



**15 April 2024**

**Embargo until: 00:01am, Tuesday 16 April 2024**

## **Boundaries Scotland consults on revised constituency boundaries for the Scottish Parliament**

Boundaries Scotland has today published its revised proposals for new constituency boundaries for the Scottish Parliament. It marks the start of a one-month public consultation on the proposals, running until Wednesday 15 May 2024. The length of consultation periods is set out in legislation.

Boundaries Scotland consulted on provisional proposals for constituencies between May and June 2023. That consultation returned very useful feedback and suggested improvements to proposals in Edinburgh, Prestonpans, Kilmarnock, Clydebank, Johnstone and East Renfrewshire. As a result, we also held six local inquiries to gather further views on proposals in: Musselburgh; Kilmarnock; Clydebank; Johnstone/Newton Mearns; Edinburgh; and Peebles. We have considered the comments made at the Local Inquiries along with all other consultation responses in producing our Revised Proposals for further consultation.

From the provisional proposals:

- 22 constituencies are unchanged.
- 18 constituencies have minor changes to boundaries but retain their names.
- 3 constituencies have changes to their names but retain their boundaries.
- 30 constituencies have both new names and new boundaries.

There are 73 Scottish Parliament constituencies, three of which are protected in the legislation and therefore are not subject to review (Na h-Eileanan an Iar, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands).

Ailsa Henderson, Chair of Boundaries Scotland, said

“We were very pleased with the number of responses, as well as the quality of arguments and varied suggestions submitted during our first consultation. These have helped us to improve upon our provisional proposals and we have made changes to over two-thirds of the constituencies as a direct result of responses submitted during the consultation and at local inquiries.

We think we have managed to address the vast majority of concerns while also following the rules as set out in legislation. We would now like to hear further views from the public on our revised proposals over the next month. Have we addressed the

earlier concerns? Could we make further improvements? Have we got accurate names to describe new constituencies? We strongly encourage people to make their views heard. We particularly want to hear suggestions for alternative boundaries that comply with the legislative requirements and for constituency names.”

We welcome all comments on the proposals on our consultation site at <https://consult.boundaries.scot/>

When the consultation closes, Boundaries Scotland will consider all responses received and whether further revision is necessary. If changes are made, another one-month consultation will be held.

The Review is required under the terms of the Scotland Act 1998 and will recommend constituencies, and regions, of similar electorate size while also taking account of local authority areas, special geographical circumstances, maintenance of local ties and any inconveniences caused by the alteration of the existing boundaries.

As part of this Review, we will consult on the boundaries of Scottish Parliament regions later in 2024.

We developed our proposals within single or groupings of council areas. From the provisional to the revised proposals we changed the council groupings where we felt we could achieve better constituency boundaries. A summary of changes by groupings is as follows:

**Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian Council areas**

Following feedback from the earlier consultation we developed a new council area grouping of 17 constituencies. Within this grouping we have made changes to all of the boundaries from our provisional proposals. We have aimed to address concerns raised in Clydebank, Clydesdale, Lomond and West Lothian. This grouping also includes the existing Argyll and Bute constituency. We believe that special geographical circumstances apply there due to its island communities with poor transport links. We believe this warrants the considerable variation from the electorate quota in Argyll and Bute.

**Glasgow, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Council areas**

Amended eight constituency boundaries from the provisional proposals. Following feedback from the earlier consultation we have aimed to address concerns raised in Johnstone and East Renfrewshire.

**Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray Council areas**

Retained six constituency boundaries from the provisional proposals. Made minor changes to the Aberdeenshire East; Banffshire and Buchan Coast; and Moray constituency boundaries by Arradoul – to align with a ward boundary, and by Longside following feedback from the public consultation. We retained all of the existing constituency names.

**Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas**

From the provisional proposals we made changes to all of the constituency boundaries but retained Edinburgh Central and Edinburgh Southern as constituency names. Following feedback from the earlier consultation we have aimed to address concerns raised in both the north and south of Edinburgh as well as in East Lothian.

