

First Periodical Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries

Provisional proposals for constituencies for East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and West Lothian Council areas

Statement to be made by the Assistant Commissioner on behalf of the Commission at the opening of the Local Inquiry

Introduction

1. In view of the representations which were received concerning 14 out of the 16 constituencies proposed under the Commission's provisional proposals for the area covered by East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, and West Lothian Council areas, the Commission agreed that this Local Inquiry should take place, in accordance with paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 of the Scotland Act 1998, as amended by the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004. The 14 proposed constituencies in question are: Coatbridge and Central Airdrie; Cumbernauld and East Airdrie; Cumnock and Clydesdale; East Kilbride; Kilmarnock; Kirkintilloch, Chryston and Kilsyth; Lanark, Shotts and Whitburn; Linlithgow and Bathgate; Livingston; Motherwell and Wishaw; North Ayr and Troon; North Hamilton and Bellshill; Rutherglen; and South Hamilton and Larkhall. The Commission welcomes this Inquiry which provides an opportunity for local views to be heard as part of the process of reviewing Scottish Parliament boundaries. The Commission also welcomes the opportunity to explain the legislative provisions and procedures it must follow.

Background

2. The existing constituencies for the Scottish Parliament were defined by the Commission's Fourth Periodical Review of Parliamentary Constituencies which reported in December 1994. The Scotland Act 1998 determined that the boundaries of the constituencies for the Scottish and Westminster Parliaments should be the same, with one exception regarding Orkney and Shetland. Section 86 of the 1998 Act also envisaged that the number of constituencies would be reduced, and this occurred for Westminster constituencies with the Commission's Fifth Review, which reported in 2004, and which reduced the number of constituencies from 72 to 59. However, by that time, the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004 had severed the link between Westminster and Scottish Parliament constituencies. The 2004 Act determines that the number of constituencies for the Scottish Parliament should be 73, and requires that a review of the Scottish Parliament constituencies should start after 30 June 2007 and be completed by 30 June 2010. This is that review.

Redistribution of seats

3. In formulating its provisional proposals for constituencies, the Commission has a statutory duty to apply Schedule 1 of the Scotland Act 1998 as amended. That Schedule sets out a set of rules to be applied when designing constituencies.

4. The Commission's approach and the statutory rules for the redistribution of seats can be summarised as follows:

- There are to be 73 constituencies and the constituencies will be the Orkney Islands, the Shetland Islands and 71 other constituencies covering the remainder of Scotland.
- In applying the rules outlined below, the Commission must seek to achieve a balance between conflicting requirements and must do so in a way which, so far as practicable, is consistent throughout the whole of Scotland.

Rule 1 - So far as is practicable, regard must be had to the boundaries of local authority areas.

Rule 2 - The electorate of each constituency is to be as near the electoral quota as is practicable, while having regard to Rule 1. The electoral quota is determined by dividing the total number of local government electors on the July 2007 electoral registers for all of Scotland, except Orkney and Shetland, by 71. The electoral quota remains fixed throughout the period of a review, and for this review is 54,728 electors.

The Commission may depart from Rule 1 if it considers that it is desirable to do so in order to avoid an excessive disparity between the electorate of a constituency and the electoral quota or between the electorate of a constituency and that of neighbouring constituencies.

Rule 3 - The Commission may depart from the strict application of the preceding rules if it considers that special geographical considerations, including the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency, make a departure desirable.

Rule 4 - The Commission must take account, so far as it reasonably can, of inconveniences attendant on altering constituencies and of any local ties which would be broken by doing so.

Construction of constituencies

5. For previous reviews of parliamentary constituencies in Scotland the Commission has aggregated local government electoral wards to form constituencies. However, in 2007, a new structure of local government electoral arrangements was introduced to accommodate proportional representation for Council elections in Scotland. These wards are much larger than those previously in use, and each returns either 3 or 4 councillors. Preliminary work for this review of Scottish Parliament constituencies made it clear that in many areas across Scotland it would not be possible to use the significantly enlarged wards as building blocks to design revised constituencies within the terms of the statutory rules. As a consequence, the Commission has designed revised constituencies using electorate data from the July 2007 electoral register held within its computer mapping system. Proposed constituencies were designed within the terms of the statutory rules by aggregating electorate data and taking account of existing community ties and electoral ward boundaries, as well as other natural and administrative boundaries.

