POLICY NOTE

THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT (CONSTITUENCIES AND REGIONS) ORDER 2020

SSI 2020/XXX

This Order is made in exercise of the powers conferred by paragraph 6(5)of schedule 1 to the Scotland Act 1998(**1**). The instrument is subject to affirmative procedure.

This Order sets out the constituencies and regions for the Scottish Parliament and gives effect to the recommendations contained in Interim Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries at Cardowan by Stepps, between Glasgow Provan constituency and Coatbridge and Chryston constituency and between Glasgow region and Central Scotland region, dated March 2020

Policy Objectives

1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (LGBCS) submitted its Interim Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries at Cardowan by Stepps, between Glasgow Provan constituency and Coatbridge and Chryston constituency and between Glasgow region and Central Scotland region, to Scottish Ministers on 17 March 2020.

2. Under the Act, Ministers are required, "as soon as practicable" after submission of the report, to lay before Parliament the report and the draft of an Order in Council for giving effect to the recommendations contained in the report.

3. The recommended changes address a misalignment between council area boundaries and Scottish Parliament boundaries which has arisen since the council area boundaries were redefined in 2018.

Background

4. In April 2018 LGBCS completed an administrative area boundary review of the boundary between Glasgow City and North Lanarkshire council areas, focussing on the boundary at Cardowan by Stepps. In its report, the Commission recommended amendments which transferred an area from Glasgow City ward 21 (North East) to North Lanarkshire ward 5 (Stepps, Chryston and Muirhead) in order to effect the Commission's view that there is a clear advantage for the effective planning and delivery of local services in putting the complete Cardowan housing development area in a single local authority. Scottish Ministers made an Order in October 2018 (SSI 2018/308) giving effect to those recommendations.

5. The result of Order SSI 2018/308 is that the Scottish Parliament constituency and region boundary in the vicinity of Cardowan by Stepps differs from the boundary between Glasgow City and North Lanarkshire council areas. The difference affects 319 electors.

(**1**) 1998 c.46. Schedule 1 was substituted by section 1 and paragraph 1 of schedule 1 of the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004 (c.13). Paragraph 3 of schedule 1 was amended by section 8 of the Scotland Act 2016 (c.11) and section 18(1)(b) of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 (asp 12).

Report recommendations and effect of the Order

6. The report recommends changes to the Scottish Parliament boundaries for Glasgow Provan and, Coatbridge and Chryston constituencies and Glasgow and Central Scotland regions to align with council area boundaries. An indicative map of the changes being made to these constituencies and regions is included in the explanatory note.

7. The Order defines the name, status and area of 70 of the 73 Scottish Parliament constituencies and the name and area of each Scottish Parliament region. (The Na h-Eileanan an Iar, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands constituencies are not included in the Order because schedule 1 to the Scotland Act 1998 ("the 1998 Act"), as amended by the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018, provides for them directly). Other than the changes made to the Glasgow Provan constituency and the Coatbridge and Chryston constituency and between Glasgow region and Central Scotland region, the constituencies and regions are the same as provided by the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies and Regions) Order 2014.

Consultation

8. Full details of LGBC's consultation can be found in the report published on their website: https://lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/reviews/review-scottish-parliament-boundaries-cardowan-stepps. The Commission hosted a public consultation via its online consultation hub. Twenty-five representations were received during the one month period of public consultation. Responses were generally in favour of the Commission's proposals with 15 responses in support, seven opposed and three responding "don't know". The Commission carefully considered all of the representations received at its meeting of 10 December 2019. The Commission concluded that it should adopt its initial proposals as its final recommendations for the boundary between Glasgow Provan constituency and Coatbridge and Chryston constituency, and the Scottish Parliament region boundary between Glasgow region and Central Scotland region at Cardowan by Stepps.

Impact Assessments

10. Impact assessments have not been produced for this instrument as no significant, impact on protected characteristics or on the private, voluntary or public sectors is foreseen.

Scottish Government
Constitution and Cabinet Directorate

August 2020