



## Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council Area

### Introduction

1. Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area currently comprises Western Isles county 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 Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area contained 21,884 parliamentary electors.

2.2 A significant increase in the electoral quota for this review was brought about by the terms of amendments to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 following the introduction of the Scotland Act 1998. We therefore considered whether it might be possible to combine Na h-Eileanan an Iar with an area or areas within Highland Council area to form a revised, enlarged constituency.

3. We examined in particular whether it might be possible to link Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area with Highland Council area wards 35-39 (largely the Isle of Skye but including a small part of the mainland around Kyle of Lochalsh). We noted that a similar proposal was pursued at the time of the Third Periodical Review but that it was rejected following a local inquiry. In examining this issue in detail, we concluded that the arguments against combining these areas into a single constituency presented at the 1981 local inquiry remained as strong now as they were then. Accordingly, we agreed that the area of the existing Western Isles county constituency should remain unchanged.

4. In considering the names and designations of constituencies, we concluded that the name of Western Isles constituency should be amended to “Na h-Eileanan An Iar”.

### Provisional Proposals

5. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for one county constituency for Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area as follows:

Constituency	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Na h-Eileanan An Iar CC	All electoral wards in Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area	21,884

### **Representations on Provisional Proposals**

6. During the statutory consultation period, we received 3 representations regarding our provisional proposals for Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party and the Scottish Liberal Democrats supported our provisional proposals for Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area. Calum MacDonald MP also supported our proposals but suggested an alternative name, “Nan Eilean Siar” (as in Sgìre nan Eilean Siar or Western Isles Constituency), which he stated would be in line with the name of the local authority. Alternatively, he proposed that, if the name given in our provisional recommendations was to be retained, then “An” should not be capitalized.

7. Following the end of the statutory consultation period, we received a further representation supporting our proposals.

### **Consideration of Representations on Provisional Proposals**

8. In view of the representation received from Calum MacDonald MP, we sought further advice regarding the suitability of the name we proposed for the constituency. We consulted a number of authorities and, although opinions varied, there was a general consensus that the name “Na h-Eileanan an Iar” was the most appropriate Gaelic form. Accordingly, we agreed to revise the constituency name.

### **Publication of Revised Recommendations**

9. On 6 March 2003 we published our revised recommendations adopting the name Na h-Eileanan an Iar for the constituency.

### **Representations on Revised Recommendations**

10. The Scottish Labour Party wrote in support of our revised proposal. There were no other representations.

### **Final Recommendations**

11. On 21 August 2003 we announced that we were making no further changes to our proposals for one county constituency and that these were our final recommendations.

12. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for one county constituency for Na h-Eileanan an Iar Council area, as set out in paragraph 5 above, subject only to the minor change in the name of the constituency from Na h-Eileanan An Iar to Na h-Eileanan an Iar.