6. The Commission's recommendations for each constituency are required by statute to include a name by which it should be known and whether it is to be designated a burgh or county constituency. Where constituencies comprise predominantly urban areas, they will normally be designated as burgh constituencies (BC), and where constituencies are predominantly rural they will normally be designated as county constituencies (CC).

7. From past experience, the Commission is aware that the naming of constituencies can be a very contentious issue for the local electorate. The Commission's aim is to secure short names that are acceptable locally and to adopt a consistent naming convention. It is the general policy of the Commission to follow the advice provided by Councils, following the publication of provisional proposals, to determine final recommendations for constituency names. In this review, the Commission has taken the approach of uniformly placing names of compass points at the beginning of constituency names to differentiate Scottish Parliamentary constituency names from Westminster constituency names.

Election results and future voting patterns

8. The Commission wishes to emphasise that the results of previous elections have not entered into its consideration. Similarly, it is not for the Commission to speculate upon the effects which its recommendations may have on future voting patterns.

Local Authorities – boundaries and provision of services

9. The Commission wishes to emphasise that its review relates solely to boundaries for the Scottish Parliament and does not affect the structure or arrangements of local government areas or the services they provide. Parliamentary boundaries **do not** affect the provision of Council services or council tax.

The Review in East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and West Lothian Council Areas

10. When examining the existing Scottish Parliament constituencies for West and Central Scotland, including this group of Council areas and others to the north and west, the Commission noted that the distribution of electorate within the wider area, as well as significant changes to the electorates of existing constituencies, provided for particular problems which could not easily be resolved within the terms of the statutory rules. Further, the natural and built geographies, the distribution of areas of contiguous urban electorates at the boundaries between Council areas, and the rural nature of some areas presented added difficulties for the development of provisional proposals within the statutory rules. It was, however, clear to the Commission that it was not possible to leave the existing arrangements unchanged, or make minor alterations to them, because of large imbalances of electorate between the existing constituencies. Substantial change would be required.

11. Considering the wider area, Commissioners noted the position of City of Edinburgh, Dumfries and Galloway, Falkirk, Glasgow City, Highland and North Ayrshire Council areas and that they justified 6, 2, 2, 8, 3 and 2 constituencies respectively, wholly contained within their local authority areas. Satisfactory constituencies, each contained wholly within a Council area, could be devised for these local authority areas and it was therefore disadvantageous to include them with the Council areas which are the subject of the present Inquiry, for the purpose of developing new constituencies. Taking the above factors into consideration, two underlying options were developed for the 11 Council areas (23 constituencies) in West and Central Scotland. In producing the two options, it became evident to the Commission that there was no added benefit from involving any of the surrounding Council areas that fully justified constituencies wholly contained within their local authority areas.

12. It also became evident to the Commission that there was a pivotal point in the West Dunbartonshire/East Dunbartonshire Council areas which would significantly determine the configuration of the remainder of the constituencies for the overall area. It was possible either to combine part of West Dunbartonshire Council area with East Dunbartonshire Council area or to create a constituency spanning the River Clyde at Erskine. The Commission was aware that the latter alternative was a considerable departure from previous arrangements. Further, the Commission noted that it was not possible or practicable to combine preferred elements from the two options as both were self-contained.

13. In view of the difficulties involved, the Commission closely reviewed the former alternative but agreed that it was demonstrably less attractive over the wider area. It would be harder to design constituencies which came close to electoral parity and it would be necessary to divide communities such as Bearsden, Milngavie, Bishopbriggs and Kirkintilloch at the interface between West Dunbartonshire and East Dunbartonshire Council areas. The Commission also agreed that the latter alternative, which saw a single constituency cross the River Clyde to bring together Clydebank on the north side of the river with Renfrew, Erskine and Bishopton on the south side of the river, better met the electoral quota and produced well-defined boundaries.

14. Having considered the overall pattern of proposed constituencies under both options, the Commission, on balance, preferred the option of crossing the Clyde. The proposed constituencies could then be grouped into 2 blocks of Council areas. Block 1 of these constituencies brought together Argyll and Bute, West Dunbartonshire, Inverclyde, Renfrewshire, and East Renfrewshire, providing for 7 constituencies. This was further developed to become the Commission's provisional proposals for West Scotland. Block 2

brought together East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, and West Lothian Council areas whose theoretical entitlements to seats are 1.69, 1.47, 4.57, 1.63, 4.46 and 2.25 respectively, providing for 16 constituencies. This was further developed to become the Commission's provisional proposals for South West and Central Scotland. The 6 Council areas have a combined electorate of 879,450 giving a theoretical entitlement of 16.07 seats and therefore justifying a configuration of 16 constituencies covering the whole area.

