

Elections

Scotland

Methodology for combining batches of less than 200 votes

To ensure that an individual's voter preferences cannot be identified, it has been necessary to aggregate the data where the number of votes cast in a polling station is less than 200.

Because of the variety of wards - urban, rural and mixed - combining data cannot be an exact science, but has been guided by the following criteria recommended by the Electoral Management Board for Scotland:

- where votes are from the same polling place, they will be combined with one or more of the other polling stations.
- combine polling stations that are close geographically, particularly in rural areas.
- combine, where sensible, island communities with other island communities, villages with other villages, rather than combine a village with a large town.
- where geography allows, combine stations of less than 200 votes, rather than combine a station that has less than 200 votes with one that has substantially more than 200 votes. But in situations where a <200 station is geographically distant from a similarly sized station, combine with a larger station.
- combine manually entered votes with the final box for the Ward. There are likely to be relatively few of these and seeking to track them back to the original ballot box is likely to risk delaying publication of the data.
- taking into account the principles above, if possible also combine boxes within the same (UK?)Parliamentary constituencies.