



News Release

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries commences 1 September 2022

Boundaries Scotland has announced that it will start the Second Review of the constituencies and regions of the Scottish Parliament on 1 September 2022. The review will be undertaken following the terms of the Scotland Act 1998.

In summary, the aim of the review is to 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.

The review of constituencies will cover the 70 mainland constituencies. The constituencies of Na h-Eileanan an Iar, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands are protected in legislation and so excluded from this review. The review of the regions will, however, encompass all 73 constituencies at the Scottish Parliament. The overall number of MSPs (129) is fixed in legislation and will not change as a result of this review.

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.

As part of the statutory consultation process, the Commission expects to publish its provisional proposals for consultation in spring 2023 and a further announcement will be made at that time. Before then a guide to the review will be published on our website www.boundaries.scot.

The Commission must submit a report on its review 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.

NOTES FOR NEWS EDITORS

Boundaries Scotland is an independent advisory non-departmental public body sponsored and wholly 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.

The Boundary Commission for Scotland conducted the First Review of Scottish Parliament boundaries. Those boundaries have been in use since 2011.



Responsibility for Reviews of Scottish Parliament boundaries transferred to Boundaries Scotland following the Scotland Act 2016.

The electoral quota for the review will be calculated using the electoral register in force at the enumeration date for the review, that is, 1 September 2022. The electoral data for the review will be published on our website later this year.

The Rules for reviewing constituencies and regions are set out in the Scotland Act 1998.

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