

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
Thursday 12 June 2025
10th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

The Scottish Parliament (Constituencies and Regions) Order 2025

Introduction

1. The Scotland Act 1998 requires Boundaries Scotland to keep under review the boundaries of the Scottish Parliament. The [first review](#) was carried out in 2010 and was considered by the UK Parliament. Following the Scotland Act 2016, Boundaries Scotland were required to make a report to Scottish Ministers on the second review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries by 1 May 2025. Scottish Ministers are then required “as soon as practicable” after the submission of the report to lay before the Parliament a copy of the report and a draft of an Order in Council for giving effect to the recommendations contained in the report. The report and draft Order in Council were laid by Scottish Ministers on 22 May 2025.
2. This draft Order is subject to the affirmative procedure and falls to be considered by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee.
3. The [full report](#) can be viewed on the Boundaries Scotland website, along with maps showing details of the final proposed constituency and regional boundaries. For ease of reference, links to the maps are also provided in the annexe to this paper.
4. The report recommends for constituencies:
 - 25 constituencies remain unchanged.
 - 22 constituencies have new boundaries but their names are unchanged
 - 20 constituencies have both new boundaries and new names.
 - Three constituency boundaries are unchanged but the constituency is renamed.
5. The report recommends for regions:
 - One region is unchanged (Mid Scotland and Fife).
 - Two regions have minimal changes to their boundaries and their names remain the same (Highlands and Islands; and North East Scotland).
 - Three recommended regions have changes to their boundaries but retain their existing names (Glasgow; South Scotland; and West Scotland).

- Two recommended regions have changes to their boundaries and are renamed (Central Scotland and Lothians West; and Edinburgh and Lothians East).

6. At this meeting, the Committee will take evidence from:

- Professor Ailsa Henderson, Chair, Boundaries Scotland
- Kirsty Mavor, Secretary, Boundaries Scotland.

The Scotland Act

7. In making recommendations, Boundaries Scotland are required to have regard to constituency and regional rules as set out in schedule 1 to the Scotland Act 1998. There are [four constituency rules](#) which can be summarised as:

Rule 1: So far as is practicable, regard must be had to the boundaries of the local government areas.

Rule 2: The electorate of a constituency must be as near the electoral quota as is practicable, having regard to Rule 1 and each region is required to be as near the electorate of each other region as is practicable.

Boundaries Scotland may depart from the strict application of Rule 1 if it thinks that it is desirable to do so to avoid an excessive disparity between the electorate of a constituency and the electoral quota or between the electorate of a constituency and that of neighbouring constituencies.

(The electoral quota for this review is 59,902 for constituencies. To assist with satisfying Rule 2 for regional proposal, Boundaries Scotland calculated the average electorate for regions as 531,320.)

Rule 3: Boundaries Scotland may depart from the strict application of Rules 1 and 2 if it thinks that special geographical considerations (including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency) render it desirable to do so.

Rule 4: Boundaries Scotland need not aim at giving full effect in all circumstances to Rules 1 to 3 but it must take account (so far as it reasonably can) –

of the inconveniences attendant on alterations of constituencies other than alterations made for the purposes of Rule 1, and

of any local ties which would be broken by such alterations.

8. There are two [regional rules](#) which can be summarised as:

Rule 1: A constituency must fall wholly within a region.

Rule 2: The regional electorate of a region must be as near the regional electorate of each of the other regions as is practicable, having regard (where appropriate) to special geographical considerations.

Boundaries review process

9. The review by Boundaries Scotland began in September 2022 and encompassed 70 of the 73 Scottish Parliament constituencies and all 8 regions. The Na h-Eileanan an Iar, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands constituencies are excluded from the constituency reviews but are included in the regional review.
10. The procedures for the review were set out by Boundaries Scotland in a [guidance booklet](#). This set out the intended timescale for the stages of the review, the consultation periods on any proposals (which must be one month) and for any local inquiries to be held.
11. The table below sets out the timeline of the review (links are provided to summary booklets, where available, for the relevant consultation stage):

