



BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND
REPORT

**EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY
CONSTITUENCIES**

*Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland
by Command of Her Majesty
November 1978*

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CONSTITUTION OF COMMISSION

IN ACCORDANCE with Part I of the First Schedule to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 as amended by paragraph 1 of the Schedule to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1958, the Commission was constituted as follows:

Ex-officio Member

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, *Chairman*.

And three other Members

THE HONOURABLE LORD ROSS, *Deputy Chairman—appointed by the Lord President of the Court of Session.*

PROFESSOR GORDON C. CAMERON—*appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland.*

MR. ANDREW A. L. EVANS—*appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland.*

Assessors

THE REGISTRAR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND.

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ORDNANCE SURVEY.

Secretary

MR. J. BORTHWICK—*appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland.*

Assistant Secretary

MR. E. J. S. HARTLEY—*appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland.*

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BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND

REPORT

on Division of Scotland into European Assembly Constituencies
to the Right Hon. Bruce Millan, M.P.,
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Scotland

1. We, the Boundary Commission for Scotland, constituted in accordance with the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Acts 1949 and 1958, have the honour to submit in terms of paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the European Assembly Elections Act 1978 our report on European Assembly constituencies for Scotland.

INTRODUCTION

2. Under paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the 1978 Act we are charged with the duty of submitting to the Secretary of State for Scotland, as soon as may be after the passing of the Act, a report showing the Assembly constituencies into which we recommend Scotland should be divided in order to give effect to the provisions of paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 1 and Part II of Schedule 2 to the Act. These provisions, which lay down that Scotland will be divided into eight constituencies and set out the requirements to be observed by the Commission in formulating recommendations, are reproduced in Appendix A.

3. The contents and electorates of the 8 constituencies which we recommend as a result of our deliberations are given in Appendix B. The constituencies are described by reference to parliamentary constituencies; and the electorates are the number of parliamentary electors whose names appear on the electoral registers in force on 16th February 1977. A note on the map which accompanies this report forms Appendix C.

PROCEDURE

4. We gave notice in the Edinburgh Gazette on 26th May 1978 of our intention to consider the making of a report on the initial division of Scotland into 8 Assembly constituencies. We also kept our ex-officio Chairman, Mr. Speaker, informed of our progress.

5. We were supplied with particulars of the electorate of each parliamentary constituency and with Ordnance Survey maps showing the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies and of local government areas. Our proposals were formulated from this basic information in light of the statutory provisions for the division of Scotland into Assembly constituencies. The total parliamentary electorate in Scotland at 16th February 1977, which was the relevant date for the purposes of the recommendations, was 3,786,051. This number divided by eight Assembly constituencies gave an electoral quota of 473,256.

6. We published our provisional recommendations in Scottish Sunday newspapers on 4th June 1978 and in daily newspapers on 5th June 1978. The advertisements were supplemented by Press Notices issued for editorial use. Copies of our proposals and explanatory maps were made available for inspection by the public in at least one local authority office or public library within each parliamentary constituency; the co-operation of local authorities and their officers in this connection was greatly appreciated. We also took care that all local authorities and the national headquarters of political parties in Scotland were made fully aware of our proposals by sending copies of notices and other documents to them at the time of issue. In addition, all Members of Parliament for Scottish constituencies were informed of our provisional recommendations and copies of notices and maps were deposited in the library of the House of Commons and the library of the House of Lords for inspection there.

REPRESENTATIONS

7. The notices advertising our provisional recommendations included a statement that any representations relating to the proposals should be lodged with the Commission within one month of the date of publication. In response, we received 46 letters containing representations and comments. A list of those who made representations is at Appendix D. Of the representative bodies, as distinct from individual electors, who wrote to the Commission, 9 stated that the proposals were acceptable so far as their interests were concerned or simply indicated that they had noted the proposals.

8. In considering these representations we were conscious of the need to take into account that the combined effect of paragraphs 1, 4(1)(b) and 5 of Schedule 2 of the 1978 Act is that, while the Commission is required to publish a notice of proposed recommendations for the initial division of Scotland, there is no provision for holding local inquiries or publishing revised recommendations as would be the case in a review of parliamentary constituency boundaries and a supplementary report under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 of the Act of 1978. Thus, interests content with the provisional proposals would not be able to object to revised proposals. It seemed to us, therefore, all the more important to treat the absence of representations from particular local authorities and political parties as an indication that the provisional recommendations were generally acceptable to them.

