

North East Initial proposals summary

Who we are and what we do

The Boundary Commission for England is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body which is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.

The 2018 Review

We have the task of periodically reviewing the boundaries of all the Parliamentary constituencies in England. We are currently conducting a review on the basis of rules set by Parliament in 2011. The rules tell us that we must make recommendations for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in September 2018. They also result in a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 501), and require that every constituency – apart from two specified exceptions – must have an electorate that is no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507.

Initial proposals

We published our initial proposals for the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England on 13 September 2016. Information about the proposed constituencies is now available on our website.

What is changing in the North East?

The North East has been allocated 25 constituencies – a reduction of four from the current number.

Our proposals leave three of the 29 existing constituencies unchanged. More substantial change is required, however, in other parts of the region.

We are proposing one constituency within Tyne and Wear that crosses the River Tyne. We have also proposed one constituency that crosses the River Tees.

We are proposing one constituency that crosses the boundary between Northumberland and Tyne and Wear, which combines the town of Stannington with wards from the northern part of Newcastle. In addition we are proposing one constituency that includes wards from County Durham and the Borough of Gateshead, combining the town of Rowlands Gill and the town of Consett.

The Borough of Middlesbrough is divided between three constituencies, and the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees is divided between three constituencies. The Borough of Darlington is wholly contained in one constituency.

How to have your say

We are consulting on our initial proposals for a 12-week period, from 13 September 2016 to 5 December 2016. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to help us shape the new constituencies – the more views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when considering whether to revise our proposals.

Our website at www.bce2018.org.uk has more information about how to respond as well as details of where and when we will be holding public hearings in your area. You can also follow us on Twitter @BCE2018 or using #2018boundaryreview.

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