15. In determining the detail for revised constituencies, the Commission recognised that it was not possible to create constituencies that were all within single local authority areas as such an approach would give rise to significant divergence from electoral parity. It was noted that the geography of the combined 6 Council areas would significantly influence the configuration of constituencies, especially at the extremities, where in many instances the possibilities for forming constituencies were limited. The Commission also recognised that there would be no added benefit from combining these 6 Council areas with any of the adjacent Council areas of City of Edinburgh, Dumfries and Galloway, Falkirk, Glasgow and North Ayrshire in order to configure revised arrangements for constituencies at the Scottish Parliament. Added to this was the geography at the interface between West Lothian and Midlothian Council areas and the distribution of electorates in both areas which prevented combining these two Council areas.

16. Taking the above circumstances into account and noting that East and South Ayrshire Council areas had a combined theoretical entitlement of 3.32 seats under the electoral quota (1.69 and 1.63 respectively), it was evident to the Commission that it would be necessary to divide these two Council areas among four constituencies in order to comply with the statutory rules, and that it also would be necessary to have a cross-council constituency which included parts of South Lanarkshire Council.

17. The imbalances of electorate that had occurred in the existing Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Ayr; and Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituencies, and the geographical position of these constituencies, necessitated significant change to the current arrangements. This led the Commission to conclude that the northern boundary of the existing Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley constituency required amendment and movement southward in order to produce a revised constituency that complied with the statutory rules. In considering the configuration of the proposed revised constituency, the Commission noted that under existing arrangements Ayr was already divided between two constituencies and that East Ayrshire Council wards 7-9 were located within the existing cross-council constituency of Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley. The Commission concluded that the division of Ayr should remain and that the town could be divided along the northern boundaries of the current South Ayrshire Council wards 4 (Ayr East) and 5 (Ayr West) thereby, for the most part, using the well-defined feature of the River Ayr as a natural division within the town. This coupled with the use of the eastern boundary of the current East Ayrshire Council ward 9 (Doon Valley) produced an acceptable constituency (South Ayr, Carrick and Doon Valley) which was broadly based on the existing constituency. Furthermore, the proposal fully respected local government ward boundaries.

18. The Commission also concluded that a further acceptable constituency (North Ayr and Troon) could be configured by combining South Ayrshire Council wards 1-3 and 6 and including the East Ayrshire communities of Galston and Mauchline. Both are Ayrshire communities and Mauchline is currently included in a cross-council constituency with South Ayrshire. The Commission noted that the distribution and density of electorate within the area precluded full alignment with local government ward boundaries and that the disparate communities of the proposed constituency were linked through the major roads of the A719 and A76. This constituency was again broadly based on the existing constituency.

19. The Commission agreed that the existing Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency had too large an electorate to remain unchanged. It was also recognised that the prevailing geographical circumstances indicated that, to develop a revised constituency compliant with the statutory rules without dividing Kilmarnock would require the creation of a constituency that included Kilmarnock and the communities along, and to the north of, the M77. The

Commission agreed upon a proposed constituency along these lines and named it Kilmarnock.

20. It followed that, having determined the need for a cross-council constituency involving an area of South Lanarkshire, the communities of Newmilns, Darvel, Catrine, Auchinleck, Cumnock and Muirkirk would need to be included in such a cross-council constituency. In developing the proposed Cumnock and Clydesdale constituency the Commission considered that the communities of the eastern part of East Ayrshire Council area and the southern extent of South Lanarkshire were of a similar rural nature and would therefore produce an acceptable constituency under the prevailing circumstances.

21. The existing constituency of East Kilbride has too large an electorate to remain unchanged and the existing cross-council constituency of Glasgow Rutherglen required amendment as a result of Glasgow City Council area fully justifying 8 constituencies wholly contained within the Council area. Examination of these areas by the Commission determined that combining South Lanarkshire Council wards 6-10, which represent the contiguous urban settlement of East Kilbride, produced an acceptable constituency (East Kilbride) which went some way to addressing the issue of under representation and prevented the division of the town. Furthermore, the proposal fully respected local government ward boundaries.

22. The Commission also considered that combining South Lanarkshire Council wards 11-15 (with the exception of the south eastern part of ward 15) enabled a large part of the existing Glasgow Rutherglen constituency to be retained, combined similar urban communities of Rutherglen, Cambuslang and Blantyre in a single constituency (Rutherglen) and, although slightly over the electoral quota, prevented the division of these communities. Again, this proposal, for the most part, respected local government ward boundaries.

