

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Ariane Burgess MSP
Convenor
Local Government, Housing and Planning
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By email: localgov.committee@parliament.scot

17 April 2024

Dear Ariane,

Thank you for your letter of 4 April seeking further detail on the Independent Review of the Process for Determining Electoral Boundaries in Scotland.

I attach a copy of the terms of reference for the Review with this letter for your information.

As you will see, the Review will consider the process for implementing changes to electoral boundaries in Scotland, and makes clear that this consideration should focus on identifying a form of 'automaticity' for that process. The Review also has scope to recommend further changes which it may consider appropriate alongside any new approval process. This could, for example, include aspects of existing legislation such as consultation requirements when conducting boundary reviews.

I would emphasise that the Review is independent of Scottish Ministers. It will be entirely up to the Chair of the Review, Andrew Kerr OBE, to make recommendations for change after a consultation process. Mr Kerr's report will be published and laid in Parliament.

I understand that a member of the secretariat supporting Mr Kerr has been in touch with your Clerks to organise a meeting. I hope you find the engagement with Mr Kerr useful. I look forward to considering his report and recommendations on these issues in due course.

Yours,

JAME HEPBURN

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people Silver