**East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas**

Retained three constituency boundaries from the provisional proposals. Made changes to the other two constituency boundaries (Cunninghame South, and Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley) by Kilmaurs following feedback from the earlier consultation. Retained all of the existing constituency names.

**Fife Council area**

Amended four constituency boundaries from the provisional proposals, reverting to two of the existing constituency boundaries. The changes to the other two constituency boundaries (Dunfermline and Cowdenbeath) were made to align with a ward boundary, as well as the M90 road. Retained four of the existing constituency names. North East Fife was renamed Fife North East to differentiate it from the UK Parliament constituency name.

**Highland Council area**

Retained one constituency boundary – Caithness, Sutherland and Ross from the provisional proposals. Made changes to the other two constituency boundaries (Inverness and Nairn; and Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch) to the south of Inverness to align with a ward boundary, following feedback from the public consultation. Retained all of the existing constituency names.

**Midlothian and Scottish Borders Council areas**

Retained one constituency (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) from the provisional proposals. Our provisional proposals had proposed a Clyde Valley and Tweeddale constituency that had received both some support and opposition. Our revised proposals more closely follow the existing constituency boundaries.

**Clackmannanshire and Stirling Council areas**

From the provisional proposals we made changes to the constituency boundary by Causewayhead to address variation from the electorate quota. This new boundary was suggested during the consultation period. Retained both existing constituency names.

**Dumfries and Galloway Council area**

Retained the two existing two constituency boundaries included in the provisional proposals. The provisional proposals had also retained the existing boundaries.

**Dundee City Council area**

Retained the two existing constituency boundaries included in the provisional proposals. The provisional proposals had also retained the existing boundaries.

**Perth and Kinross Council**

Retained the two constituency boundaries included in the provisional proposals. We had retained the two existing constituency names but amended their boundaries to align with ward boundaries.

## **Background information**

### **Boundaries Scotland**

Boundaries Scotland is an independent advisory non-departmental public body sponsored and funded by the Scottish Government. The role of Boundaries Scotland is to review and make recommendations for: constituencies and regions for the Scottish Parliament; the number of councillors on each council in a local government area; the number of wards for local government elections and their boundaries; and the extent of council areas.

For the avoidance of confusion, the Boundary Commission for Scotland is a separate body responsible for reviewing the boundaries of UK Parliamentary constituencies in Scotland.

### **Background to the review**

The Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries is required by the Scotland Act 1998.

Since the last review which reported in 2010 there has been significant change to the electorate, including the extension of the franchise for Scottish Parliamentary elections to those 16 and over. Changes to the population and the electorate have varied across Scotland, with some areas experiencing significant increases and others remaining relatively unchanged or falling. Even areas which have not experienced population growth or reduction may find that the constituency boundaries alter as a result of change required elsewhere to ensure that all constituencies and regions are of a similar electoral size.

The existing constituencies have remained unchanged since 2011 and were used in the 2011, 2016 and 2021 Scottish Parliament elections.

**ENDS**

## Appendix

The Boundary Commission for Scotland conducted the First Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries. It reported in 2010. Under the Scotland Act 2016, responsibility for reviews of Scottish Parliament boundaries passed from the Boundary Commission for Scotland to Boundaries Scotland in 2017.

During the First Review only the Orkney Islands and Shetland Island constituencies were protected. Since then, the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 made Na h-Eileanan Siar constituency a protected constituency as well.

### Review timeline

May 2023 – one month consultation on constituency provisional proposals

Late 2023/ 2024 – Local Inquiries held dependent on responses to first consultation

April 2024 – one month consultation on constituency revised recommendations

2024 – one month consultation on constituency further recommendations, if required

2024 – one month consultation on region provisional proposals

2024 – one month consultation on region revised recommendations, if required

1 May 2025 - we will submit a report to Scottish Ministers by 1 May 2025. If subsequently approved by the Scottish Parliament, the new boundaries will be effective at the next Scottish Parliament election, expected in May 2026.

### Electorate

The electorate for this review is taken from the electoral register on 1 September 2022.

The average electorate of each Scottish Parliament constituency is 59,902 – the electoral quota. This is calculated by dividing the total electorate of Scotland (less the electorate of the three protected island constituencies) by 70 constituencies (73 less the three protected islands constituencies).