23. With regard to the existing constituencies of Hamilton North and Bellshill; Hamilton South; and Motherwell and Wishaw, the Commission concluded that the distribution of electorate and the nature of contiguous urban electorates in these areas, which are located near the local authority administrative boundary, necessitated configurations close to the existing arrangements. However, the Commission agreed that the existing Hamilton South constituency had too small an electorate to remain unchanged. It was therefore accepted that the continued division of Hamilton remained necessary and that the north part of the town should form a cross-council constituency with parts of North Lanarkshire Council area. The Commission agreed to revised constituencies that were closely based on existing arrangements but, where possible, amended these to better fit with local government ward geography. The resulting revised constituencies were named Hamilton North and Bellshill; Hamilton South and Larkhall; and Motherwell and Wishaw.

24. Taking account of the conclusions regarding the wider area and that East Dunbartonshire has a theoretical entitlement of 1.47 seats, it was evident to the Commission that it would be necessary to divide the East Dunbartonshire Council area between two constituencies. The Commission also recognised that one of these two constituencies would have to include parts of North Lanarkshire Council because of East Dunbartonshire's position within this group of Council areas. After further examination, the Commission concluded that combining East Dunbartonshire wards 1-3, 5 and 6 produced an acceptable proposed constituency in community terms and with regard to the electoral quota. A second cross-council constituency was developed by combining East Dunbartonshire wards 4, 7 and 8 with North Lanarkshire wards 1 and 5. The proposed constituency fully respects local government ward boundaries. The two proposed constituencies were named Milngavie and Bishopbriggs; and Kirkintilloch, Chryston and Kilsyth respectively.

25. The Commission noted that the existing constituencies of Airdrie and Shotts; and Coatbridge and Chryston had only marginally changed in terms of electorate. However, the Commission found that it was not possible to leave these constituencies unaltered in pursuit of acceptable arrangements that covered the wider area. Although several alternatives were looked at, the Commission concluded that the town of Airdrie would require to be divided between two constituencies and agreed that one of the constituencies (Coatbridge and Central Airdrie) should combine the contiguous urban settlements of Coatbridge and Airdrie

that lay to the north of the M8 and west of the A73. The Commission decided that the other constituency (Cumbernauld and East Airdrie) should combine eastern parts of Airdrie and other smaller settlements to the north and east of Airdrie with Cumbernauld. It was noted that the A73 and A89 provided links between the disparate parts of the proposed constituency. Both proposed constituencies complied with the statutory rules and followed, for the most part, well-defined boundaries.

26. Early on in its considerations, the Commission noted that only one of the initial underlying options for the wider area allowed for a redesign of constituencies in West Lothian which, if unchanged, would result in the electorate of West Lothian being significantly under represented. It was also determined at an early stage that it would not be possible, for reasons outlined earlier in this paper, to combine West Lothian with Edinburgh, Falkirk or Midlothian. Examination of both initial underlying options led the Commission to conclude, taking account of the wider area, that the first option which involved amendment to the existing West Lothian constituencies should be adopted and developed further.

27. In determining more detailed revised constituencies for West Lothian, the Commission concluded that two revised constituencies could be developed which, for the main part, respected local government ward boundaries and divided the constituencies along the M8. In addressing the imbalances of electorate between the existing West Lothian constituencies and considering constituency design over the wider area, it was deemed necessary to develop a cross-council constituency. It also became evident that this would require combining parts of West Lothian, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Council areas. The Commission investigated the possibility of an alternative which would not involve the inclusion of 3 local authority areas within a single constituency but did not find a satisfactory solution. The Commission therefore agreed that, overall, its published provisional proposals produced arrangements that were more satisfactory under the terms of the statutory rules than other possible alternatives.

28. In developing the proposed Lanark, Shotts and Whitburn cross-council constituency, the Commission noted that it was possible to create a compact constituency, which was well connected by transport routes, across the 3 Council areas involved.

29. The Commission recognises that it faced considerable difficulties in developing arrangements for West and Central Scotland that complied with the statutory rules. The Commission believes that its provisional proposals reflect community considerations where possible, meet the demands set by the electoral quota, provide for well balanced electorates across the wider area and, for the most part, offer strong, easily identifiable boundaries.

