

(x) Ms E Knox

To the Leader of The Council

“After the Full Council of 10 September 2020, you wrote to Kevin Stewart, Minister for Local Government and Planning, indicating he Highland Council “does not accept that the number of Highland Councillors should reduce at all and indeed in some Wards there was a very strong case to increase the numbers”.

You wrote to Community Councils on 16 November and 2 December expressing concern about the proposed boundary changes and urging them to make representations to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.

Can you explain why, despite the Highland Council voting unanimously to reject the proposals, you did not make such representations to the Boundary Commission during their 11 week consultation with Councils?”

Members unanimously agreed to remove the recommendation contained in the report which came to the Council on 10 September, which proposed to write to the Boundary Commission. In the absence of an alternative recommendation there was no authorisation for me to engage directly with the Boundary Commission on the Council’s behalf. Officers did however inform the Commission about the position taken by the Council. A report is being brought to this meeting which seeks members’ approval to write formally to the Commission.