September 2022	Boundaries Scotland launches Review
May 2023 – June 2023	Boundaries Scotland publishes and consults on its Provisional Proposals for constituencies
December 2023 – January 2024	Six local inquiries held
April 2024 – May 2024	Boundaries Scotland publishes and consults on its Revised Proposals for constituencies
August 2024	One local inquiry held
September 2024 – October 2024	Boundaries Scotland publishes and consults on its Further Proposals for constituencies and Provisional Proposals for regions
November 2024 – December 2024	Two local inquiries held
January 2025 – February 2025	Boundaries Scotland publishes and consults on its Additional Proposals for constituencies and Revised Proposals for regions
March 2025 – April 2025	Consultation on Supplementary Proposals for constituencies Consultation on Further Proposals for regions
30 April 2025	Report published and submitted to Scottish Ministers

Local inquiries

12. In relation to constituency proposals, local inquiries must be held if representations objecting to the provisional proposals are received either from a local authority for

part or all of the area of the affected constituency, or from a body of 100 or more parliamentary electors for the affected constituency.

13. For regional proposals, local inquiries are required if representations objecting to our proposals are received from an interested local authority (that is a local authority for part or all of the area of the proposed region) or a body of 500 or more electors for the proposed region.
14. Boundaries Scotland may choose to hold a local inquiry if it determines that it would be helpful.
15. Local inquiries are conducted by Assistant Commissioners who are appointed by Scottish Ministers for this purpose at the request of Boundaries Scotland. The purpose of local inquiries is to:
 - hear local opinions
 - hear criticisms of or support for the provisional proposals
 - receive counter-proposals; and
 - enable everyone who wishes to comment on these or on our proposals to do so.
16. Assistant Commissioners make written reports to Boundaries Scotland on local inquiries and as well as commenting on objections received are “at liberty to suggest amendments or alterations to our proposals, or to substitute completely different proposals if these appear to command wider acceptance than the original proposals”.
17. Over the course of the review, a total of nine local inquiries were held as set out in the table below. For ease of reference the report of each inquiry is linked to from the date of the inquiry in the first column of the table.

Date	Location	Reason	Proposed Constituency/Region
Provisional Proposals - constituencies consultation			
<u>7 December 2023</u>	Musselburgh	East Lothian Council objected	East Lothian; and Midlothian North and Musselburgh
<u>12 December 2023</u>	Kilmarnock	East Ayrshire Council objected	Cunninghame South; Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley
<u>13 December 2023</u>	Clydebank	Large number of responses opposing the proposed constituencies	Bearsden, Milngavie and Clydebank North; and Dumbarton and Helensburgh

<u>14 December 2023</u>	Johnstone/Newton Mearns	East Renfrewshire requested a local inquiry and Renfrewshire Council objected and a large number of responses opposing the proposed constituencies.	Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock; Paisley and Renfrew; Renfrewshire South; Renfrewshire West
<u>9 January 2024</u>	Edinburgh	Large number of responses opposing the proposed constituency	Edinburgh Forth and Linlithgow
<u>11 January 2024</u>	Peebles	Scottish Borders Council objected and large number of responses opposing the proposed constituency	Clyde Valley and Tweeddale
Revised Proposals - constituencies consultation			
<u>22 August 2024</u>	Falkirk	Falkirk Council objected	Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; Falkirk North; and Linlithgow and Falkirk South
Further Proposals - constituencies consultation			
Provisional Proposals - regions consultation			
<u>28 November 2024</u>	Paisley	Renfrewshire Council objected	Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald; Renfrewshire West Constituencies West Scotland Region and Glasgow Region
<u>3 December 2024</u>	Whitburn	West Lothian Council objected	Airdrie Constituency Central Region and Lothian Region

