

SCOTLAND OFFICE

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



**Not for Publication, Broadcast or use on Club Tapes
before 0001 Hours on 8 July 2008**

Local inquiries into proposed constituencies for the Scottish Parliament

The Boundary Commission for Scotland has announced arrangements for Local Inquiries into its provisional proposals for revised Scottish Parliament constituencies.

The timetable for Local Inquiries is set out on the following page. Each Inquiry will begin in the morning on the first day noted at each venue, and finish when those present and wishing to give evidence have done so.

Local Inquiries are conducted by a Sheriff Principal appointed as an Assistant Commissioner for the purpose. After the Local Inquiry, the Assistant Commissioner submits a report to the Commission which then considers whether to modify its provisional proposals in the light of the report and all the representations received.

Further information concerning each Local Inquiry will be publicised 4 weeks before the Inquiry. At that stage, the Commission will be contacting those who made representations on the provisional proposals. The further information will also be made available at local libraries and council offices prior to the Local Inquiries, in the same way as was the case for the provisional proposals themselves. This information will include summaries of the representations received concerning the Commission's provisional proposals, a statement from the Commission to the Local Inquiry, a provisional order of business for the Local Inquiry, and an explanatory booklet about the Local Inquiries.

As a result of the nature and number of representations received, Local Inquiries are not being held for any part of Dundee City, Falkirk, Glasgow City, North Ayrshire, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar council areas. For these areas, the Commission will consider all representations received, and consider whether to revise its provisional proposals.

When the Commission publishes its revised recommendations for constituencies, it will also publish its provisional proposals for Scottish Parliament regions.

All of the information on the Local Inquiries will be made available on the Commission's website (www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk).

**First Periodical Review of Scottish Parliament boundaries
Provisional Proposals for constituencies
Local Inquiries**

Summary

Area	Assistant Commissioner	Dates	Venue
Perth and Kinross	Sheriff Principal Dunlop	Wed 20 - Thu 21 Aug	AK Bell Library, Perth
West of Scotland	Sheriff Principal Kerr	Tue 26 - Thur 28 Aug Mon 1 - Tue 2 Sept	Paisley Sheriff Court, Paisley Clydebank Town Hall, Clydebank
Edinburgh	Sheriff Principal Bowen	Tue 9 - Wed 10 Sept	Midlothian Suite, Lothian Chambers, Edinburgh
Fife	Sheriff Principal Dunlop	Mon 15 - Tue 16 Sept	Council Chamber, Fife House, Glenrothes
South West and Central Scotland	Sheriff Principal Lockhart	Tue 23 - Wed 24 Sept Fri 26 Sept, Mon 29 Sept Tue 30 Sept - Wed 1 Oct	Airdrie (venue to be confirmed) County Buildings, Ayr Council Offices, Lanark
South East Scotland	Sheriff Principal Bowen	Tue 7 - Wed 8 Oct Tue 14 - Wed 15 Oct Thur 16 - Fri 17 Oct	Loanhead Miners' Club, Loanhead, Midlothian Eastgate Theatre, Peebles Brunton Hall, Musselburgh
Dumfries and Galloway	Sheriff Principal Lockhart	Tue 21 - Wed 22 Oct	DG One, Dumfries
North East Scotland	Sheriff Principal Young	Mon 27 - Tue 28 Oct Mon 3 - Tue 4 Nov	Town House, Aberdeen Fisherman's Hall, Buckie
Clacks and Stirling	Sheriff Principal Dunlop	Tue 11 - Wed 12 Nov	Stirling Municipal Buildings, Stirling
Highland	Sheriff Principal Young	Wed 19 - Thu 20 Nov	Town House, Inverness

Notes for News Editors

Background

This is the first review of boundaries for the Scottish Parliament. The Boundary Commission for Scotland is required to submit its report on the review to the Secretary of State for Scotland by 30 June 2010.

The review will propose revised constituency boundaries for all 73 Scottish Parliament constituencies except Orkney and Shetland, where the legislation specifies that each will be a separate constituency. A later stage of the review will also propose revised region boundaries for the 8 Scottish Parliament regions.

The Commission

Boundary Commission for Scotland is an advisory Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored and wholly funded by the Scotland Office. It is an independent, non-political body constituted by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, with duties under the Scotland Act 1998 to review boundaries for the Scottish Parliament.

Implementation of the Recommendations

Once the Commission submits its report, 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 constituency 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.

Contact for Further Information:

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