

Boundary Commission for Scotland

2018 Review of UK Parliament Boundaries – Publication of Initial Proposals

Elected Member Briefing Paper – 24 November 2016

Background:

As per the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, as amended the number of UK Parliament constituencies is to reduce from 650 to 600 across the UK. In Scotland means that 59 constituencies will reduce to 53 (two constituencies - the Western Isles and Orkney and Shetland are not subject to amendment).

Legislation states that the remaining 51 constituencies must:

- Not exceed the maximum permitted area of 13,000 square kilometres
- Be within 5% of the UK electoral quota of 74,769.2 (i.e. to have between 71,031 and 78,507 electors) – except where a constituency is larger than 12,000 square kilometres when it may have fewer than 71,031 electors if it is not reasonably possible for it to comply with this requirement.

The Boundary Commission must also take into account other factors other than electorate such as:

- Special geographical considerations, including size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- Boundaries of council areas and electoral wards;
- Existing Westminster constituency boundaries; and
- Any local ties which would be broken by changes in constituencies.

Notes:

- Only one of the 51 constituencies is retained unchanged under these proposals – East Lothian.
- Range of electors previously was 45,898 to 83,593 under new proposals it will be 71,122 to 78,477
- Where an existing constituency has an electorate which is within the permitted range, it may not be possible to retain this due to changes required in surrounding constituencies.
- Only 30 existing local government wards have been divided out of a total of 353.

Current UK Parliament boundaries

There is currently one UK parliamentary boundary in the Angus local government area:

- Angus constituency comprising of Wards 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8.

- Wards 4 and 5 currently form part of the Dundee East and Dundee West constituencies.

Initial Proposals – 2018 Review of UK Parliament constituencies

Five new constituencies to be contained wholly within Aberdeenshire, Angus and Dundee City council areas:

- Banff and Buchan
- Gordon and Deeside
- Kincardine and Angus East
- Angus Glens and Dundee East
- Dundee

Kincardine and Angus East

The proposed boundary for Kincardine and Angus East – follows ward boundaries in Aberdeenshire and Angus with the exception of Angus Council Ward 6 where the community council boundary Inverarity/Letham & District has been followed and is comprised of:

- Angus Council Wards 7,8 and Part 6
- Aberdeenshire Council Wards 16 – Banchory & Mid Deeside, 17 - North Kincardine, 18 - Stonehaven and Lower Deeside and 19 – Mearns.

At present part of Aberdeenshire Council Ward 18 (Stonehaven & Lower Deeside) and all of Aberdeenshire Council Ward 19 (Mearns) is situated within the Angus North & Mearns Scottish Parliamentary constituency.

As part of the recent local government boundary review the ward boundary between Angus Council Wards 5 and 6 has been amended with polling district AST – The Scryne (188 electors) moving into Ward 5. This amendment has not been reflected in these proposals and representation will require to be made to the Boundary Commission to advise them of this.

Angus Glens and Dundee East

The proposed boundary for Angus Glens and Dundee East –follows ward boundaries in Angus and Dundee City with the exception of Angus Council Ward 6 where the community council boundary has been followed and is comprised of

- Angus Council Wards 1- 5 and Part 6
- Dundee City Council Wards 6 – North East and 8 – The Ferry

Both proposed constituencies would be “county” constituencies.

Initial Proposals - Electorate Figures

Constituency:	Electorate:	Electoral Quota	% +/- Quota
Kincardine and Angus East	*76,784	74,796.2	1987.8 (2.66%)
Angus Glens and Dundee East	*78,156	74,796.2	3359.8 (4.49%)

*Electorate figures based on the electoral register of 1 December 2015.

Electorates in new constituencies must be no less than 71,031 and no more than 78,507 unless one of the specified exemptions from the statutory electorate limits apply.

Consultation Period/Representations

12 week consultation period runs from 20 October 2016 to 11 January 2017.

The Council can make a representation in support; or to oppose and suggest an alternative to the Boundary Commission's proposals. Representations must be made in writing by the closing date of 11 January 2017.

Public Hearings

A public hearing will be held in the City Chambers, 14 City Square, Dundee on Tuesday 29 November 2016. The purpose this hearing is for the Commission to explain their proposals and give those who wish to make comments on the proposals an opportunity to do so.

The arrangements for attending a public hearing are set out in Section 4.3 of the Boundary Commission's policy and procedures booklet.

For information, the count for the Arbroath East & Lunan by-election is to be held on Tuesday 29 November which clashes with the date of the public hearing.

Revised proposals

Public consultation responses will be published for public scrutiny and comment in Spring 2017 and any revised proposals will be consulted upon in Autumn 2017. There will be a further consultation period at that time.

Returning Officer Comment

It is noted by the Returning Officer that these proposals would result in a significant increase in current administrative and management arrangements to ensure delivery of any future UK Parliament Election. Whilst these are manageable it will require considerable project planning and control by the Returning Officer and his team who will be responsible for both constituencies.

Shona Cameron
Elections & Business Support Manager
16 November 2016

Attachments:

- Boundary Commission for Scotland 2018 Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies – Policies and Procedures
- Boundary Commission for Scotland 2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies – Summary of Initial Proposals