Proposals for constituencies

18. From 17 May to 17 June 2023, Boundaries Scotland consulted on [provisional proposals for constituencies](#).
19. Responses to this consultation were published by Boundaries Scotland and six local inquiries were subsequently held, as detailed in the table above.
20. Boundaries Scotland subsequently [published revised proposals for constituencies](#) and consulted on these from 16 April to 15 May 2024. A further local inquiry in relation to the constituencies of Cumbernauld and Kilsyth, Falkirk North, and Linlithgow and Falkirk South [was held in Falkirk](#) on 22 August 2024.
21. A set of [further proposals in relation to 29 of the constituencies](#) was published and consulted on from 25 September to 26 October 2024. These proposals made updated recommendations for the [names and/or boundaries of 29 proposed constituencies](#). Of these, it consulted on 26, receiving [over 200 responses](#).
22. Following the consultation on its Further Proposals for constituencies and Provisional Proposals for regions, Boundaries Scotland held local inquiries in Paisley and Whitburn in late 2024:
 - The [Paisley local inquiry](#) concerned the proposed boundaries for two Scottish Parliament regions (Glasgow and West Scotland) and two constituencies (Erskine, Renfrew and Cardonald, and Renfrewshire West).
 - The [Whitburn local inquiry](#) concerned the proposed boundaries for two Scottish Parliament regions (Central Scotland and Lothian) and the Airdrie constituency.
23. The transcripts and reports from these local inquiries [have been published](#) on Boundaries Scotland's website.
24. Boundaries Scotland used the information gathered from the consultation on its Further Proposals for constituencies and Provisional Proposals for regions, and from the Paisley and Whitburn local inquiries, to further amend its proposals for constituency and region boundaries. Its subsequent recommendations were published in January 2025 as the [Additional Proposals for constituency boundaries and Revised Proposals for region boundaries](#).
25. Compared to the proposals set out in September 2024 (the Further Proposals), Boundaries Scotland's Additional Proposals for constituency boundaries [recommend](#):
 - Four constituencies with amended names and boundaries (Bathgate; Falkirk East and Linlithgow; Renfrewshire North and Cardonald; and Renfrewshire West and Levern Valley)

- Three constituencies with some changes to boundaries but retaining their names from the Further Proposals stage (Almond Valley; Falkirk West; and Paisley)
 - One constituency reverting to its existing name and boundary (Cumbernauld and Kilsyth)
 - One constituency which retains its name from the Further Proposals stage but which reverts to its existing boundary (Airdrie).
26. Details of Boundaries Scotland's latest recommendations for the seven constituencies with amended boundaries, and how these recommendations were informed by its previous consultation, can be found on the [Boundaries Scotland website](#).
27. For the remaining constituencies which are unchanged from the Further Proposals stage, Boundaries Scotland agreed to [adopt the names and boundaries set out in the Further Proposals as its Final Recommendations](#), subject to there being no knock-on impacts from any further changes in neighbouring areas.
28. In total, based on the recommendations in Boundaries Scotland's [Additional Proposals](#):
- 28 proposed constituencies would retain their existing names and boundaries
 - 3 proposed constituencies would retain their existing boundaries but have a new name
 - 22 proposed constituencies would retain their existing name but have new boundaries
 - 20 proposed constituencies would have both new boundaries and a new name.
29. Between 14 March and 14 April 2025, Boundaries Scotland consulted on [Supplementary Proposals for constituencies](#). This focussed on amendments to the proposed boundaries between the Almond Valley and Bathgate constituencies.

Proposals for regions

30. Boundaries Scotland published and consulted on its [provisional proposals for region boundaries](#) between 25 September and 26 October 2024.
31. With regard to region boundaries, Boundaries Scotland's Provisional Proposals (September 2024) [recommended](#) that one existing Scottish Parliament region (Mid Scotland and Fife) remain unchanged, and that the remaining seven keep their existing names but with changes to their boundaries. Its consultation on these Provisional Proposals received [over 250 responses](#).

32. The [provisional proposals for regions](#) were:

- One region remained unchanged (Mid Scotland and Fife).
- Seven regions had changes to their boundaries. Boundaries Scotland stated that for four of these, there would be 'some changes' (Highland and Islands, North East Scotland, Glasgow, West Scotland) whereas the remaining three would have 'more significant changes' to their region boundaries (Lothian, Central Scotland and South Scotland).
- The names of all eight regions would remain unchanged.

33. [Revised proposals for regions](#) were published and consulted on between 24 January 2025 and 24 February 2025.

