



## Moray Council Area

### Introduction

1. Moray Council area is currently covered by 2 county constituencies. Moray county constituency lies wholly within the Council area. Approximately 10 per cent of the Gordon county constituency also lies in the Moray Council area, the remainder lying within Aberdeenshire Council area. The electorates of the 2 constituencies 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 Moray Council area we had in mind that at the enumeration date of June 2001, the Council area contained 63,959 parliamentary electors, giving a theoretical entitlement of 0.9 seats.

3. The number of electors contained in the Council area had declined since 1999 and we considered whether it should be combined with either part of Highland Council area or part of Aberdeenshire Council area to form a constituency which better reflected the increased electoral quota. However, after carefully examining the possibilities, we decided that no satisfactory constituency solution involving the incorporation of electorate from the adjacent Council areas could be developed. We therefore concluded that, although the electorate of Moray Council area was below the electoral quota, it should form a single constituency.

### Provisional Proposals

4. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for one county constituency comprising the whole of Moray Council area as follows:

Constituency	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Moray CC	All electoral wards in Moray Council area	63,959

### Representations on Provisional Proposals

5. During the statutory consultation period, we received 2 representations regarding our provisional proposals for Moray Council area. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party and the Scottish Liberal Democrats both supported our recommendations. Following the

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

### **Final Recommendations**

6. 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.

7. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for one county constituency for Moray Council area as set out in paragraph 4 above.

