

2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

Partner Guide - Secondary consultation

February 2017



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Introduction

Dear partner,

Thank you to those who helped promote our last public consultation on new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. The public response was brilliant, with nearly 20,000 responses to our proposals.

We are now asking for your help once again - from 28 February our second consultation will be open for four weeks. This will be the public's opportunity to view all the representations made during the first consultation and comment directly on these. Once again we want to hear from local people; we want to know whether they agree or disagree with other people's suggestion and ensure we capture as full a picture of local views and knowledge as possible.

Comments made during the last consultation and the initial proposals will again be available to view at www.bce2018.org.uk, where people can also submit their feedback.

There will be a further consultation on a complete set of revised proposals (most likely in late 2017). We will look at all the evidence received and make any final changes to the proposals for new constituency boundaries. Those final recommendations and an accompanying report will be published and presented to Parliament in September 2018. It will then be for Parliament to decide whether to implement the recommendations for the next scheduled general election in 2020.

Please get involved and help your local communities have their say!

You will find a number of resources outlined within this guide to help you with this.

About the review

Following a decision by Parliament to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK to 600 (from 650), and to ensure that there are roughly the same number of electors in each constituency, the Boundary Commission for England will make independent recommendations about where the boundaries of English constituencies should be. There will be a reduction in the number of English constituencies from the current 533 to 501. On 13 September 2016, we published the initial proposals and started a 12-week consultation asking for feedback on the proposals. We will publish all comments received during this first consultation and open our second four-week consultation on 28 February 2017 (ending 27 March 2017).

How people can get involved

We want to ensure the final recommendations reflect the views and knowledge of local residents and communities. If people want to have their say, it is easier than ever. People can view the proposed changes and comments from the first consultation online (www.bce2018.org.uk) and submit any comments direct to us through the consultation website.

Contact information for partners

If you wish to get in touch with us at any time, you can:

- E-mail us at: information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk
- Call us on: 020 7276 1102
- Write to us at: Boundary Commission for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BQ

Key messages

The independent Boundary Commission for England is reviewing parliamentary constituencies in England to reduce the number and make them more equal.

The Boundary Commission for England wants to hear from local residents and communities, to make sure their final recommendations to Parliament take account of local views and knowledge.

It's easy to have your say. You can view and comment on the proposed changes and feedback from the first consultation online at www.bce2018.org.uk.

How to get involved

We want as many people as possible to have their say on the proposed new boundaries. Feel free to use any or all of the tools and resources in this guide to help share the message.

- Follow us on social media and regularly update your organisation's social media platforms. We have provided some suggested copy and graphics for you to use in tweets and Facebook posts.
- Link to the consultation website (where people can view and comment on the proposed changes) from your organisation's website or your internal and external bulletins/newsletters.
- Distribute the campaign materials at your venues and events. We also encourage you to share the message far and wide within your networks, including arms-length management organisations, housing associations, community groups and your internal staff. We have provided a poster that you can use.
- Send a press notice to local media encouraging others to share their views.
- Blog about it. We have included a sample blog if you want to carry one from us, or you could write your own.

Resources: Social media

Follow us on social media and regularly update your organisation's social media platforms. We have provided some suggested copy and graphics for you to use in tweets and Facebook posts on the next page, but feel free to come up with the best approach for your audience.

Follow us

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/BCommEngland/>

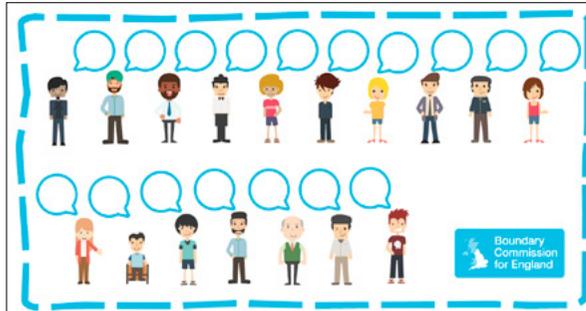
Twitter – [@BCE2018](https://twitter.com/BCE2018)

Share a post on Facebook or send a tweet

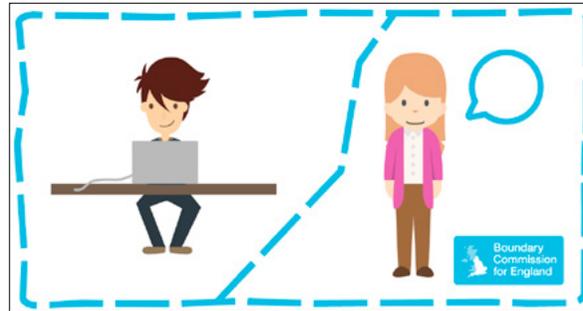
If you are using Twitter you can use [#2018boundaryreview](https://twitter.com/hashtag/2018boundaryreview) in posts and tag us [@BCE2018](https://twitter.com/BCE2018) or on Facebook you can tag us [@BCommEngland](https://www.facebook.com/BCommEngland/)

Resources: Social media

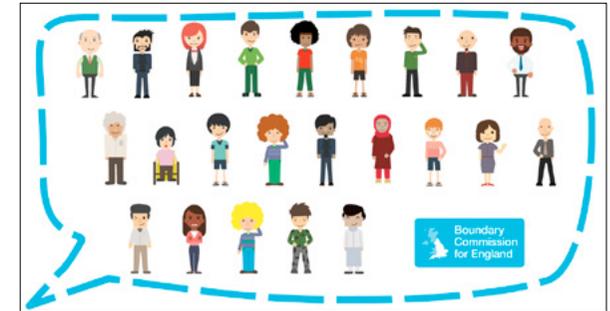
You can share these infographics on Facebook or Twitter and we have suggested some messaging to help you with this, but please feel free to come up with the best approach for your audience.



