

SCOTLAND OFFICE

**Issued on behalf of
The Boundary Commission for Scotland**



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before 0001 Hours on 3 September 2009**

First Periodic Review of Scottish Parliament boundaries Aberdeen City Council area - Further Recommendations for constituencies

Commission proposes further revision to Aberdeen constituencies

The Boundary Commission for Scotland today publishes its Further Recommendations for Scottish Parliament constituencies in Aberdeen City Council area, which propose an amendment to the boundary between the proposed Aberdeen Central and Aberdeen Donside constituencies. The amendment is at Woodside (between the railway and the River Don) and would place the whole of electoral ward 6 (Tillydrone / Seaton / Old Aberdeen) within the proposed Aberdeen Central constituency. The Commission is not proposing any other alterations to its Revised Recommendations for constituencies in the Aberdeen City Council area.

The Commission is also announcing today the arrangements for a Local Inquiry into its provisional proposals for Scottish Parliament Regions. However, the Inquiry will not be looking at the proposed North East Scotland region, which includes Aberdeen City Council area, since that proposal has attracted little adverse comment.

Further information on the proposals can be found on the Commission's website www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk and at a selection of local Council offices and libraries.

Any representations on the proposals should be submitted by 3 October 2009 by e-mail to representations@scottishboundaries.gov.uk; by using the reply facility on the Commission's web site; in writing to The Secretary, Boundary Commission for Scotland, 3 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 7QJ; or by fax to 0131 538 7511. Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, representations will be made available to those interested in the Review except in very exceptional circumstances.

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Notes for News Editors

This is one of a series of news releases explaining Further Recommendations for Scottish Parliament constituencies. The Commission is publishing Further Recommendations for constituencies in Aberdeen City; Argyll and Bute; and the City of Edinburgh Council areas.

This news release relates to the proposed revision of the proposed boundary between Aberdeen Central constituency and Aberdeen Donside constituency, under the Commission's Revised Recommendations. The Commission, responding to a request from Aberdeen City Council, agreed that the area of Woodside (between the railway and the River Don) should be included with the rest of electoral ward 6 within the proposed Aberdeen Central constituency. The Commission notes that the amendment prevents the division of electoral ward 6 and has a negligible effect on electorate numbers.

Further details of the Commission's Further Recommendations are:

Constituency	Designation	Electorate	Description
Aberdeen Central	Burgh Constituency	55,810	Aberdeen City Council electoral wards 5(part), 6, 7, 8, 10(part), 11(part), 12(part)
Aberdeen Donside	Burgh Constituency	55,530	Aberdeen City Council electoral wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5(part)

Local display points

Full details of the proposals are being made available for public inspection at:

- Aberdeen City Council Headquarters, Town House, Broad Street, Aberdeen;
- Central Library, Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen;
- Ferryhill Library, Fonthill Road, Aberdeen;
- Bridge of Don Library, Scotstown Road, Aberdeen.

Legal framework

This is the first review of constituencies and regions for the Scottish Parliament and is governed by the Scotland Act 1998 as amended by the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004.

The current constituency boundaries were established following the Commission's Fourth Periodical Report of Parliamentary Constituencies for the purpose of returning Scottish members to the Westminster Parliament, which was published in 1995. The current region boundaries were established as European Parliament constituencies in June 1996.

The Scotland Act 1998 envisaged that the boundaries of constituencies for the Westminster and Holyrood parliaments would be coterminous. This was amended by the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004, which fixed the number of constituencies for the Scottish Parliament at 73 and thus broke the

link between the Holyrood and Westminster constituencies. The Commission's Fifth Periodical Review was completed in 2004 and resulted in the number of Scottish constituencies for Westminster being reduced to 59.

The legislation stipulates:

- 73 constituencies returning members to the parliament, only 71 are subject to review – for Orkney and Shetland, the Act specifies that each will be a separate constituency;
- 8 regions in Scotland, all of which are subject to review. Each region returns 7 members to the Scottish Parliament;
- A set of rules for designing constituencies and regions.

The review

Changes in the distribution of electorate, as well as changes to local government areas since the existing constituencies were defined have led the Commission to conclude that a comprehensive review is required. The review was announced on 3 July 2007.

The Commission published its Provisional Proposals for constituencies on 14 February 2008 and published its Revised Recommendations for constituencies on 21 May 2009. This is the publication of Further Recommendations following consideration of comments received on the Revised Recommendations and only affects a small number of constituencies in City of Aberdeen, Argyll and Bute and the City of Edinburgh Council areas.

The Commission also published its provisional proposals for Scottish Parliament regions on 21 May 2009. The Local Inquiry is being held in response to the representations received concerning those proposals for regions which will consider the regions of East Central Scotland; Highlands and Islands; Lothian; South Scotland; and West Central Scotland.

The Commission is required to complete a review of the boundaries of constituencies and regions for the Scottish Parliament between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2010.

Constituency design

When designing constituencies, the Commission is required to observe rules which are set down in legislation. The legislation specifies that there are 73 constituencies for the Parliament. The legislation also requires the Commission to have regard to local authority boundaries, to make the electorate of each constituency as near to the average as practicable, to take into account special geographical considerations and to take account of inconveniences that would arise from, and local ties which would be broken by, alterations to constituencies.

The electoral quota for the review is 54,728 - this is the average number of electors in each constituency, outside Orkney and Shetland. The electoral quota is fixed and is used throughout the review.

In previous reviews of parliamentary constituencies in Scotland, the Commission relied on the use of local government wards as building blocks for constituencies. In 2007, a new structure of local government wards was introduced in Scotland to accommodate proportional representation for local authority elections, with much larger wards that each return either 3 or 4 members. As a result, in many areas across Scotland it is not possible to use the significantly enlarged wards to construct revised constituencies within the terms of the statutory rules. As a consequence, the boundaries for the proposed constituencies have been created from whichever geographic feature or boundary creates a constituency approaching electoral parity, while respecting community ties wherever possible.

Each constituency is designated as either a burgh constituency (BC) or county constituency (CC) – this designation affects the regulations concerning election expenditure.

Maps of Further Recommendations concerning Constituencies

The Commission has produced sets of maps showing its Further Recommendations for constituencies. The relevant maps are displayed at selected council offices and libraries for the duration of the consultation. The locations for display are listed in Statutory Notices which are being published today in newspapers, and are also available on the Commission's website. The maps are also available in PDF, GIF and TIF format on the Commission's website at www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk.

A media webpage giving access to images for use in media publications is available at:

http://www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk/1st_holyrood/media/Sept_09.htm .

Implementation of the Recommendations

The Commission is required to submit its report on the review to the Secretary of State for Scotland by 30 June 2010. It is the Secretary of State for Scotland's duty to lay the Commission's report before the UK Parliament together with a draft Order in Council giving effect to the recommendations. The draft Order is submitted to both Houses of Parliament for approval and the new boundaries take effect at the next general election to the Scottish Parliament following the making of the Order.

A copy of the Commission's report must also be laid before the Scottish Parliament.

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