Electorate (1 September 2022)	4,250,563
Less electorate of protected constituencies	57,430
Balance	4,193,133
Divided by total non-protected constituencies	70
Quota	59,902

### Factors we consider

The Scotland Act 1998 states that the electorate of constituencies must be as close to the electoral quota as practicable. In addition, we take into account other factors set out in the Act, namely: local authority areas, special geographical circumstances, maintenance of local ties and any inconveniences caused by the alteration of the existing boundaries.

### Constituency design approach

The Commission developed its revised proposals in council area groupings. These included:

- 17 constituencies wholly within Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian council areas
- 12 constituencies wholly within East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire council areas
- Nine constituencies wholly within Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray council areas
- Eight constituencies wholly within Edinburgh (City of) and East Lothian council areas
- Five constituencies wholly within East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire council areas
- Five constituencies wholly within Fife council area
- Three constituencies wholly within Highland council area
- Three constituencies wholly within Scottish Borders and Midlothian council areas
- Two constituencies wholly within Clackmannanshire, and Stirling council areas
- Two constituencies wholly within Dumfries and Galloway council area
- Two constituencies wholly within Dundee City council area
- Two constituencies wholly within Perth and Kinross council area

### **Revised Proposals – Constituencies (comparison with existing constituencies)**

Our revised proposals retain 27 constituencies unchanged from the existing arrangements: Aberdeen Central; Aberdeen Donside; Aberdeen South and North Kincardine; Aberdeenshire West; Angus North and Mearns; Angus South; Argyll and Bute; Ayr; Caithness, Sutherland and Ross; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Coatbridge and Chryston; Cunninghame North; Dumfriesshire; Dundee City East; Dundee City West; East Kilbride; Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire; Galloway and West Dumfries; Kirkcaldy; Mid Fife and Glenrothes; Motherwell and Wishaw; Na h-Eileanan an Iar; Orkney Islands; Rutherglen; Shetland Islands; Strathkelvin and Bearsden; and Uddingston and Bellshill.

Two constituencies retain their boundary but are renamed: Fife North East; and Airdrie. This is to distinguish them from the UK Parliament constituencies: North East Fife; and Airdrie and Shotts.

We have retained the name but amended the boundary of 23 constituencies. We have generally done this where there has been relatively little change to the existing boundaries or there is no obvious alternative constituency name. They are: Aberdeenshire East; Banffshire and Buchan Coast; Clackmannanshire and Dunblane; Clydebank and Milngavie; Clydesdale; Cowdenbeath; Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; Cunninghame South; Dunbarton; Dunfermline; Eastwood; Edinburgh Central; Edinburgh Southern; Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse; Inverness and Nairn; Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley; Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale; Moray; Paisley; Perthshire North; Perthshire South and Kinross-shire; Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch; and Stirling

We have proposed 21 new constituencies where both the name and boundary have changed. They are: Bathgate; Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent; Edinburgh North Eastern; Edinburgh North Western; Edinburgh Northern; Edinburgh South Western; Erskine and Cardonald; Falkirk North; Glasgow Central; Glasgow Eastern; Glasgow North Eastern; Glasgow Northern; Glasgow South Eastern; Glasgow Southern;

Glasgow Western; Inverclyde; Linlithgow and Falkirk South; Livingston and Breich Valley; Lothian Eastern; Midlothian North; and Renfrewshire West.

### **Revised Proposals – Constituencies (comparison with provisional proposals)**

Our revised proposals retain 22 constituencies unchanged from the provisional proposals we consulted on in 2023. They are: Aberdeen Central; Aberdeen Donside; Aberdeen South and North Kincardine; Aberdeenshire West; Angus North and Mearns; Angus South; Ayr; Caithness, Sutherland and Ross; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Cunninghame North; Dumfriesshire; Dundee City East; Dundee City West; Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire; Fife North East; Galloway and West Dumfries; Inverclyde; Na h-Eileanan an Iar; Orkney Islands; Perthshire North; Perthshire South and Kinross-shire; and Shetland Islands.

