

# SCOTLAND OFFICE

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



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before 0001 Hours on 21 May 2009**

**First Periodic Review of Scottish Parliament boundaries  
Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray Council areas  
Revised Recommendations for constituencies and Provisional  
Proposals for regions**

**Commission launches public consultation on proposals for  
Scottish Parliament boundaries**

The Boundary Commission for Scotland today publishes its Revised Recommendations for constituencies and its Provisional Proposals for regions as part of its first review of boundaries for the Scottish Parliament. The review of Scottish Parliament boundaries is unrelated to the elections for the European Parliament.

The Commission has produced its Revised Recommendations for constituencies in the Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Moray Council areas in response to representations received and the report of the Local Inquiry held in Aberdeen and Buckie in October and November 2008. The Revised Recommendations for constituencies continue to recommend nine constituencies exactly covering the combined area of these councils, but make amendments to a number of the boundaries and names of the proposed constituencies.

The Commission's Revised Recommendations adopt alternative configurations submitted by Aberdeen City Council and by Angus Council. Both of these alternatives were recommended by the Assistant Commissioner in his report following the Local Inquiry. The Commission has not amended its proposed constituency boundaries elsewhere in this area. The amended constituency names have been chosen to reflect comments received during the consultation, the altered extent of some constituencies, and the wish to have names that are distinct from those used for Westminster constituencies.

The changes to the Commission's Provisional Proposals can be summarised as follows:

- In the Angus council area, wards 2 (Brechin & Edzell) and 3 (Forfar & District) have been transferred to North Angus and Mearns constituency (East Angus and Mearns under the earlier proposals) from South Angus (West Angus under the earlier proposals), and wards 6 (Arbroath West & Letham) and 7 (Arbroath East & Lunan) have been transferred in the opposite direction;
- The three provisional constituencies within the Aberdeen City Council area have been substantially altered to better reflect community considerations and now conform to an alternative suggested by Aberdeen City Council. The Commission is now recommending a northerly constituency named Aberdeen Donside, a constituency named Aberdeen Central, and a constituency named Aberdeen South and North Kincardine.

The full set of constituencies recommended for these council areas is:

Aberdeen Central	55,730 electors
Aberdeen Donside	55,610 electors
Aberdeen South and North Kincardine	54,240 electors
Aberdeenshire East	54,690 electors
Aberdeenshire West	53,060 electors
Angus North and Mearns	51,340 electors
Angus South	54,350 electors
Banffshire and Buchan Coast	56,140 electors
Moray	56,110 electors

The Commission has also made Provisional Proposals for the 8 Scottish Parliament regions. The Commission proposes that the North East Scotland region will include the constituencies in these council areas (apart from Moray constituency), and the constituencies in Dundee City council area. This will result in a region containing 540,310 electors which is 10.3% above the average electorate of all the regions.

The Commission also proposes that Highlands and Islands region will include the Moray constituency together with constituencies covering Argyll & Bute, Highland and the island council areas, together with part of West Dunbartonshire. This will result in a region containing 388,990 electors which is 20.6% below the average electorate of all the regions.

The Commission has also announced that if Scottish Ministers have implemented local authority boundary changes arising from current reviews by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland before this parliamentary review is completed, it intends to incorporate those changes.

Further information on the proposals can be found on the Commission's website [www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk) at Council headquarters offices and at a selection of local Council offices and libraries.

The public's views are sought on these proposals. Representations should be submitted by 21 June 2009 by e-mail to [representations@scottishboundaries.gov.uk](mailto: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.

The Commission's Secretary, Dr Hugh Buchanan said: "The Commission believes that these recommendations provide a good basis for Scottish Parliament boundaries. It is keen to hear any views on them, whether in agreement with the proposals or not."

The Commission expects to complete the review and submit its report to the Secretary of State for Scotland by 30 June 2010.

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## Notes for News Editors

This is one of a series of News Releases explaining the Commission's proposals for different parts of Scotland.