9. An individual elector in Central Ayrshire submitted observations to us which ranged rather widely over our proposals so far as they affected the Strathclyde Region and in essence amounted to a criticism of the statutory requirement for a constituency to be as near the electoral quota as is reasonably practicable. We also received representation from an individual elector in Kelvingrove, Glasgow, who suggested constituencies which would have completely reshaped our provisional proposals for the division of Scotland. These representations were well drawn up and presented and we appreciated the thought and effort which had obviously been devoted to them. They did not, however, convince us, and whatever their merits, we do not consider that it would be practicable or sensible to adopt drastically revised proposals, especially in circumstances where there would be no opportunity for interests to object to them. Other representations in relation to our proposed constituencies are dealt with in the paragraphs below in the context of the particular considerations which led to our final recommendations. We took the view that it would not be proper for us to comment on representations which raised questions outside our responsibilities. These included the method of election to the European Assembly, the number of representatives to be elected for Scotland and the choice of complete parliamentary constituencies as opposed to local government areas for forming Assembly constituencies.

CONSIDERATION

North of Scotland

10. We received four representations to the effect that Argyll parliamentary constituency should be transferred from this proposed constituency. Two were from individual electors whose home addresses had no connection with the area in question and the others were from the Argyll Constituency Labour Party, who advanced local government ties as the case for associating Argyll with Strathclyde West, and from Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council. On the other hand, Argyll and Bute District Council indicated that they favoured the Commission's proposals; Strathclyde Regional Council simply noted them and no objections were received from other political interests in the area. This was a matter which we had considered when formulating our original proposals, and in the circumstances, we decided to adhere to our provisional proposals as they affected the Argyll parliamentary constituency.

11. Our proposals in relation to the parliamentary constituencies of Moray and Nairn and Banff attracted six representations. Moray and Nairn Conservative and Unionist Association, while recognising that the Moray and Nairn constituency straddled the boundary between the Highland and Grampian Regions, thought that the constituency had more in common with the proposed North East Assembly constituency. This was a view reflected in the representations of Grampian Regional Council, Moray District Council (whose views were supported by Mrs. Winifred Ewing, M.P.) and Banff and Buchan District Council who considered that the seven parliamentary constituencies associated with the Grampian Region, with the possible addition of the South Angus constituency, should form the North East constituency. It was suggested that this would make for simplification of arrangements for organising elections within the Grampian Region, but we did not consider that this was a factor which we could be expected to take into account. In a situation where Scotland has to be divided into eight constituencies, of reasonably equal electorates, it is impossible to avoid splitting regional areas.

Moreover, adoption of the local authorities' proposals would have involved changes in many other areas where our proposed constituencies seem generally acceptable. Mr. Douglas Henderson, M.P. made a straightforward representation to the effect that the Banff parliamentary constituency should be transferred to the North East Scotland constituency; and a similar representation was received from the Grampian Regional Association of the Scottish National Party who wanted the Moray and Nairn constituency transferred as well. While we would not dispute the view that in terms of common interests and common problems the ties of those areas may in many respects be closer to North East Scotland than to the North of Scotland, it did not seem to us that the practical links between those areas and parts of the North of Scotland are so tenuous as to justify a further reduction in the size of the electorate of that constituency. We consider that in proposing a constituency with an electorate of 296,473, 37.4 per cent. below the electoral quota, we have gone as far as we reasonably can in allowing for "special geographical considerations".

12. The Western Isles and Orkney Islands Councils represented to us that their areas, together with the area of the Shetlands Islands Council, should form a constituency on their own. We did not consider that this was a realistic possibility in terms of the statutory requirements for Assembly constituencies.

13. The proposed title "North of Scotland" came in for some criticism on the ground that it appeared to ignore the island communities and was geographically inaccurate in that the proposed constituency stretched to the Mull of Kintyre. We accept the validity of this criticism and have decided to adopt the suggestion put to us that the name "Highlands and Islands" would be more aptly descriptive of the proposed constituency.

