



Woodhill House

Memorandum

To: Keith Newton, Area Manager (Formartine)

Date: 23 September, 2011

From: Elections Co-ordinator

Our Ref: GP15/1 AB/AB

Ext No: Allan Bell (5119)

Your Ref:

PROPOSED CHANGE TO POLLING ARRANGEMENTS IN WARD 7 (TURRIFF AND DISTRICT)

I write in connection with a proposal to change current election arrangements in Turriff, primarily to facilitate the discontinuation of Markethill Primary School as a polling venue. At present, the school is the sole designated polling place for Polling District EB0701 (Turriff), currently servicing over 4,500 voters. Quite apart from the potential inconvenience to pupils, teachers and parents of the school's closure on the occasion of any election, polling station inspectors have reported that the school does not have the ideal capacity for our principal elections.

As a consequence, I have visited a number of potential alternative venues within Turriff and the most appropriate solution appears to be the creation of two separate polling districts within the town, each of which would have its own polling place.

It is therefore intended that Turriff would be divided into a western polling district (with voting likely to take place at St Ninian's Church in Church Street) and an eastern district (voting at St Andrew's Parish Church Hall in Balmellie Road). Use of either of these facilities is subject to the final agreement of the owners but, having inspected them, I believe they are relatively convenient for the majority of those they would be intended to serve and have the necessary capacity and facilities.

I have received no adverse comment from local members, the Electoral Registration Officer or the local community council about the suggested change and, subject to the amendment receiving formal approval at full Council on 24 November, I will take steps to request the Electoral Registration Officer to give effect to it in the next update of the electoral register. In due course, an advertisement will also be placed in the appropriate local newspaper to publicise the change.

Elections Co-ordinator

cc: Robert McGregor, Constituency Officer, Area Office, Bridge Street, Ellon
Jim Buchan, Constituency Officer, St. Leonard's, Sandyhill Road, Banff