Get involved and see what others have said on plans to change Parliamentary boundaries at www.bce2018.org.uk



Help redraw the Parliamentary map - see what others have suggested and add your views at www.bce2018.org.uk



Lots of people are already helping shape constituency boundaries; you can get involved too at www.bce2018.org.uk

Downloads

Facebook infographics [↗](#)

Twitter infographics [↗](#)

Resources: Sample messages for websites/bulletins

Link to the consultation website (where people can view and comment on the proposed changes) from your organisation's website or newsletter/bulletins.

Website text

Did you know that Parliamentary constituencies are set to change? In September 2016 the independent Boundary Commission for England (BCE) announced proposals for changes to constituencies in England for the next General Election and needs your help to shape their final recommendations, ensuring they take into consideration local knowledge and views.

From 28 February there will be a four-week consultation allowing you to share your knowledge about your local area. This is the BCE's second consultation and you will be able to see all representations from the first, directly commenting on these to say what you like and don't like about the ideas others have put forward as alternatives to BCE's plans.

It's easier than ever to get involved - go online to view interactive maps with proposed changes and others' comments. You can also easily send feedback through the website.

Find out more at www.bce2018.org.uk

Newsletter/bulletin text

In September 2016 the independent Boundary Commission for England (BCE) published, and held a consultation on, proposals to reduce the number of Parliamentary constituencies across England and to make them more equal. Go online at www.bce2018.org.uk to take part in the second consultation, where you can view and comment on the proposals and submissions from the first consultation. Don't miss out – contribute your local knowledge and have your say on what the new constituencies should be by Monday 27 March 2017.

Other resources

You could consider sending a [press notice](#) to local media, encouraging others to share their views. You can find a template press notice on the BCE website or use the link below.

Why not carry a [blog](#) about the review through your channels. A sample blog can be found on the partner resources section of our website.

We have also produced a [fact sheet leaflet](#) with essential information about the review that you can easily print off (it fits on the back and front of a sheet of A4 paper) and give to anyone who is interested.

Download. [📄](#)

FAQ

Why are you reviewing constituency boundaries?

We have been asked by Parliament to review constituencies in England to ensure that there is a more even distribution of electors across them. Parliament also required the number of UK MPs to be reduced to 600 (there are currently 650). This means the number of constituencies in England will be reduced by 32, from 533 to 501. A review process is necessary to see how best these two significant requirements can be implemented, as their combined effect will lead to some change in a large number of constituencies across England.

How do you work out the proposed changes to boundaries?

The law specifies how to calculate the 'electoral quota' for a constituency review. This is essentially the mean average number of electors for each constituency. The electoral quota for this review is 74,769. Under the rules, every constituency in the UK – except two covering the Isle of Wight and two Scottish island constituencies – must have a number of registered electors within 5% of this figure. This means no constituency will have an electorate of more than 78,507 or less than 71,031 (other than the four island exceptions).

Why is there a second consultation?

Legislation states there must be three consultations. The first is your opportunity to comment on our initial proposals. The second is when we publish all comments received during the first consultation and you can feedback on what others have said. At the third and final consultation we will publish revised proposals and the public can comment on these.

Will my MP or constituency be affected by the boundary changes?

The number of constituencies in England will need to fall by 32, from 533 to 501, and each will need to have a similar number of electors. To implement these requirements, there will need to be changes to the majority of constituencies. View the proposals online for your particular area to find out more.

When would the proposed changes take effect?

The Boundary Commission will make its final recommendations to Parliament in September 2018. If Parliament agrees the changes to boundaries, the new constituencies will take effect at the next scheduled General Election in 2020.

Will this review favour one political party over another?

The Boundary Commission for England is independent and impartial and will not take into account patterns of voting or the results of elections when reviewing constituency boundaries. Nor do the political parties' views on where boundaries should be have any more weight than those of members of the public.

How long will the review last?

Initial proposals are being published in September 2016, with final recommendations submitted to Parliament in September 2018.

Why do you need my views?

We want to make sure that the final recommendations have taken local views and knowledge into consideration.

How can I share my views?

Online: you can go online at www.bce2018.org.uk; enter your postcode and view and comment on proposed new Parliamentary constituencies in your local area.

Equal consideration will be given to all feedback.

Will the changes affect my local council services, bin collections or schools, for example?

No. The boundary changes only relate to Parliamentary constituencies (the area an MP is elected to represent in Parliament). Services and council tax in your local area are set by your local authority and this review does not change local authority boundaries.

Who will make final decisions on the new boundary areas?

Parliament will make the final decisions. The review will finish when the final report of the Commission's recommendations is published and provided to the Government in September 2018. The recommendations must then be put before Parliament by the Government, and Parliament will decide whether or not to implement the recommended new constituencies.

Will the name of my constituency change following the review?

Possibly. As well as looking at where the boundaries of constituencies should be, the BCE will recommend a specific name for each constituency. Generally, the more a constituency has changed, the more likely it is that the BCE will recommend a change of name. Naming of proposed constituencies is certainly something the BCE welcomes views on during the consultation periods.

You can find a more detailed list of questions online at:

www.bce2018.org.uk/faq