

Ms Ariane Burgess MSP
Convener
Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

25 February 2025

Localgov.committee@Parliament.Scot

Dear Ariane

Thank you for your recent letter.

We are also looking forward to hearing more about the review of automaticity in electoral boundaries. We are in regular contact with our Sponsor Team in the Scottish Government and hope to hear more detail shortly.

Regarding our plans for forthcoming reviews of local government electoral arrangements, we are currently undertaking the second review of Scottish Parliament boundaries and have no immediate plans to commence a review of local government electoral arrangements. We expect to discuss such matters with the Minister once we have completed the Holyrood review and after we learn more about the timing of the review of automaticity.

The Scottish Elections (Representation and Reform) Act 2025 amended section 16 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 so that we are now required to complete our review of local government electoral arrangements by 31 October 2030. As a Commission, we will be discussing our programme of work shortly and will agree when it is appropriate to commence this review bearing in mind the Local Government elections in May 2027.

Please let us know if you would find a meeting worthwhile to discuss matters further.

Kind Regards,

Professor Ailsa Henderson
Chair
Boundaries Scotland