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24 August 2026

Dear Jenni,

I am writing to inform you that today the Scottish Government has laid two reports from Boundaries Scotland in Parliament. On 25 March 2026, Boundaries Scotland submitted to Scottish Ministers its reports, 'Further Review of Electoral Arrangements, The Highland Council Area'; and 'Further Review of Electoral Arrangements, Argyll and Bute Council Area'.

In September 2025 I wrote to Boundaries Scotland, discharging Scottish Ministers' duty to notify it of the need to conduct further reviews of the electoral arrangements for Highland Council and Argyll and Bute Council areas. This follows initial reviews that Boundaries Scotland had conducted in 2021, as part of a set of reviews of six council areas, required under the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018. The changes to Highland Council and Argyll and Bute Council areas proposed by Boundaries Scotland in 2021 were not implemented.

In accordance with section 17A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Boundaries Scotland has submitted its further reviews of these areas. Scottish Ministers are required to lay the reports before the Scottish Parliament and have done so today.

As the reports recommend no changes to the existing electoral arrangements in the Highland Council and Argyll and Bute Council areas, the Scottish Government will not bring forward any secondary legislation as a result.

Yours sincerely,

JAMIE HEPBURN

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

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