

**MARGARET SMITH MSP**

Ref: MS/BC/AT

24 July 2006

Bob Smith  
Secretary  
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland  
3 Drumsheugh Gardens  
Edinburgh  
EH3 7QJ

Dear Mr Smith

**Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004  
Review of Electoral Arrangements: City of Edinburgh Council area**

Thank you for your letter of 19<sup>th</sup> July and for the CD-ROM which accompanied it.

I am appalled that the Commission has ignored over 600 letters of objection to the proposal to split Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes. Splitting an established community into three separate Council wards goes completely against the Commission's legal requirement to protect strong natural, social and community ties.

I wrote to you on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2005 outlining my complete opposition to these plans. I find it intolerable that it has taken the Commission almost a year to make this decision. Given that this was the most contested boundary in Scotland, I would have thought that there was a case for this having been addressed as a matter of urgency to allow alternative proposals to be brought forward. The fact that this has been left until the end leaves me with little alternative but to think that you have done so in order that Scottish Executive Ministers have no option but to accept this fait accompli.

As I said in my original response, in my eleven years as a representative politician I have encountered few issues which have generated more genuine local concern. I will be writing to Tom McCabe MSP, Minister for Finance and Public Services, to bring this matter to his attention.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Smith MSP  
Edinburgh West