



16 May 2023

Embargo until: 00:01am, Wednesday 17 May 2023

**Boundaries Scotland
consults on new constituency boundaries for the Scottish Parliament**

Boundaries Scotland has today published its provisional proposals for new constituency boundaries for the Scottish Parliament. It marks the start of a one month public consultation on the proposals, running until the end of Saturday 17 June 2023.

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

In the proposals:

- 21 constituencies are unchanged.
- one constituency retains its boundaries but with a new name.
- 26 constituencies have minor changes to boundaries but retain their existing names.
- 25 constituencies have both new names and new boundaries.

Ronnie Hinds, Chair of Boundaries Scotland, said

“I believe that our provisional proposals offer a robust set of constituencies within the legislative rules set for us. They represent a necessary rebalancing to reflect movements of the electorate in Scotland since parliamentary boundaries were last reviewed and we have reduced the variation in electorate between the largest and smallest constituencies by over a third.

Today is the beginning of a process, however, and we now want to hear the views of the public. We will reflect on responses to the consultation and make changes where appropriate and where the legislation allows us to do so. 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 our 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 legislation provides that there will be 73 constituencies for the Scottish Parliament, including Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles, and also determines the rules which the Commission follows when proposing constituencies. Those rules include a requirement to have regard to the boundaries of local authority areas, and to design constituencies where the electorate is as close to the electoral quota as is practical. The electoral quota is the average electorate per constituency, excluding the three protected constituencies, at the start of the review.

As part of this review we will also consult on the boundaries of Scottish Parliament regions in late 2023 or 2024.

ENDS

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.

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 the last review, the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 made Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency a protected constituency as well.

Review timeline

May 2023 – one month consultation on constituency provisional proposals

Autumn 2023 – Local Inquiries held dependent on responses to first consultation

Late 2023/ 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 constituencies 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 initial proposals in council area groupings. These included:

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

Provisional Proposals – Constituencies

Our provisional proposals retain 21 constituencies unchanged, see table below. This includes the three protected constituencies: Na h–Eileanan an Iar (the Western Isles); Orkney Islands; and Shetland Islands. See table below.

Aberdeen Central	Dundee City East
Aberdeen Donside	Dundee City West
Aberdeen South and North Kincardine	Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire
Aberdeenshire West	Falkirk East
Angus North and Mearns	Falkirk West
Angus South	Galloway and West Dumfries
Ayr	Moray
Caithness, Sutherland and Ross	Na h–Eileanan an Iar
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	Orkney Islands
Cunninghame North	Shetland Islands
Dumfriesshire	

One constituency retains its boundary but is renamed: Fife North East. This is to distinguish it from the UK Parliament constituency.

We have retained the name but amended the boundary of 26 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. See table below.

Aberdeenshire East	Edinburgh Western
Argyll and Bute	Glasgow Anniesland
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	Inverness and Nairn
Cowdenbeath	Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley
Cunninghame South	Kirkcaldy
Dunfermline	Mid Fife and Glenrothes
East Kilbride	Midlothian North and Musselburgh
East Lothian	Perthshire North
Edinburgh Central	Perthshire South and Kinross–shire
Edinburgh Eastern	Renfrewshire South
Edinburgh Northern and Leith	Rutherglen
Edinburgh Pentlands	Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch
Edinburgh Southern	Stirling

We have proposed 25 new constituencies where both name and boundary have changed, see table below.

Airdrie, Newmains and Shotts	Glasgow Shettleston and Baillieston
Banff and Buchan Coast	Glasgow Southside and Cathcart
Bathgate and Almond Valley	Glasgow Springburn and Provan
Bearsden, Milngavie and Clydebank North	Hamilton and Uddingston
Bellshill and Coatbridge	Inverclyde
Clyde Valley and Tweeddale	Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth
Cumbernauld and Chryston	Larkhall and Clydesdale
Dumbarton and Helensburgh	Livingston
Edinburgh Forth and Linlithgow	Midlothian South
Glasgow Cardonald and Pollok	Motherwell
Glasgow Central and Govan	Paisley and Renfrew
Glasgow Kelvin and Maryhill	Renfrewshire West
Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock	

None of the existing constituencies in Edinburgh or Glasgow remain unchanged.

Our grouping of East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire council areas is losing one constituency. Our grouping of Edinburgh (City of), East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian council areas is gaining one constituency.

Designations

We have proposed 26 burgh constituencies and 44 county constituencies. All burgh constituencies cover an area of 68 square kilometres or less. All county constituencies cover an area of 89 square kilometres 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 provisional proposals will be 15,055, from Glasgow Cardonald and Pollok with 54,058 electors to Inverness and Nairn with 69,113 electors.

Geographical size

The largest proposed constituency by area is Caithness, Sutherland and Ross, at 12,792 square kilometres. This constituency is unchanged.

The smallest proposed constituency is Edinburgh Northern and Leith, at 13 square kilometres. Currently the smallest by area is Glasgow Kelvin at 12 square kilometres.