Further details of the Commission's proposals are:

Constituency	Designation	Electorate	Description
Aberdeen Central	Burgh Constituency	55,730	Aberdeen City Council electoral wards 5(part), 6(part), 7, 8, 10(part), 11(part), 12(part)
Aberdeen Donside	Burgh Constituency	55,610	Aberdeen City Council electoral wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5(part), 6(part)
Aberdeen South and North Kincardine	County Constituency	54,240	Aberdeen City Council electoral wards 9, 10(part), 11(part), 12(part), 13; Aberdeenshire Council electoral ward 17
Aberdeenshire East	County Constituency	54,690	Aberdeenshire Council electoral wards 4, 6(part), 7, 8, 9, 11, 12(part)
Aberdeenshire West	County Constituency	53,060	Aberdeenshire Council electoral wards 10, 12(part), 13, 14, 15, 16, 18(part)
Angus North and Mearns	County Constituency	51,340	Aberdeenshire Council electoral wards 18(part), 19; Angus Council electoral wards 2, 3, 8
Angus South	County Constituency	54,350	Angus Council electoral wards 1, 4, 5, 6, 7
Banffshire and Buchan Coast	County Constituency	56,140	Aberdeenshire Council electoral wards 1, 2, 3, 5, 6(part); Moray Council electoral wards 2(part), 3
Moray	County Constituency	56,110	Moray Council electoral wards 1, 2(part), 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Region	Electorate	Description
North East Scotland	540,310	The constituencies of Aberdeen Central; Aberdeen Donside; Aberdeen South and North Kincardine; Aberdeenshire East; Aberdeenshire West; Angus North and Mearns; Angus South; Banffshire and Buchan Coast; Dundee City East; Dundee City West.
Highlands and Islands	388,990	The constituencies of Argyllshire and Bute; Caithness, Sutherland and Ross; Dumbarton; Inverness and Nairn; Moray; Na h-Eileanan an Iar; Orkney Islands; Shetland Islands; Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch.

### Local display points

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

#### Aberdeen City

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

#### Aberdeenshire

- Aberdeenshire Council Headquarters, Woodhill House, Westburn Road, Aberdeen;
- Arbuthnot House, 62 Broad Street, Peterhead;

- St Leonard's, Sandyhill Road, Banff;
- Gordon House, Blackhall Road, Inverurie;
- Viewmount, Arduthie Road, Stonehaven;
- Area Office, Bridge Street, Ellon;
- Area Office, School Road, Alford.

#### Angus

- Angus Council Headquarters, Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar;
- Arbroath Library, Hill Terrace, Arbroath;
- Montrose Library, High Street, Montrose;
- Monifieth Library, High Street, Monifieth;
- Carnoustie Library, High Street, Carnoustie;
- Forfar Library, West High Street, Forfar;
- Brechin Library, St Ninians Square, Brechin;
- Kirriemuir Library, Town Hall, Reform Street, Kirriemuir.

#### Moray

- Elgin Access Point, The Moray Council, Council Office, High Street, Elgin;
- Keith Access Point, The Moray Council, The Institute, 138-144 High Street, Keith;
- Buckie Access Point, 13 Cluny Square, Buckie;
- Forres Access Point, Auchernack, High Street, Forres.

### **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. This is the publication of Revised Recommendations following consideration of comments received on those Provisional Proposals.

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 and region design**

When designing constituencies and regions, the Commission is required to observe rules which are set down in legislation. The rules for constituencies include requirements to have regard to local authority boundaries; to aim to have the same number of electors in each constituency; to take account of special geographical considerations; and to consider the local effects of alterations. The rules for regions include requirements to form each region by combining a number of constituencies; to take account of special geographical considerations; and to aim to have the same number of electors in each region.

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. The average electorate for each region is 489,914.

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 Current and Proposed Constituencies and Regions**

The Commission has produced sets of maps showing the current constituency and region boundaries, its Provisional Proposals and its Revised Recommendations. The relevant maps are displayed at selected council offices, libraries, etc. 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](http://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/April\\_09.htm](http://www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk/1st_holyrood/media/April_09.htm) .

### **Local Inquiries**

Where representations objecting to a proposal concerning a constituency are made by a local authority covering the constituency, or by a body of 100 or more electors resident in the proposed constituency, and no Local Inquiry has already been held in the area as part of the review, the Commission will hold a Local Inquiry. Otherwise, a Local Inquiry may be held, but is not obligatory.

Where representations objecting to a proposal concerning a region are made by a council whose area is wholly or partly within the region, or by a body of 500 or more electors in the proposed region, and no Local Inquiry has already been held about the proposal as part of the review, the Commission will hold a Local Inquiry. Otherwise, a Local Inquiry may be held, but is not obligatory.

### **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.

### **Elections to the European Parliament**

The Commission is aware that these proposals are being published during preparations for the European Parliament elections on 4 June 2009. In deciding upon the publication date for these proposals, the Commission took this into account, together with the constraints of the legislative timetable governing the review. A later publication date would jeopardise the required completion of the review by June 2010.

### **Contact for Further Information:**

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