14. In all the circumstances, we decided to adhere to our provisional proposals for this constituency, subject to a change of name from "North of Scotland" to "Highlands and Islands".

North East Scotland

15. Apart from the representations discussed in paragraph 11 above, objections to our proposals for this constituency were lodged by Tayside Regional Council who, supported by North-East Fife District Council and Perth and East Perthshire Conservative and Unionist Association, put forward an alternative scheme for the division of Scotland into eight constituencies. The scheme was designed to secure that the parliamentary constituencies within Tayside Region would be included within one European constituency and to avoid divergences from the electoral quota. It seemed to us that these proposals, while no doubt satisfactory from the point of view of the Tayside Region, would, by their wide-ranging repercussions, be unlikely to be acceptable to many other interests throughout Scotland. Nor would we think it right to adopt proposals which in achieving parity of electorate between constituencies paid no regard to "special geographical considerations" anywhere in Scotland. We accordingly adhered to our provisional recommendations for this constituency.

Mid-Scotland and Fife

16. Apart from the representations from Tayside Regional Council which would have involved splitting Fife Region, no objections were received against our provisional proposals for this constituency. We decided, therefore, to confirm our provisional proposals.

Lothians

17. The main controversy in respect of this proposed constituency centred on our provisional proposal to include in it the Berwick and East Lothian parliamentary constituency. This exemplified a difficulty we ourselves experienced in determining the disposition of a parliamentary constituency which stretches from Edinburgh to the Scottish border with England. Border Regional Council, Berwickshire District Council, Tweeddale District Council, Roxburgh District Council, the Berwickshire and East Lothian Conservative and Unionist Association and the Scottish Conservative Party contended very strongly that the constituency should be included in the proposed South of Scotland constituency. On the other hand, Lothian Regional Council and East Lothian District Council indicated to us that they would make no specific representations; and the Conservative Chairmen of Parliamentary Constituencies in the Central and Southern Area of Scotland put to us a case for retaining Berwick and East Lothian in the Lothians constituency while advocating transfer of the West Lothian constituency to the proposed Strathclyde East constituency. We were not entirely convinced of the argument that

the constituency as a whole had a greater affinity with the Borders Region than with the Lothians Region. While the argument is obviously true of the area of the constituency which lies within the Borders Region, it does not seem to us to be true for East Lothian, where the greater part of the electorate is located. We accept, however, that there is substance in the criticism that the size of the proposed Lothians constituency at 594,758 as compared with the electoral quota of 473,256 does not comply with the statutory requirement that "the electorate of any Assembly shall be as near the electoral quota as is reasonably practicable". This is a point about which we had misgivings when we considered our provisional proposals and, on reconsideration in light of the representations received, we have decided to amend our proposals by transferring the Berwick and East Lothian constituency from the Lothians Assembly constituency to the South of Scotland Assembly constituency. The effect is to reduce the size of the electorate of the Lothians constituency to 534,256 and to increase that of the South of Scotland to 445,540.

18. The South Edinburgh Conservative and Unionist Association as well as the Conservative Chairmen of Parliamentary Constituencies in the Central and Southern Area of Scotland represented that West Lothian parliamentary constituency should be included in the Strathclyde East constituency instead of the Lothians constituency. We did not think that a good case had been made out for such a change.

South of Scotland

19. An objection from the Cumnock Branch of the Scottish Labour Party seemed to amount basically to a preference for a South West Scotland constituency rather than a South of Scotland constituency. Other representations, however, seemed to us to indicate general acceptance of the concept of a South of Scotland constituency and we decided to make no change in this respect.

20. The only objection to our proposal to include Lanark parliamentary constituency in the South of Scotland constituency was received from the Scottish Liberal Party, who considered that it should be included in the Strathclyde East constituency. Since this was countered by Lanark District Council's agreement to our proposals, we saw no reason for recommending any change.

21. Except for the transfer of Berwick and East Lothian parliamentary constituency from the proposed Lothians constituency, we decided to confirm our provisional recommendations for a South of Scotland constituency.

Strathclyde East

22. Our proposals for this constituency seemed generally acceptable. While the Scottish Liberal Party proposed that Kilmarnock parliamentary constituency should be included in the South of Scotland constituency, Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council, for their part, indicated to us that they were in agreement with our provisional recommendations. In the circumstances, we decided to confirm them.