Three constituencies retain their boundary from the provisional proposals but are renamed: Glasgow North Eastern; Glasgow Northern; and Glasgow Western.

We have retained the name but amended the boundary of 18 constituencies from the provisional proposals. They are: Aberdeenshire East; Argyll and Bute; Clackmannanshire and Dunblane; Cowdenbeath; Cunninghame South; Dunfermline; East Kilbride; Edinburgh Central; Edinburgh Southern; Inverness and Nairn; Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley; Kirkcaldy; Mid Fife and Glenrothes; Moray; Renfrewshire West; Rutherglen; and Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch; Stirling

We have proposed 30 new constituencies from the provisional proposals where both name and boundary have changed. They are: Airdrie; Banffshire and Buchan Coast; Bathgate; Clydebank and Milngavie; Clydesdale; Coatbridge and Chryston; Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; Dumbarton; Eastwood; Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent; Edinburgh North Eastern; Edinburgh North Western; Edinburgh Northern; Edinburgh South Western; Erskine and Cardonald; Falkirk North; Glasgow Central; Glasgow Eastern; Glasgow South Eastern; Glasgow Southern; Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse; Linlithgow and Falkirk South; Livingston and Breich Valley; Lothian Eastern; Midlothian North; Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale; Motherwell and Wishaw; Paisley; Strathkelvin and Bearsden; and Uddingston and Bellshill.

Our grouping of East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire council areas is losing one constituency. Our constituencies within Edinburgh and the Lothians are gaining one constituency due to the higher rate of population growth in the eastern half of the central belt.

### **Designations**

We have proposed 29 burgh constituencies and 44 county constituencies. All burgh constituencies cover an area of 105 km<sup>2</sup> or less. All county constituencies cover an area of 124 km<sup>2</sup> or more.

### **Electorate size**

The range of electors per existing mainland constituency was 26,802 (based on 1 Sept 2022 electorate data). The existing constituency with the smallest electorate was Argyll and Bute with 49,535 electors. The existing constituency with the largest electorate was Linlithgow with 76,337 electors.

The range of electors per mainland constituency under the revised proposals will be 17,701, from Argyll and Bute with 49,535 electors to Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch with 67,236 electors. We have applied special geographical circumstances to the

existing Argyll and Bute constituency because it contains 23 inhabited islands and rural areas with poor transport links. Otherwise the range would be 13,240 (Midlothian North with 53,996 electors and Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch with 67,236 electors).

### **Geographical size**

The largest proposed constituency by area is Caithness, Sutherland and Ross, at 12,792 km<sup>2</sup>. This constituency is unchanged.

The smallest proposed constituency is Edinburgh Central, at 11 km<sup>2</sup>. Currently the smallest by area is Glasgow Kelvin at 12 km<sup>2</sup>.

### **Council areas**

59 constituencies sit within a single council area.

14 constituencies cover two council areas. They are: Aberdeen South and North Kincardine; Dumbarton; Angus North and Mearns; Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent; Banffshire and Buchan Coast; Erskine and Cardonald; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Linlithgow and Falkirk South; Clackmannanshire and Dunblane; Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale; Clydebank and Milngavie; Renfrewshire West; Cunninghame South; and Uddingston and Bellshill.

61 of the existing constituencies sit within a single council area and 12 cover two council areas. None of the existing constituencies cover three council areas.

### **Consultation**

We welcome all comments on our proposals on our consultation site at <https://consult.boundaries.scot/>

Objections accompanied by an alternative proposal are likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection.

Our consultation site allows users to compare the existing and proposed boundaries and draw new boundaries.

We also accept comments by email or in writing

- Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HD
- [boundaries.scot@scottishboundaries.gov.uk](mailto:boundaries.scot@scottishboundaries.gov.uk)

We do not accept responses on social media.

The proposals will be on display within each constituency (see our website for the display point locations). We have also shared our proposals with MSPs, MPs, political parties, Councils, Community Councils and advertised in national newspapers and online including Facebook.

The consultation runs for a month period, from 16 April to 15 May 2024.

