



Orkney Islands Council Area and Shetland Islands Council Area

Introduction

1. The whole of the combined council areas of Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands is currently covered by a single constituency. The electorates of the constituency at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our provisional proposals for Orkney Islands Council area and Shetland Islands Council area we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Orkney Islands Council area contained 15,394 parliamentary electors.

2.2 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Shetland Islands Council area contained 16,787 parliamentary electors.

2.3 The combined parliamentary electorate of Orkney Islands Council area and Shetland Islands Council area was 32,181, giving a theoretical entitlement of 0.5 seats.

2.4 Changes to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, arising from the terms of the Scotland Act 1998, require that a constituency which includes the Orkney Islands or the Shetland Islands shall not include the whole or part of a local government area other than the Orkney Islands and the Shetland Islands.

3. The legislation does not preclude the possibility of Orkney Islands Council area and Shetland Islands Council area each comprising one seat. We agreed, however, that there was no good reason why the present arrangements for representation at Westminster should be altered.

Provisional Proposals

4. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals, stating that no alteration was to be made to the boundaries of the existing Orkney and Shetland constituency. Our proposals for a county constituency covering Orkney Islands Council area and Shetland Islands Council area were as follows:

Constituency	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Orkney and Shetland CC	All electoral wards in Orkney Islands Council area	15,394
	All electoral wards in Shetland Islands Council area	16,787
	Total	32,181

Representations on Provisional Proposals

5. During the statutory consultation period, we received 2 representations regarding our provisional proposals for Orkney Islands Council area and Shetland Islands Council area from the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party and the Scottish Liberal Democrats who supported the continuing provision for one constituency comprising the Orkney Islands Council area and the Shetland Islands Council area.

6. Following the end of the statutory consultation period, we received a further representation, which also supported our proposals.

Final Recommendations

7. On 31 July 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for one county constituency and that these were our final recommendations.

8. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for one county constituency for the combined Council areas of Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands, as set out in paragraph 4 above.