Strathclyde West

23. Cumbernauld and Kilsyth District Council proposed that, for the purpose of forming Assembly constituencies, the parliamentary constituencies in Glasgow should be divided by the River Clyde with constituencies to the North and South of the city being attached, as appropriate, to form two Assembly constituencies. This was a possibility which we considered and rejected at an earlier stage and we saw no reason for changing our view.

Glasgow

24. Glasgow District Council objected strongly to our proposal to place Rutherglen parliamentary constituency, which lies predominantly within the area administered by the Council, within our proposed Strathclyde East constituency. We sympathised with this view, but, having regard to the statutory requirements placed upon us, we did not feel justified in making a change which would result in the electorate of Glasgow constituency being increased to 603,270 and that of Strathclyde East being reduced to 414,155. A variation of that order would be excessive in circumstances where, in our view, it would not be justified by "special geographical considerations".

RECOMMENDATION

25. The proposed constituencies set out in Appendix B are the result of the consultative process and detailed consideration described in the foregoing paragraphs, and we recommend them accordingly. They differ from our provisional recommendations only in respect that the Berwick and East Lothian parliamentary constituency is now included in the South of Scotland Assembly constituency instead of the Lothians constituency; and the North of Scotland constituency is renamed the Highlands and Islands constituency.

DONALD M. ROSS
(Deputy Chairman)

A. A. L. EVANS
GORDON C. CAMERON

J. BORTHWICK
Secretary

E. J. S. HARTLEY
Assistant Secretary

Date: 25th September 1978

REQUIREMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS ACT 1978 FOR EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES

SCHEDULE 1

1.—(2) There shall be a total of 79 Assembly constituencies, of which—

- (a) 66 shall be in England;
- (b) 8 shall be in Scotland;
- (c) 4 shall be in Wales;
- (d) 1 shall be that of Northern Ireland.

SCHEDULE 2

Part I

1. As soon as may be after the passing of this Act each Boundary Commission shall submit to the Secretary of State a report showing the Assembly constituencies into which they recommend that the part of Great Britain with which they are concerned should be divided in order to give effect to the provisions of paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 1 to this Act and Part II of this Schedule.

Part II

9. In Great Britain—

- (a) each Assembly constituency shall consist of an area that includes two or more parliamentary constituencies; and
- (b) no parliamentary constituency shall be included partly in one Assembly constituency and partly in another.

10. The electorate of any Assembly constituency in Great Britain shall be as near the electoral quota as is reasonably practicable having regard, where appropriate, to special geographical considerations.

Part III

12. In Part II of this Schedule and this paragraph in their application to a part of Great Britain for which there is a Boundary Commission—

“electoral quota” means the number obtained by dividing the electorate of that part of Great Britain by the number of Assembly constituencies specified for that part in paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 1 to this Act; “electorate” means—

- (a) in relation to an Assembly constituency, the number of persons whose names appear on the relevant registers for that Assembly constituency in force on the enumeration date;
- (b) in relation to that part of Great Britain, the number of persons whose names appear on the relevant registers for that part of Great Britain in force on the enumeration date;

“enumeration date” means—

- (a) in relation to any report of a Boundary Commission under paragraph 1 above, the 16th February 1977;
- (b) in relation to any supplementary report of a Boundary Commission under paragraph 2 or 3 above, the date on which the notice with respect to that report is published in accordance with section 2(4) of the 1949 Act;

“the relevant registers” means the following registers under the Representation of the People Acts, namely—

- (a) in relation to an Assembly constituency, the registers of parliamentary electors to be used at an Assembly election in that Assembly constituency;
- (b) in relation to that part of Great Britain, the registers of parliamentary electors for the parliamentary constituencies in that part.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES IN SCOTLAND

