

## Boundary Commission for Scotland



27 February 2017

Embargo: 0001, Tuesday 28 February 2017

### **Comments on proposed constituency boundaries published for scrutiny**

The comments received during the Boundary Commission for Scotland's public consultation on its Initial Proposals for UK Parliament constituencies have been published today for a 4-week period of public scrutiny and further comment.

In addition to the consultation responses, the Commission has also published the full transcripts from the five public hearings that were held in November and December last year in Ayr, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness.

This secondary consultation is part of the Commission's review of UK Parliament constituencies in Scotland which will result in the number of constituencies in Scotland reducing from 59 to 53 as part of an overall reduction in the number of Members of Parliament across the United Kingdom from 650 to 600.

The comments are available to view on the Commission's interactive portal at [www.bcs2018.org.uk](http://www.bcs2018.org.uk). Members of the public and other interested parties can read all the comments received during the initial public consultation and comment on them until 27 March.

Ms Isabel Drummond-Murray, Secretary to the Commission, said: "We are very grateful for the response to the consultation on the Commission's Initial Proposals, with around 1500 written submissions sent to us and further views presented at the 5 public hearings held last year. This secondary consultation period enables members of the public to consider the comments and alternative designs which we have received to date and to offer views on these. This will be a very useful process to help us understand the strengths and weaknesses of the different arguments that have been put to us."

After the secondary consultation period, the Commission will consider all the information that has been submitted, and expects to consult on any revised proposals for constituencies later this year. We will then develop our final recommendations which we will submit in our report to the Secretary of State in September 2018.

\*\* ENDS \*\*

### Responses to initial consultation

The Commission's initial consultation ran from 20 October 2016 to 11 January 2017 and 5 public hearings were held in Ayr, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness. During the initial consultation the Commission received nearly 1,500 responses to its initial proposals from MP's, MSP's, political parties, local authorities, community groups and members of the public. The responses included comments on the proposals as well as suggestions for alternative constituency names and boundaries. The main issues raised included:

- support for the proposals in South Ayrshire to create a constituency that contains Prestwick, Troon and Ayr;
- opposition to the proposals that divide Bearsden between 2 constituencies;
- opposition to the proposals that split Banchory from other communities in Deeside;
- suggestions to link communities in South Perthshire with Stirling, rather than with Fife;
- opposition to the proposed boundary by Dumfries; and
- concern about the size of constituencies in Highland and the proposed boundary north of Fort William.

### Initial Proposals

The constituencies proposed in the initial consultation include:

- Two constituencies wholly within Aberdeen City council area
- Six constituencies wholly within Glasgow City council area
- Six constituencies wholly within City of Edinburgh and West Lothian council areas
- Two constituencies wholly within Midlothian and Scottish Borders council areas
- Five constituencies wholly within Fife and Perth and Kinross council areas
- Argyll and Bute, Highland and Moray council areas together contain four constituencies
- Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling council areas together contain three constituencies
- Five constituencies wholly within Aberdeenshire, Angus and Dundee City council areas
- Eight constituencies wholly within Dumfries and Galloway, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire council areas
- Seven constituencies wholly within East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and South Ayrshire council areas
- One constituency for East Lothian council area
- Two constituencies within East and West Dunbartonshire council areas

Other points to note:

- Only 11 existing constituencies have electorates within five per cent of the UK electoral quota. All proposed constituencies, other than those set out in the legislation, have electorates within five per cent of the electoral quota.
- Only one existing constituency, in addition to the two set out in legislation, is proposed for retention with boundaries unchanged (East Lothian, which is coterminous with East Lothian council area). 19 other proposed constituencies retain the name of a similar existing constituency.

- On average, an existing constituency has around 66,000 electors and an area of 1,360 square kilometres: a proposed constituency has, on average, around 73,500 electors and an area of 1,514 square kilometres.
- The range of electors per constituency was 45,898 to 83,593 (37,695 electors); under the proposals it will be 71,122 to 78,477 (7,355 electors).
- Of the 353 wards in Scotland, 323 (92 per cent) are each wholly within a single proposed constituency, 29 wards are divided between two proposed constituencies and one ward is divided between three proposed constituencies.
- Almost two thirds of proposed constituencies are each within a single council area; no constituencies contain parts of three or more council areas
- Almost a quarter of proposed constituencies contain only whole wards.
- The largest proposed constituency by area is Highland North, at 12,985 square kilometres (currently Ross, Skye and Lochaber at 12,768 square kilometres).
- The smallest proposed constituency is Edinburgh North and Leith, at 20 square kilometres (currently Glasgow North at 17 square kilometres).
- The proposed constituency with most electors, at 78,477, is Moray and Nairn (currently Linlithgow and East Falkirk at 83,593).
- The proposed constituency with the fewest electors, at 71,122, is Clackmannanshire and Stirling North (currently Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross at 45,898).

In developing its initial proposals for Scotland, the Commission has tried to minimise the number of constituencies which combine parts of different council areas. The Commission has had to divide 30 existing local government wards, out of a total of 353.

## **ENDS**

### **Notes for Editors:**

For further information contact Isabel Drummond-Murray, Secretary to the Commission, 0131 244 2007 / [isabel.drummond-murray@scottishboundaries.gov.uk](mailto:isabel.drummond-murray@scottishboundaries.gov.uk)

### The Boundary Commission for Scotland:

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

### Stages of the review:

- The Commission set out the first stage of the review on 24 February 2016.
- It consulted on its initial proposals, for a 12 week period, from 20 October 2016 until 11 January 2017.
- The 4-week secondary consultation will last from 28 February until 27 March 2017.
- The Commission expects to consult on any revised proposals in Autumn 2017.
- The Commission will report to the Secretary of State for Scotland in September 2018, so that the new constituencies can be considered for approval by Parliament and be available for use in the General Election expected in May 2020.