34. Following the consultation on the provisional proposals and the two local inquiries held in Paisley and Whitburn the Revised Proposals saw:

- three regions unchanged (Highlands and Islands, Mid Scotland and Fife (unchanged from existing), and North East Scotland
- three regions (Glasgow, South Scotland and West Scotland) with amended boundaries
- Central Scotland having its name amended to Central Scotland and Lothians West and its boundaries changed
- The Lothian region renamed Edinburgh and Lothians East.

35. [Further proposals](#) for regions were consulted on between 14 March and 14 April 2025. The changes at this stage related to the boundaries of the Glasgow region and reverted to the boundaries for the South Scotland and Central Scotland (now renamed Central Scotland and Lothians West) regions that were consulted on at the Provisional Proposals Stage.

Future reviews

36. The Scotland Act 1998 requires that reviews of the Scottish Parliament's constituencies and regions are carried out every 8 to 12 years. An independent review of the process for determining electoral boundaries is currently being carried out, with a consultation running from 15 May 2025 until 7 August 2025. The review is chaired by Andrew Kerr, former Chief Executive of the City of Edinburgh Council.

Next steps

37. At its meeting on 26 June, the Committee will take evidence on the Order from the Minister for Parliamentary Business. Immediately after the evidence session with the Minister, the Committee will formally consider whether to recommend to the Parliament that the Order be approved. As the deadline for reporting to the

SPPA/S6/25/10/4

Parliament is 3 September 2025, the Committee is invited to note that it will be asked to agree its report by correspondence.

**Clerks to the Committee and SPICe
June 2025**

Constituency maps

[Aberdeen Central](#)

[Aberdeen Deeside and North Kincardine](#)

[Aberdeen Donside](#)

[Aberdeenshire East](#)

[Aberdeenshire West](#)

[Airdrie](#)

[Almond Valley](#)

[Angus North and Mearns](#)

[Angus South](#)

[Argyll and Bute](#)

[Ayr](#)

[Banffshire and Buchan Coast](#)

[Bathgate](#)

[Caithness, Sutherland and Ross](#)

[Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley](#)

[Clackmannanshire and Dunblane](#)

[Clydebank and Milngavie](#)

[Clydesdale](#)

[Coatbridge and Chryston](#)

[Cowdenbeath](#)

[Cumbernauld and Kilsyth](#)

[Cunninghame North](#)

[Cunninghame South](#)

[Dumbarton](#)

[Dumfriesshire](#)

[Dundee City East](#)

[Dundee City West](#)

[Dunfermline](#)

[East Kilbride](#)

[East Lothian Coast and Lammermuirs](#)

[Eastwood](#)

[Edinburgh Central](#)

[Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent](#)

[Edinburgh North Eastern and Leith](#)

[Edinburgh North Western](#)

[Edinburgh Northern](#)

[Edinburgh South Western](#)

[Edinburgh Southern](#)

[Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire](#)

[Falkirk East and Linlithgow](#)

[Falkirk West](#)

[Fife North East](#)

[Galloway and West Dumfries](#)

[Glasgow Anniesland](#)

[Glasgow Baillieston and Shettleston](#)

[Glasgow Cathcart and Pollok](#)

[Glasgow Central](#)

[Glasgow Easterhouse and Springburn](#)

[Glasgow Kelvin and Maryhill](#)

[Glasgow Southside](#)

[Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse](#)

[Inverclyde](#)

[Inverness and Nairn](#)

[Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley](#)

[Kirkcaldy](#)

[Mid Fife and Glenrothes](#)

[Midlothian North](#)

[Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale](#)

[Moray](#)

[Motherwell and Wishaw](#)

[Na h-Eileanan an Iar](#)

[Orkney Islands](#)

[Paisley](#)

[Perthshire North](#)

[Perthshire South and Kinross-shire](#)

[Renfrewshire North and Cardonald](#)

[Renfrewshire West and Levern Valley](#)

[Rutherglen and Cambuslang](#)

[Shetland Islands](#)

[Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch](#)

[Stirling](#)

[Strathkelvin and Bearsden](#)

[Uddingston and Bellshill](#)

Region maps

[Central Scotland and Lothians West](#)

[Edinburgh and Lothians East](#)

[Glasgow](#)

[Highlands and Islands](#)

[Mid Scotland and Fife](#)

[North East Scotland](#)

[South Scotland](#)

[West Scotland](#)