European Assembly Constituency	Contents in terms of Parliamentary Constituencies	Electorate as at 16th February 1977
HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS		296,473
	Orkney and Zetland	27,748
	Western Isles	22,642
	Caithness and Sutherland	29,541
	Ross and Cromarty	33,136
	Inverness	61,999
	Moray and Nairn	44,818
	Banff	33,141
	Argyll	43,448
NORTH EAST SCOTLAND		473,419
	East Aberdeenshire	52,072
	West Aberdeenshire	63,509
	Aberdeen North	65,154
	Aberdeen South	66,177
	North Angus and Mearns	40,738
	South Angus	56,610
	Dundee West	64,628
	Dundee East	64,531
MID SCOTLAND AND FIFE		532,851
	Central Fife	60,721
	Dunfermline	63,533
	East Fife	58,887
	Kirkcaldy	61,186
	Clackmannan and East Stirlingshire	66,171
	West Stirlingshire	56,249
	Stirling, Falkirk and Grangemouth	66,060
	Kinross and West Perthshire	37,920
	Perth and East Perthshire	62,124
LOTHIANS		534,256
	Midlothian	96,254
	West Lothian	83,514
	Edinburgh Central	39,417
	East	58,125
	Leith	38,283
	North	46,303
	Pentlands	59,270
	South	58,358
	West	54,732
SOUTH OF SCOTLAND		445,540
	Berwick and East Lothian	60,502
	Roxburgh Selkirk and Peebles	59,283
	Dumfries	63,887
	Galloway	40,903
	South Ayrshire	51,454
	Ayr	54,169
	Central Ayrshire	64,911
	Lanark	50,431

European Assembly Constituency	Contents in terms of Parliamentary Constituencies	Electorate as at 16th February 1977
STRATHCLYDE EAST	Bothwell	462,962
	East Kilbride	61,104
	Kilmarnock	72,548
	Hamilton	61,151
	North Lanarkshire	51,546
	Rutherglen	55,979
	Coatbridge and Airdrie	48,807
	Motherwell and Wishaw	60,298
STRATHCLYDE WEST		51,529
	East Renfrewshire	486,087
	West Renfrewshire	63,526
	Greenock and Port Glasgow	73,316
	Paisley	61,630
	East Dunbartonshire	64,004
	Central Dunbartonshire	69,045
	West Dunbartonshire	49,794
GLASGOW	Bute and North Ayrshire	54,541
		50,231
	Glasgow Cathcart	554,463
	Central	49,730
	Craigton	21,011
	Garscadden	44,512
	Govan	52,762
	Hillhead	28,157
	Kelvingrove	40,885
	Maryhill	37,153
	Pollok	50,846
	Provan	59,808
	Queen's Park	55,243
	Shettleston	36,278
	Springburn	33,873
		44,205

Note on Map

The map (scale 1 : 625 000 or about one inch to ten miles) provided with this report shows the recommended European Assembly constituency boundaries in blue, the parliamentary constituency boundaries in green and the administrative boundaries in red.

Letters received by the Boundary Commission in response to publication of their provisional recommendations

Objections

Local Authorities	Political Parties	Others
<i>Regional Councils</i> Borders Dumfries and Galloway Grampian Tayside	Banffshire Conservative and Unionist Association Berwickshire and East Lothian Conservative and Unionist Association Conservative Central and Southern Area Council Moray and Nairn Conservative and Unionist Association	Mrs. Winifred Ewing, M.P. for Moray and Nairn. Douglas Henderson, M.P. for East Aberdeenshire.
<i>Islands Councils</i> Orkney Western Isles	Perth and East Perthshire Conservative and Unionist Association Scottish Conservative Party H.Q. Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association, Northern Area Council South Edinburgh Conservative and Unionist Association	K. Leadbeater, Glasgow. W. Mason, Beith, Ayrshire. N. M. Tosh, Kilwinning, Ayrshire.
<i>District Councils</i> Banff and Buchan Berwickshire Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Ettrick and Lauderdale	Argyll Constituency Labour Party Scottish Labour Party, Cumnock Branch Scottish Liberal Party	National Farmers' Union of Scotland, Borders Area. The Scottish Landowners' Federation.
Glasgow Inverclyde Moray North East Fife Roxburgh Tweeddale	Scottish National Party H.Q. Scottish National Party, Grampian Regional Association The English National Party	

Local authorities expressing agreement or indicating that the proposals had been noted.

Regional Councils
Central
Lothian
Strathclyde

District Councils
Argyll and Bute
East Lothian
Kilmarnock and Loudoun
Lanark
Monklands
West Lothian