Background to the review:

The 2018 review of UK Parliamentary constituencies is required by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. It is being conducted simultaneously by the four Boundary Commissions in Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

Across the UK, the number of constituencies is being reduced from 650 to 600. In Scotland there will be a decrease from 59 to 53 constituencies, with similar reductions in each part of the UK: England 501 in place of the current 533; Wales 29 in place of the current 40; and Northern Ireland 17 in place of the current 18.

Further details:

The electoral quota for the review, which is the average electorate per constituency across the UK, is 74,769.2, with the electorate of each constituency having to be within five per cent of that.

That means the smallest permitted electorate for a constituency is 71,031 and the largest permitted electorate is 78,507. In Scotland, exceptions to these electorate limits apply for Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency (the Western Isles), and Orkney and Shetland constituency, each of which are defined in the legislation. An exception to the minimum electorate requirement can be made if a constituency is larger than 12,000 square kilometres, which can only occur in very sparsely populated areas, and only if the Commission is satisfied that there is no reasonable configuration of constituencies with electorates within the permitted range.

The electorate for this review is taken from the electoral register published on 1 December 2015.

Subject to the above requirements, the legislation states that we may take into account, as we think fit, other factors, namely:

- special geographical considerations, including the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- boundaries of council areas and electoral wards;
- existing Westminster constituency boundaries; and
- any local ties which would be broken by changes in constituencies.

**Proposed Constituencies:**

Proposed constituency name	Designation	Council area(s)	Approx area (Square km)	Electorate
Aberdeen North	Burgh	Aberdeen City	105	75,791
Aberdeen South	Burgh	Aberdeen City	101	74,444
Airdrie South and Shotts	County	North Lanarkshire	176	73,109
Angus Glens and Dundee East	County	Angus, Dundee City	1,861	78,156
Argyll, Bute and Lochaber	County	Argyll and Bute, Highland	10,302	77,574
Ayr and Carrick	County	South Ayrshire	1,107	77,352
Banff and Buchan	County	Aberdeenshire	1,760	76,878
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	County	Scottish Borders	3,999	74,428
Clackmannanshire and Stirling North	County	Clackmannanshire, Stirling	1,819	71,122
Clydesdale and Eskdale	County	Dumfries and Galloway, South Lanarkshire	3,765	75,090
Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Monklands East	County	North Lanarkshire	187	74,961
Cunninghame East	County	East Ayrshire, East Renfrewshire	437	71,251
Cunninghame West	County	North Ayrshire	667	74,566
Dumfries and Galloway	County	Dumfries and Galloway	4,126	78,093
Dundee	Burgh	Dundee City	43	76,317
Dunfermline	County	Fife	236	78,254
East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow	County	South Lanarkshire	403	76,833
East Lothian	County	East Lothian	701	76,153
Edinburgh East	Burgh	City of Edinburgh	40	74,009
Edinburgh North and Leith	Burgh	City of Edinburgh	20	71,541
Edinburgh Pentland and Livingston	County	City of Edinburgh, West Lothian	226	78,164
Edinburgh South West and Central	Burgh	City of Edinburgh	37	77,029
Edinburgh West	Burgh	City of Edinburgh	91	77,738
Falkirk	County	Falkirk	181	73,839
Glasgow Central	Burgh	Glasgow City	21	75,718
Glasgow East	Burgh	Glasgow City	33	75,433

**Embargoed until 0001hrs on Tuesday 28 February 2017**  
Boundary Commission for Scotland - Initial Proposals for constituencies

Glasgow North	Burgh	Glasgow City	38	71,443
Glasgow South East	Burgh	Glasgow City	21	72,479
Glasgow South West	Burgh	Glasgow City	32	73,477
Glasgow West	Burgh	Glasgow City	30	77,803
Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy	Burgh	Fife	133	71,677
Gordon and Deeside	County	Aberdeenshire	3,412	74,069
Hamilton and Motherwell	Burgh	North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire	126	78,281
Highland North	County	Highland	12,985	73,147
Inverclyde and Largs	County	Inverclyde, North Ayrshire	346	73,965
Inverness and Skye	County	Highland	9,995	78,220
Kilmarnock, Cumnock and Doon Valley	County	East Ayrshire, South Ayrshire	1,082	78,431
Kincardine and Angus East	County	Aberdeenshire, Angus	1,527	76,784
Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath	County	Fife, Perth and Kinross	1,609	75,780
Linlithgow	County	West Lothian	289	78,026
Midlothian and Peebles	County	Midlothian, Scottish Borders	1,099	76,208
Milngavie and Kirkintilloch	County	East Dunbartonshire	156	71,594
Monklands West	Burgh	North Lanarkshire	83	74,263
Moray and Nairn	County	Highland, Moray	2,612	78,477
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	County	Eileanan an Iar, Na h-	3,269	20,887
North East Fife	County	Fife	834	76,900
Orkney and Shetland	County	Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands	2,743	33,229
Paisley	Burgh	East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire	102	75,331
Perthshire	County	Perth and Kinross	3,981	72,831
Rutherglen and Hamilton West	Burgh	South Lanarkshire	57	76,341
Stirling South	County	Falkirk, Stirling	733	71,150
West Dunbartonshire and Bearsden North	County	East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire	201	77,258
West Renfrewshire	County	North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire	284	74,958