### **Local inquiries**

Where representations objecting to our proposal are made by a local authority covering the constituency, or by a body of 100 or more electors resident in the proposed constituency, the Commission will hold a local inquiry. After considering the result of the inquiry, if the Commission decides to alter its proposals, further



recommendation will be published - a further local inquiry may be held, but is not obligatory.

Once it has considered representations on its proposals for constituencies, the Commission will publish for consultation its provisional proposals for the regions used for elections to the Scottish Parliament.

### Revised Proposals - Constituencies

Constituency Name	Electorate	Area (sq. km)	Designation
Aberdeen Central	55,994	26	Burgh
Aberdeen Donside	62,531	92	Burgh
Aberdeen South and North Kincardine	61,544	197	County
Aberdeenshire East	61,078	1,293	County
Aberdeenshire West	59,983	3,531	County
Airdrie	54,205	213	County
Angus North and Mearns	55,006	1,427	County
Angus South	58,622	1,318	County
Argyll and Bute	49,535	6,711	County
Ayr	62,566	49	Burgh
Banffshire and Buchan Coast	61,591	1,060	County
Bathgate	65,494	155	County
Caithness, Sutherland and Ross	56,532	12,792	County
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	59,218	2,082	County
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	56,732	260	County
Clydebank and Milngavie	55,112	68	Burgh
Clydesdale	61,011	1,573	County
Coatbridge and Chryston	56,877	63	Burgh
Cowdenbeath	56,363	134	County
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	64,767	149	County
Cunninghame North	56,604	777	County
Cunninghame South	59,525	217	County
Dumbarton	56,129	599	County
Dumfriesshire	61,848	2,878	County

Dundee City East	56,030	27	Burgh
Dundee City West	56,705	34	Burgh
Dunfermline	62,615	213	County
East Kilbride	60,763	50	Burgh
Eastwood	60,536	135	County
Edinburgh Central	63,268	10	Burgh
Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent	58,629	51	Burgh
Edinburgh North Eastern	64,322	16	Burgh
Edinburgh North Western	60,845	96	Burgh
Edinburgh Northern	62,749	18	Burgh
Edinburgh South Western	59,325	8	Burgh
Edinburgh Southern	63,665	31	Burgh
Erskine and Cardonald	55,866	40	Burgh
Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire	55,131	3,193	County
Falkirk North	62,222	1,24	County
Fife North East	56,669	774	County
Galloway and West Dumfries	57,094	3,796	County
Glasgow Central	61,799	18	Burgh
Glasgow Eastern	58,936	26	Burgh
Glasgow North Eastern	59,829	34	Burgh
Glasgow Northern	64,836	21	Burgh
Glasgow South Eastern	64,249	15	Burgh
Glasgow Southern	66,213	32	Burgh
Glasgow Western	60,545	17	Burgh
Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse	59,596	104	Burgh
Inverclyde	60,794	173	County
Inverness and Nairn	65,450	936	County
Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley	57,515	282	County
Kirkcaldy	60,642	99	Burgh
Linlithgow and Falkirk South	65,523	218	County
Livingston and Breich Valley	65,050	203	County

Lothian Eastern	56,202	658	County
Mid Fife and Glenrothes	54,098	150	County
Midlothian North	53,996	355	County
Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale	60,183	1,549	County
Moray	63,123	2,056	County
Motherwell and Wishaw	57,740	50	Burgh
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	21,769	3,270	County
Orkney Islands	17,696	1086	County
Paisley	58,563	37	Burgh
Perthshire North	59,944	3,978	County
Perthshire South and Kinross-shire	60,095	1,442	County
Renfrewshire West	65,751	238	County
Rutherglen	62,885	33	Burgh
Shetland Islands	17,965	1,657	County
Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch	67,236	12,745	County
Stirling	54,302	2,158	County
Strathkelvin and Bearsden	63,895	143	County
Uddingston and Bellshill	58,842	52	Burgh

**Notes for Editors:**

For further information contact Colin Wilson, Review Manager to the Commission, 0131 244 2001 or email [boundaries.scot@scottishboundaries.gov.uk](mailto:boundaries.scot@scottishboundaries.gov.uk)