasgow Central ward opposed dividing the existing Glasgow Central constituency. They state "North of the river, the city centre is single entity which by definition is less well populated than the areas around it. MPs for North, North East and SE will have a majority focus on the suburban residents. Similarly in the South, the area between Aikenhead Road and Shields Road is the most ethnically diverse/least white area in Scotland. At present the entire area from East Pollokshields, Strathbungo/Queens Park and Govanhill is in a single constituency and forms a considerable electoral bloc. By splitting it into three separate constituencies you are creating a situation where those communities are no longer a focal point in any one constituency. Furthermore I note you use the term electors rather than constituents or residents. This will create issues with your figures as you have neighbourhoods of the city with large foreign-born populations such as the Eastern European communities in Govanhill who are not permitted to vote in Westminster elections but will still be entitled to representation from an MP, as well as 5 universities which will result in a large number of registered electors who will in fact have graduated and moved on, or will be voting in their 'home' constituency by the time of an election."
40. Cllr Kenny MacLaren (12935), Paisley Northwest ward, supported the revised constituency names but opposes Renfrewshire communities being added to Glasgow and Inverclyde with little to connect the areas. He also opposes wards being divided between constituencies breaking natural links between communities that will confuse electors.

Local political parties

41.No local political parties responded to the revised consultation.

Others

42.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
Initial and Revised Proposals

