

# The Effects of the Recommendations

## The Total Number of Constituencies

1. Between 1918 and the implementation by Parliament of the recommendations in the Commission's Third Periodical Report in 1983, Scotland was represented in Parliament by 71 MPs. The Third General Review recommended an increase of one to 72. We explained in Chapter 2 that, at the start of this review, it was clear to us that the number of constituencies in Scotland would be reduced from 72 to 57 if the electoral quota for England was strictly applied to Scotland. However, we also explained that our detailed analysis of options for revised constituencies resulted in an increase in that number to 59.

## The Recommended Constituencies

2. The 59 recommended constituencies are set out in the various sections of Chapter 3. Maps of each constituency, in alphabetical order are contained at Appendix F.

3. Of the 59 constituencies recommended, 29 (49 per cent) are within 5 per cent of the electoral quota compared with 26 (36 per cent) at the completion of the fourth periodical review. Fifty constituencies (85 per cent) are within 10 per cent of the electoral quota compared with 50 (69 per cent) at the last review.

4. The electorates of the constituencies recommended range between 21,884 (67 per cent below the electoral quota) and 78,675 (12 per cent above the electoral quota). However, only 4 constituencies - Na h-Eileanan an Iar, Orkney and Shetland, Caithness Sutherland and Easter Ross, and Ross, Skye and Lochaber - diverge from the electoral quota by more than 12 per cent. At the fourth periodical review, excluding the Western Isles county constituency and Orkney and Shetland county constituency, 19 recommended constituencies were more than 12 per cent from the electoral quota.

5. Our proposals, if accepted, reduce the level of representation for Scotland at the Westminster Parliament as was intended by the amendments to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 made by Section 86 of The Scotland Act 1998. Further, they have the effect of bringing the majority of constituency electorates nearer to the electoral quota than was possible at the fourth periodical review.

## Conclusion

6. This concludes the report of our Fifth Periodical Review of parliamentary constituency boundaries in Scotland. In terms of the 1986 Act, as amended, the next periodical report must be submitted not less than 8 years or more than 12 years from the date of submission of this report.

7. We would like to record our gratitude to Mr John Randall who provided advice and assistance as our Assessor in his capacity as Registrar General for Scotland until he retired and to Mr Duncan Macniven who succeeded him. We would like also to record our gratitude to the Assessors who represented the Director General of Ordnance Survey, namely Mr Graham Little, Region Manager Scotland, followed by Dr Hugh Buchanan, External Relations Manager. Mr Robert Smith acted as our Secretary during the period of the review and we would like to record our appreciation for his diligence and enthusiasm in discharging his duties. We would also like to thank the staff of our Secretariat, Mr Blair White, Ms Gillian McCallum, Mrs Nicola Radley, Mr John Browne and Ms Debbie Harris for their hard work and the support they provided during the conduct of our review.

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30 November 2004