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Review of Constituencies at the Scottish Parliament

3 July 2007

Today, 3 July 2007, the Boundary Commission for Scotland announced that it would commence a general review of the constituencies and regions at the Scottish Parliament. The review will be undertaken within the terms of the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004.

The review of constituencies will cover the 70 mainland constituencies and the Western Isles constituency. The Orkney Islands and the Shetland Islands are excluded from the constituency review by the terms of the 2004 Act. The review of the regions will, however, encompass all 73 constituencies at the Scottish Parliament.

As part of the statutory consultation process, the Commission expects to publish its provisional proposals for revised constituencies in the Spring of 2008. The legislative requirements to consult widely and where necessary to hold local public inquiries, leads the Commission to conclude that its provisional proposals for the regions, which must comprise aggregations of whole constituencies, will not be published until the Summer of 2009.

The terms of the 2004 Act require the Commission to submit a report on its review to the Secretary of State for Scotland not later than 30 June 2010.

NOTES FOR NEWS EDITORS

The Boundary Commission for Scotland is an independent advisory non-departmental public body sponsored and wholly funded by the Scotland Office. The role of the Commission is to review the boundaries of constituencies at the Westminster and Scottish Parliaments.

The electoral quota for the review will be calculated using the electoral register in force at the enumeration date for the review, that is, 3 July 2007. On the basis of the number of local government electors on the register (excluding Orkney Island and Shetland Islands) at the time of the elections in May 2007,

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that number will be around 54,500. The Commission does not expect any significant increase or decrease from that figure.

The Rules for reviewing constituencies and regions are set out in the 2004 Act.

Contact:

Bob Smith, 0131 538 7200/7201 or 0777073505

Email: bobsmith@bcomm-scotland.gov.uk

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Internet www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk

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