

# SCOTLAND OFFICE

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



**Not for Publication, Broadcast or use on Club Tapes  
before 0001 Hours on 21 May 2009**

**First Periodic Review of Scottish Parliament boundaries  
East Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire 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 East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Council areas in response to representations received and the reports of the Local Inquiries held in Airdrie, Ayr and Lanark during September and October of 2008. The Revised Recommendations significantly depart from those proposed under the Commission's Provisional Proposals for the South West and Central Scotland area.

The Commission's Revised Recommendations comply with the recommendations made by the Assistant Commissioner, who reported on the Local Inquiries. The Commission's Revised Recommendations propose three constituencies exactly covering the combined council areas of East and South Ayrshire and more closely follow existing arrangements for the Scottish Parliament. The Revised Recommendations also fully respect local government electoral ward boundaries. Constituency names have been altered from the Provisional Proposals for all three constituencies to reflect the changes, and to distinguish from names in use for Westminster constituencies.

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

- The Commission had proposed a constituency that combined parts of East Ayrshire with parts of South Lanarkshire - this is no longer the case;
- The recommended Ayr constituency contains the whole of the town of Ayr, together with Troon and Prestwick;
- Ward 6 in the Irvine Valley around Galston is now in a single constituency - Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley.

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

Ayr	61,250 electors
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	59,580 electors
Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley	61,070 electors

The Commission has also made Provisional Proposals for the 8 Scottish Parliament regions. The South Scotland region will include the constituencies covering East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire council areas, along with the constituencies covering Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders council areas and parts of Midlothian and South Lanarkshire council areas. This will result in a region containing 465,770 electors which is 4.9% below the average electorate of all the regions.

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.

\*\*\* ends \*\*\*

## 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
Ayr	Burgh Constituency	61,250	South Ayrshire Council electoral wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	County Constituency	59,580	East Ayrshire Council electoral wards 7, 8, 9; South Ayrshire Council electoral wards 6, 7, 8
Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley	County Constituency	61,070	East Ayrshire Council electoral wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Region	Electorate	Description
South Scotland	465,770	The constituencies of Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Clydesdale; Dumfriesshire; Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire; Galloway and West Dumfries; Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley; Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale.

### Local display points

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

#### East Ayrshire

- East Ayrshire Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock;
- Cumnock Library, 25-27 Ayr Road, Cumnock;
- Dalmellington Library, Townhead, Dalmellington;
- Dick Institute, 1Elmbank Avenue, Kilmarnock;
- Newmilns Library, 4 Craigview Road, Newmilns;
- Stewarton Library, 3 Avenue Square, Stewarton.

#### South Ayrshire

- South Ayrshire Council, County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr;
- Girvan Area Housing Office, 19 Knockcushan Street, Girvan;
- Maybole Area Housing Office, 70 High Street, Maybole;
- Prestwick Area Housing Office, 2 The Cross, Prestwick;
- South Ayrshire Council, Burns House, Burns Statue Square, Ayr;
- Troon Area Housing Office, Municipal Buildings, Troon.

### 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:**

Dr Hugh Buchanan

Secretary to the Boundary Commission for Scotland

Tel: 0131 538 7513

Mobile: 07770 735056

[hugh.buchanan@scottishboundaries.gov.uk](mailto:hugh.buchanan@scottishboundaries.gov.uk)

[www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk)