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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>8 June 2023</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>LS/056/23</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Iain Strachan</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712139</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries – Provisional Proposals for Constituencies</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of the provisional proposals for constituencies received from Boundaries Scotland for the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries and advise that any consultation responses are required by 17 June 2023.
- 1.3 Boundaries Scotland is an independent advisory non-political public body responsible for carrying out reviews of Scottish Parliament boundaries and to make recommendations for: constituencies and regions for the Scottish Parliament.
- 1.4 The provisional proposals are for a county constituency comprising the Greenock and Inverclyde County Constituency together with an area of Ward 1 which covers principally Kilmacolm and Quarriers Village currently within the Renfrewshire North and West Constituency. The proposed new boundary encompasses the whole of the Inverclyde Council area within one county constituency. The constituency name is proposed to change from Greenock and Inverclyde County Constituency to Inverclyde County Constituency.
- 1.5 The provisional proposals use electorate data taken from the electoral register on 1 September 2022. The total electorate figure for the proposed Inverclyde County Constituency is 60,794.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council consider the Boundaries Scotland Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries - Provisional Proposals for Constituencies relative to the proposed Inverclyde County Constituency as shown in Appendix 1; and
- 2.2 It is recommended that the Council consider whether it is appropriate to remit to the Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services to respond to the consultation.

**Iain Strachan**  
**Head of Legal, Democratic, Digital and Customer Services**

### **3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

- 3.1 Boundaries Scotland is an independent advisory non-political public body responsible for carrying out reviews of Scottish Parliament boundaries and to make recommendations for: constituencies and regions for the Scottish Parliament. A link to the Boundaries Scotland website is included here:- <https://boundaries.scot/>.
- 3.2 There are 73 constituencies for the Scottish Parliament. Each constituency returns a single member (MSP) to the Scottish Parliament. In addition, there are 8 regions which each elect 7 List MSPs. The Boundaries Scotland Review cannot change the number of constituencies and regions nor the number of MSPs.
- 3.3 The Boundary Commission for Scotland conducted the First Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries, reporting in 2010. Under the Scotland Act 2016, responsibility for reviews of Scottish Parliament boundaries passed from The Boundary Commission for Scotland to Boundaries Scotland in 2017.
- 3.4 Reviews are governed by Schedule 1 of the Scotland Act 1998 (as amended). Schedule 1 of the Scotland Act 1998 requires Boundaries Scotland to conduct reviews of Scottish Parliament boundaries for constituencies and regions at intervals of every 8 to 12 years.
- 3.5 The First Review of Scottish Parliament boundaries was completed in 2010. The existing boundaries for the Scottish Parliament have been in place since 2011 and used in elections in 2011, 2016 and 2021.
- 3.6 Since the last review, which reported in 2010, there have been significant changes to the electorate, including the extension of the franchise for Scottish Parliamentary elections to those 16 and over. Changes to the population and the electorate have varied across Scotland, with some areas experiencing significant increases and others remaining relatively unchanged or falling. Even areas which have not experienced population growth or reduction may find that the constituency boundaries alter as a result of change required elsewhere to ensure that all constituencies and regions are of a similar electoral size.
- 3.7 The electorate for the Second Review consists of the persons on the register of Local Government electors in force on the start of the Review. The Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries commenced on 1 September 2022 and the electorate data was taken from the electoral register on that date. Boundaries Scotland calculated the electoral quota for the Second Review of the Scottish Parliament Boundaries, i.e. for all constituencies, as 59,902. The Scotland Act 1998 requires that the electorate of constituencies must be as close to the electoral quota as practicable, and that Boundaries Scotland creates constituencies and regions that have broadly the same number of electors. In addition, Boundaries Scotland is also required to follow a number of other rules, including that it takes account of (i) local authority area boundaries, (ii) special geographical considerations and (iii) local ties and any inconveniences caused by the alteration of the existing boundaries.
- 3.8 The Council received a copy of the provisional proposals on 17 May 2023 from Boundaries Scotland. The consultation period for responses expires on 17 June 2023, this one month period being fixed in legislation. Boundaries Scotland will thereafter make provisional proposals for the regions taking into account the deliberations on constituency boundaries. The provisional proposals for regions, along with the revised recommendations for constituencies, will be published and representations invited in the same way as the provisional proposals for constituencies. Boundaries Scotland must submit a report on this review to Scottish Ministers by 1 May 2025. If subsequently approved by the Scottish Parliament, the new boundaries will take effect at the next Scottish Parliament election, expected in May 2026.

3.9 Boundaries Scotland is required to hold a local inquiry if representations objecting to the provisional proposals are received either from a local authority or from a body of 100 or more particular electors for the affected constituency.

#### 4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 Upon receipt of the provisional proposals from Boundaries Scotland, public display of the proposals has been undertaken in the Customer Services Centre and in the public libraries within Inverclyde, along with awareness raising through the Council's Corporate Communications.

4.2 In the proposals: 21 constituencies are unchanged; one constituency retains its boundaries but with a new name; 26 constituencies have minor changes to boundaries but retain their existing names; and 25 constituencies have both new names and new boundaries.

4.3 The provisional proposals are for a county constituency comprising the Greenock and Inverclyde County Constituency together with an area of Ward 1 which covers principally Kilmacolm and Quarriers Village currently within the Renfrewshire North and West Constituency. The proposed new boundary encompasses the whole of the Inverclyde Council area within one county constituency. The constituency name is changed from Greenock and Inverclyde County Constituency to Inverclyde County Constituency.

4.4 The proposed constituency will have 60,794 electors within the area noted in paragraph 4.3 above and detailed in Appendix 1. This figure is based upon the electorate data referred to in paragraph 3.7 above. Appendix 2 details the boundary of the existing Greenock and Inverclyde County Constituency.

4.5 Comments on the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries - Provisional Proposals for Constituency Boundaries can be made by the Council and by any member of the public by 17 June 2023.

#### 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial		X	
Legal/Risk	X		
Human Resources		X	X
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)			X
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing			X
Environmental & Sustainability			X
Data Protection			X

#### 5.2 Finance

Subject to the decision of the Council, there are no financial implications arising directly from this report. It is to be noted that responsibility for electoral functions in respect of Scottish parliament elections falls to the Returning Officer, as distinct from the Council.

<b>Cost Centre</b>	<b>Budget Heading</b>	<b>Budget Years</b>	<b>Proposed Spend this Report</b>	<b>Virement From</b>	<b>Other Comments</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

<b>Cost Centre</b>	<b>Budget Heading</b>	<b>With Effect from</b>	<b>Annual Net Impact</b>	<b>Virement From (If Applicable)</b>	<b>Other Comments</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

### 5.3 **Legal/Risk**

This review has been undertaken by Boundaries Scotland in terms of the Scotland Act 1998. Consultation responses must be submitted by 17 June 2023. The legal and risk implications are set out in this report. It is to be noted that responsibility for electoral functions in respect of Scottish parliament elections falls to the Returning Officer, as distinct from the Council.

### 5.4 **Human Resources**

Subject to the decision of the Council, there are no human resources implications arising directly from this report. It is to be noted that responsibility for electoral functions in respect of Scottish parliament elections falls to the Returning Officer, as distinct from the Council.

### 5.5 **Strategic**

There are no strategic implications arising from this report.

## 6.0 **CONSULTATION**

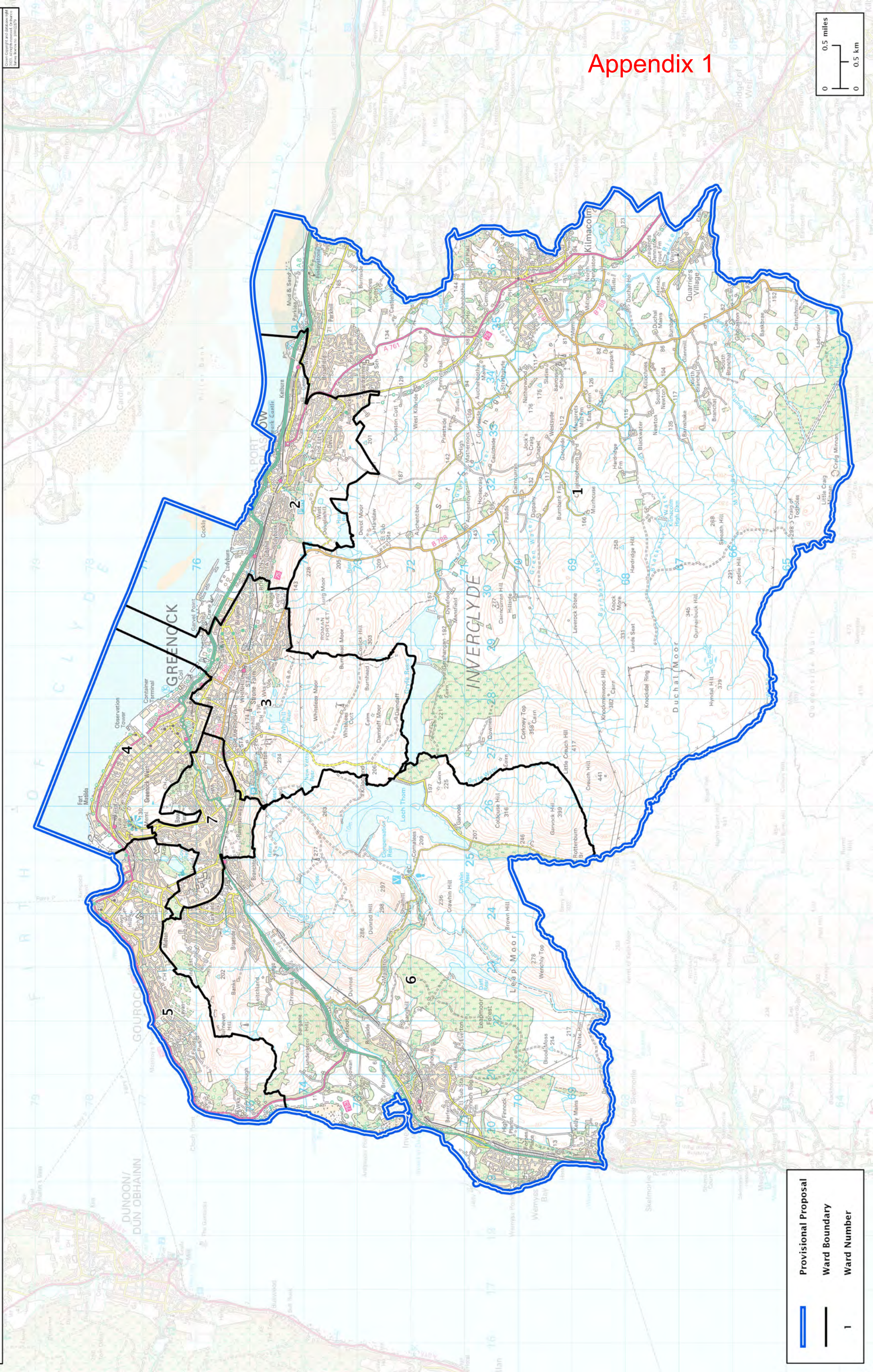
6.1 None.

## 7.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.

# Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries - Provisional Proposals

## Inverclyde County Constituency - Electorate 60,794

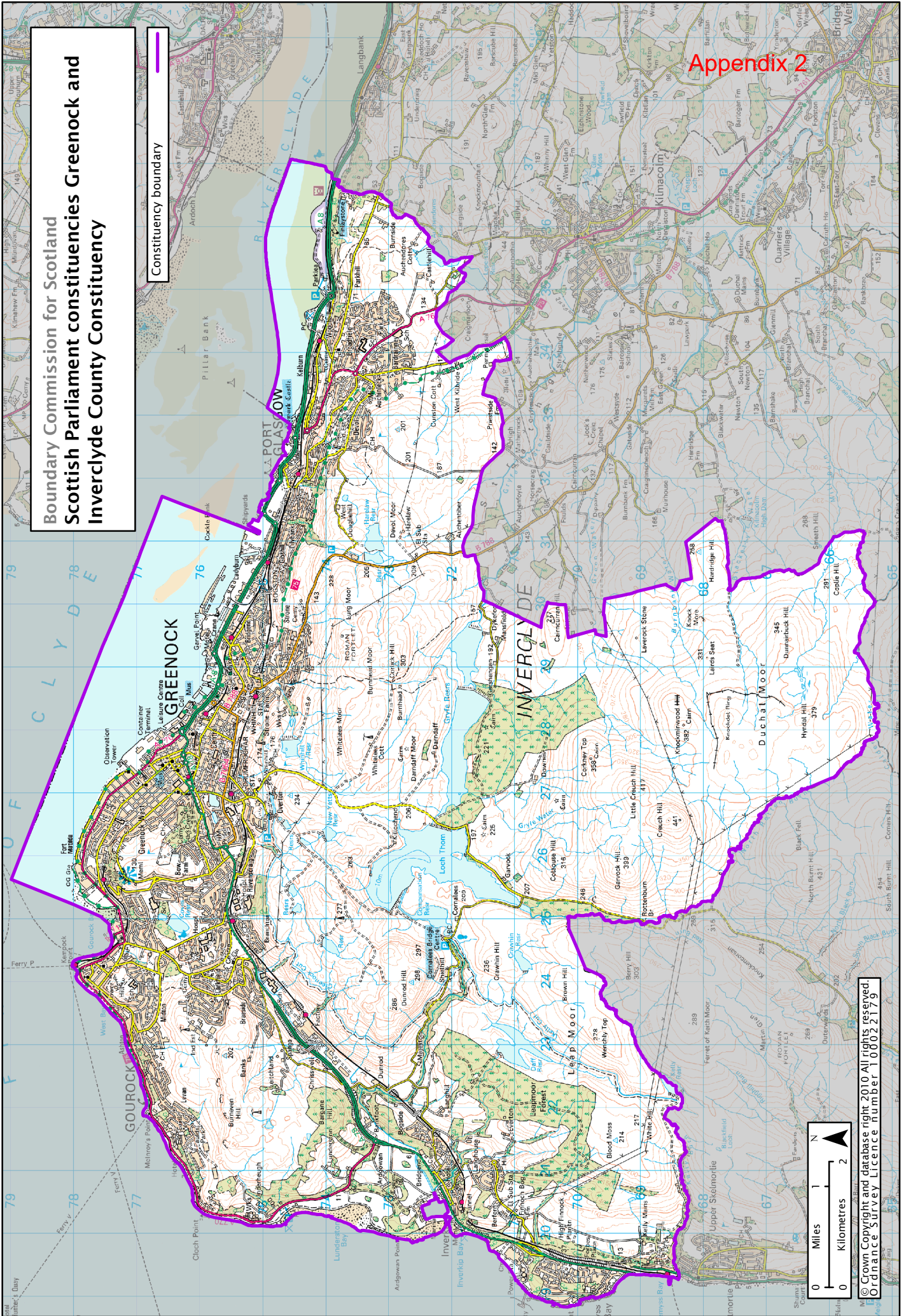


Appendix 1

	Provisional Proposal
	Ward Boundary
	Ward Number

# Boundary Commission for Scotland Scottish Parliament constituencies Greenock and Inverclyde County Constituency

Constituency boundary



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