POLICY NOTE

THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS (REGIONAL RETURNING OFFICERS AND CONSTITUENCY RETURNING OFFICERS) ORDER 2016

SSI 2016/9

1. The Scottish Parliament Elections (Regional Returning Officers and Constituency Returning Officers) Order 2016 is made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 12(6) of the Scotland Act 1998 and article 14(b) of the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2015 (S.S.I 2015/425). This Order is not subject to Parliamentary procedure.

Policy Objectives

2. Section 12(6) of the Scotland Act 1998 provides that the Scottish Ministers may designate regional returning officers for the eight Scottish Parliament regions specified in the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies and Regions) Order 2014 (S.I. 2014/501).

3. Article 14(b) of the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2015 provides that, for the purposes of Scottish Parliament elections, the Scottish Ministers may designate constituency returning officers for constituencies which are situated in more than one local authority area. For constituencies which are wholly situated in a single local authority area, the returning officer for the local authority elections is the constituency returning officer. 71 of the 73 Scottish Parliament constituencies are also specified in the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies and Regions) Order 2014, the other two being the Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands constituencies, which are provided for by the Scotland Act 1998.

4. The Scottish Parliament (Regional Returning Officers) Order 2011, which previously designated Regional Returning Officers, was revoked by the Scottish Parliament (Regional Returning Officers) (Revocation) Order 2015 (S.I. 2015/743). This Order makes replacement provision and revokes and replaces the Scottish Parliament (Constituency Returning Officers) Order 2011. The regional returning officers and constituency returning officers designated in this Order are the same as those designated in the relevant 2011 Orders.

5. A full list of the regional returning officers and constituency returning officers can be found in annexes A and B respectively.

Consultation

6. In addition to the statutory requirement to consult with the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Electoral Commission, the Scottish Government sought the views of the Electoral Management Board for Scotland on the proposed re-appointments.

Financial Effects

7. Regional returning officers' and constituency returning officers' costs for their specified services and expenses incurred in connection with Scottish parliamentary elections are reimbursed by the Scottish Government. Further details can be found in the Policy Note for the Scottish Parliament Elections (Returning Officer Fees and Charges) Regulations 2016.

Impact Assessments

8. The Order has no impact on the environment, privacy, equality or children's rights and therefore no Impact Assessments are required for those areas.

Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA)

9. The Scottish Government does not consider that that a BRIA is necessary as this Order will not lead to any new costs or savings for business, third or public sector organisations, regulators or consumers. There is no new additional cost on the public sector, as the Scottish Government will meet the costs incurred in connection with Scottish parliamentary elections, and there is no transfer of costs or benefits from one group to another.

Scottish Government
Directorate for Strategy and Constitution
January 2016

Annex A

Regional Returning Officers for the Scottish Parliament Regions

Region	**Local government area**
Central Scotland	North Lanarkshire
Glasgow	Glasgow City
Highlands and Islands	Highland
Lothian	City of Edinburgh
Mid Scotland and Fife	Fife
North East Scotland	Aberdeen City
South Scotland	Dumfries and Galloway
West Scotland	Renfrewshire

Annex B

Constituency	Local government area
Aberdeen Central	Aberdeen City
Aberdeen Donside	Aberdeen City
Aberdeenshire East	Aberdeenshire
Aberdeen South and North Kincardine	Aberdeen City
Aberdeenshire West	Aberdeenshire
Airdrie and Shotts	North Lanarkshire
Almond Valley	West Lothian
Angus North and Mearns	Angus
Angus South	Angus
Argyll and Bute	Argyll and Bute
Ayr	South Ayrshire
Banffshire and Buchan Coast	Aberdeenshire
Caithness, Sutherland and Ross	Highland
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	East Ayrshire
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	Clackmannanshire
Clydebank and Milngavie	West Dunbartonshire
Clydesdale	South Lanarkshire
Coatbridge and Chryston	North Lanarkshire
Cowdenbeath	Fife
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	North Lanarkshire
Cunninghame North	North Ayrshire
Cunninghame South	North Ayrshire
Dumbarton	West Dunbartonshire
Dumfriesshire	Dumfries and Galloway
Dundee City East	Dundee City
Dundee City West	Dundee City
Dunfermline	Fife
East Kilbride	South Lanarkshire
East Lothian	East Lothian
Eastwood	East Renfrewshire
Edinburgh Central	City of Edinburgh
Edinburgh Eastern	City of Edinburgh
Edinburgh Northern and Leith	City of Edinburgh
Edinburgh Pentlands	City of Edinburgh
Edinburgh Southern	City of Edinburgh
Edinburgh Western	City of Edinburgh
Na h-Eileanan an Iar	Na h-Eileanan Siar
Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire	Scottish Borders
Falkirk East	Falkirk
Falkirk West	Falkirk
Galloway and West Dumfries	Dumfries and Galloway
Glasgow Anniesland	Glasgow City
Glasgow Cathcart	Glasgow City
Glasgow Kelvin	Glasgow City

Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn	Glasgow City
Glasgow Pollok	Glasgow City
Glasgow Provan	Glasgow City
Glasgow Shettleston	Glasgow City
Glasgow Southside	Glasgow City
Greenock and Inverclyde	Inverclyde
Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse	South Lanarkshire
Inverness and Nairn	Highland
Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley	East Ayrshire
Kirkcaldy	Fife
Linlithgow	West Lothian
Mid Fife and Glenrothes	Fife
Midlothian North and Musselburgh	Midlothian
Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale	Scottish Borders
Moray	Moray
Motherwell and Wishaw	North Lanarkshire
North East Fife	Fife
Orkney Islands	Orkney Islands
Paisley	Renfrewshire
Perthshire North	Perth and Kinross
Perthshire South and Kinross-shire	Perth and Kinross
Renfrewshire North and West	Renfrewshire
Renfrewshire South	Renfrewshire
Rutherglen	South Lanarkshire
Shetland Islands	Shetland Islands
Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch	Highland
Stirling	Stirling
Strathkelvin and Bearsden	East Dunbartonshire
Uddingston and Bellshill	North Lanarkshire