30. The Commission, therefore, proposes that South Ayrshire Council wards 1-3 and 6 and East Ayrshire Council wards 6 (part) and 7 (part) should be combined to form North Ayr and Troon CC (53,610 electors); South Ayrshire Council wards 4, 5, 7, 8 and East Ayrshire Council ward 9 should be combined to form South Ayr, Carrick and Doon Valley CC (52,260 electors); North Lanarkshire Council wards 6 (part), 7 (part), 8, 9, 10 and 11 (part) should be combined to form Coatbridge and Central Airdrie BC (59,940 electors); North Lanarkshire Council wards 2, 3, 4, 6 (part), 7 (part) and 11 (part) should be combined to form Cumbernauld and East Airdrie CC (56,910 electors); South Lanarkshire Council wards 3 (part), 4, 5 (part) and East Ayrshire Council wards 6 (part), 7 (part) and 8 should be combined to form Cumnock and Clydesdale CC (51,630 electors); South Lanarkshire Council wards 6-10 should be combined to form East Kilbride BC (58,630 electors); North Lanarkshire Council wards 13, 14, 15 and 17 (part) and South Lanarkshire Council wards 15 (part), 16, 17 (part) should be combined to form North Hamilton and Bellshill BC (56,360 electors); South Lanarkshire Council wards 5 (part), 15 (part), 17 (part), 18, 19 and 20 should be combined to form South Hamilton and Larkhall CC (58,460 electors); East Ayrshire Council wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 (part) should be combined to form Kilmarnock CC (51,280 electors); East Dunbartonshire Council wards 4, 7, 8 and North Lanarkshire Council wards 1 and 5 should be combined to form Kirkintilloch, Chryston and Kilsyth CC (52,990 electors); South Lanarkshire Council wards 1, 2, 3 (part), North Lanarkshire Council ward 12 and West Lothian Council wards 6 (part) and 7 (part) should be combined to form Lanark, Shotts and

Whitburn CC (54,930 electors); West Lothian Council wards 1, 2, 7 (part), 8 and 9 should be combined to form Linlithgow and Bathgate CC (54,230 electors); West Lothian Council wards 3, 4, 5 and 6 (part) should be combined to form Livingston CC (54,840 electors); East Dunbartonshire Council wards 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 should be combined to form Milngavie and Bishopbriggs CC (51,530 electors); North Lanarkshire Council wards 16, 17 (part), 18, 19 and 20 should be combined to form Motherwell and Wishaw BC (54,780 electors); and South Lanarkshire Council wards 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 (part) should be combined to form Rutherglen BC (57,070 electors).

Publication of provisional proposals for constituencies

31. In accordance with the Scotland Act 1998 as amended, statutory notices setting out the Commission's provisional proposals for constituencies were published in newspapers on 14 February 2008. Information on the proposals, with illustrative maps, was placed on deposit at locations in each of the Council areas and made available on the Commission's website. The statutory notice stated that representations regarding its proposals should be made to the Commission by 14 March 2008 – the length of the consultation period being fixed by the legislation. The statutory notice was reissued on 19 February to correct an error in the listing of wards for Kilmarnock CC and the period for representations for that area extended to 21 March. The Commission is required to consider representations made about its provisional proposals and to hold a Local Inquiry if the issues raised are sufficient. Any person may make a representation at this inquiry whether or not they have previously submitted a representation to the Commission.

Representations

32. In response to the statutory consultation period, the Commission received over 1290 representations relating to its proposals for East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and West Lothian Council areas. A copy of all the representations is available for scrutiny at this inquiry. The main issues that have arisen from the publication of the Commission's provisional proposals concern:

Wider Area

- whether an alternative configuration for 16 constituencies that takes greater account of local authority and local government ward boundaries should be adopted;
- whether an alternative grouping involving Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire should be adopted to configure more acceptable constituencies over the wider area;
- whether the Ayrshire and Renfrewshire local authorities should be grouped together to configure more acceptable constituencies over the wider area;
- whether alternative proposals should be adopted for three constituencies covering Clydesdale; Cumnock and the Irvine and Doon Valleys; and North Ayr and Troon, including further suggestions on the distribution of the remnants of the Commission's proposed Lanark, Shotts and Whitburn constituency; and
- support for the proposals.

Ayrshire

- whether or not the 3 Ayrshire Councils should instead be grouped together to provide for 5 constituencies wholly contained within Ayrshire boundaries;
- whether the existing Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency should be retained;
- objection to the removal of Cumnock, Auchinleck, New Cumnock and Muirkirk from the existing Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley constituency and to the creation of the proposed Cumnock and Clydesdale constituency;
- objection to the splitting of the Ballochmyle Ward in East Ayrshire, with parts being included in cross-council constituency with areas of South Lanarkshire Council and other parts included in a cross-council constituency with South Ayrshire; and
- objection to the splitting of Kilmarnock.