Council areas

59 constituencies sit within a single council area.

13 constituencies cover two council areas, see table below.

Aberdeen South and North Kincardine	Cunninghame South
Angus North and Mearns	Dumbarton and Helensburgh
Banff and Buchan Coast	Edinburgh Forth and Linlithgow
Bearsden, Milngavie and Clydebank North	Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	Renfrewshire South
Clyde Valley and Tweeddale	

One constituency covers three council areas – Midlothian North and Musselburgh. It contains parts of City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian council areas.

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

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 on Facebook.

The consultation runs for a month period, from 17 May to 17 June 2023.

Local inquiries

Where representations objecting to a provisional 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 provisional proposal, the revised 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.

Provisional Proposals – Constituencies

Constituency Name	Electorate	Area (sq. km)	Designation
Aberdeen Central	55,994	26.0	Burgh
Aberdeen Donside	62,531	92.5	County
Aberdeen South and North Kincardine	61,544	197.9	County
Aberdeenshire East	60,667	1277.5	County
Aberdeenshire West	59,983	3531.9	County
Airdrie, Newmains and Shotts	66,243	223.4	County
Angus North and Mearns	55,006	1427.4	County
Angus South	58,622	1318.9	County
Argyll and Bute	55,737	7095.8	County
Ayr	62,566	49.0	Burgh
Banff and Buchan Coast	61,992	1075.8	County
Bathgate and Almond Valley	61,257	189.2	County
Bearsden, Milngavie and Clydebank North	58,415	68.0	Burgh
Bellshill and Coatbridge	63,361	42.7	Burgh
Caithness, Sutherland and Ross	56,532	12792.1	County
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	59,218	2082.8	County
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	55,421	460.8	County
Clyde Valley and Tweeddale	60,443	2517.6	County
Cowdenbeath	59,195	153.2	County
Cumbernauld and Chryston	62,578	89.7	County
Cunninghame North	56,604	777.0	County
Cunninghame South	62,113	242.7	County
Dumbarton and Helensburgh	57,666	222.4	County
Dumfriesshire	61,848	2878.7	County
Dundee City East	56,030	27.5	Burgh
Dundee City West	56,705	34.9	Burgh
Dunfermline	60,987	202.3	County
East Kilbride	61,700	54.0	Burgh

East Lothian	59,385	670.4	County
Edinburgh Central	59,203	13.5	Burgh
Edinburgh Eastern	64,870	29.1	Burgh
Edinburgh Forth and Linlithgow	55,866	166.9	County
Edinburgh Northern and Leith	59,650	13.2	Burgh
Edinburgh Pentlands	55,545	108.0	County
Edinburgh Southern	60,377	21.0	Burgh
Edinburgh Western	59,884	19.6	Burgh
Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire	55,131	3193.5	County
Falkirk East	61,529	205.7	County
Falkirk West	63,861	109.2	County
Fife North East	56,669	774.4	County
Galloway and West Dumfries	57,094	3796.6	County
Glasgow Anniesland	60,545	17.5	Burgh
Glasgow Cardonald and Pollok	54,058	19.8	Burgh
Glasgow Central and Govan	61,924	20.5	Burgh
Glasgow Kelvin and Maryhill	64,836	21.2	Burgh
Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock	63,822	29.0	Burgh
Glasgow Shettleston and Baillieston	65,738	29.4	Burgh
Glasgow Southside and Cathcart	58,859	17.7	Burgh
Glasgow Springburn and Provan	59,829	34.8	Burgh
Hamilton and Uddingston	54,496	50.7	Burgh
Inverclyde	60,794	173.6	County
Inverness and Nairn	69,113	1314.2	County
Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley	54,927	257.5	County
Kirkcaldy	55,100	64.7	Burgh
Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth	62,771	195.2	County
Larkhall and Clydesdale	57,386	668.0	County
Livingston	56,009	138.3	County
Mid Fife and Glenrothes	58,436	177.8	County
Midlothian North and Musselburgh	55,122	51.0	Burgh

Midlothian South	64,424	339.0	County
Moray	63,133	2056.4	County
Motherwell	62,652	58.3	Burgh
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	21,769	3270.2	County
Orkney Islands	17,696	1086.5	County
Paisley and Renfrew	63,856	36.9	Burgh
Perthshire North	59,944	3978.8	County
Perthshire South and Kinross-shire	60,095	1442.6	County
Renfrewshire South	61,966	266.9	County
Renfrewshire West	61,690	126.2	County
Rutherglen	62,400	32.9	Burgh
Shetland Islands	17,965	1657.3	County
Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch	63,573	12367.7	County
Stirling	55,613	1957.9	County

*Three constituencies are protected in the legislation and will not be subject to change (Na h-Eileanan an Iar (the Western Isles), Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands).

Notes for Editors:

For further information contact Isabel Drummond-Murray, Secretary to the Commission, 0131 244 2007 / boundaries.scot@scottishboundaries.gov.uk