East Dunbartonshire

- whether East Dunbartonshire Council area should instead be wholly contained within a single constituency;
- whether Kirkintilloch and Lenzie should be included in a constituency with Bishopbriggs;
- whether Bearsden should be included in the name for the proposed Milngavie and Bishopbriggs constituency;
- whether the proposed Milngavie and Bishopbriggs constituency should be renamed Bearsden, Milngavie and Bishopbriggs;
- whether the proposed Milngavie and Bishopbriggs constituency should be renamed Strathkelvin;
- objection to the proposals and their impacts on the existing constituencies;
- objection to the cross-council constituency of Kirkintilloch, Chryston and Kilsyth; and
- support for the proposed Milngavie and Bishopbriggs constituency.

North Lanarkshire

- whether the five existing constituencies within North Lanarkshire Council area should be retained and remain unchanged;
- whether there should be an East Dunbartonshire constituency, a Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency, a Coatbridge and Chryston constituency, an Airdrie and Shotts constituency and a Motherwell and Wishaw constituency;
- whether the whole of Airdrie should instead be contained within a single constituency;
- whether the existing Airdrie and Shotts constituency should remain unaltered;
- whether Airdrie and the surrounding villages along with the remainder of urban Airdrie and Shotts (thus including all of wards 7 and 11 in a single constituency) should be included in a single constituency;
- whether the existing Coatbridge and Chryston constituency should remain unaltered;
- whether Carfin and Jerviston should be included in the Motherwell and Wishaw constituency and whether Newmains should be included in Lanark, Shotts and Whitburn constituency;
- whether the division of North Lanarkshire ward 6 (Glenboig) could be avoided by including the majority of the ward in the proposed Coatbridge and Central Airdrie constituency;
- whether an alternative to the proposed Cumbernauld and East Airdrie constituency should be configured based on the Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch conurbations;
- whether the status quo should prevail;
- objection to Coatbridge and Central Airdrie; and Cumbernauld and East Airdrie constituencies due to the division of communities;
- objection to the division of Glenboig (ward 6);
- objection to the division of Airdrie;
- objection to all 6 constituencies that intersect with North Lanarkshire Council area;
- objection to the proposed constituency name of Coatbridge and Central Airdrie; and
- support in general for the proposed Coatbridge and Central Airdrie constituency subject to the inclusion of all of ward 6 (Glenboig) in the proposed Coatbridge and Central Airdrie constituency.

South Lanarkshire

- whether minimal changes could be made to the existing constituencies;
- whether Hamilton should instead be contained within a single constituency;
- whether Clydesdale should instead be contained within a single constituency;
- whether Stonehouse should instead be included in the proposed Cumnock and Clydesdale constituency;
- whether the High Blantyre/Springwells area of ward 15 (Blantyre) should instead be included in the proposed Rutherglen constituency;

- whether Carluke should be included in the name for the proposed Cumnock and Clydesdale constituency;
- objection to the Cumnock and Clydesdale constituency and that Carluke and Lanark are excluded from the constituency;
- objection to Leadhills being in a constituency with Cumnock;
- objection to Biggar being in a constituency with East Ayrshire and Lanark being in a separate constituency;
- objection to Clydesdale being linked in a cross-council constituency with Cumnock and Ayrshire;
- objection to Stonehouse being in a constituency with Cumnock and Clydesdale; and
- support for the inclusion of Hamilton (part) and Larkhall in the same constituency, but suggesting that the Whitehill and Old Town should instead be included in this constituency.

West Lothian

- whether West Lothian Council should be grouped with Falkirk Council to produce an alternative configuration;
- whether there should be two constituencies wholly contained within the West Lothian Council area;
- objection to the division of local government wards within West Lothian;
- objection to the proposed Lanark, Shotts and Whitburn constituency;
- objection to all 3 constituencies in West Lothian Council area; and
- objection to the proposed boundaries for the Linlithgow and Bathgate constituency.

Lanark, Shotts and Whitburn Constituency

- objection to a constituency that incorporates 3 Local Authority areas;
- objection to the proposed Lanark, Shotts and Whitburn constituency on the grounds that there are no links whatsoever between the 3 areas, be they historical, cultural or social; and
- objection to the link between North and South Lanarkshire Council areas stating that there is a clear division between communities.