

[REDACTED]

25 April 2017

2017-18 FOI 002

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information, which has been considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

In your email you ask for the following information, which I have numbered for ease of reference:

1. *How large is your organisation in terms of employees? An estimate is acceptable thank you.*
2. *What is your single Corporate Objective, or how you would describe your reason for existing?*
3. *What role does Technology play in supporting that objective?*
4. *Do you have a Chief Information Officer or Chief Technology Officer and could you tell me how best to contact them please?*
5. *Do you have an IT Strategy and/or Digital Strategy and if so could you share them please?*
6. *Are you part of a larger organisation or government body, and if so – who?*

The response to your request is as follows:

1. There are 16 staff currently working within the Boundary Commission for England (BCE), plus one current vacancy, due to be filled shortly.
2. The BCE's purpose is to "keep under review the representation [of England] in the House of Commons", in line with the rules set out in the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended). In broad terms, this currently means conducting a 'whole-England' review of constituencies once every five years, with a primary purpose of achieving broad parity in the number of electors in each constituency.
3. For general administration, the BCE uses the technology platform operated by the Cabinet Office (see question 6 below). We use a bespoke version of open-source QGIS Geographic Information Software to build and illustrate various constituency boundary options, and a purpose-built consultation website to facilitate the various phases of public consultation during the review, further supporting that consultation with a separate 'corporate' website, social media accounts, and digital advertising.
4. The BCE does not have its own CIO or CTO (see question 6 below).
5. The BCE does not have its own IT and/or Digital Strategy (see question 6 below).
6. The BCE is an advisory non-departmental body sponsored by the Cabinet Office. As such, while the core policy decisions and recommendations about constituencies are made by our independent Commissioners, the BCE's staff, equipment and administrative policies are provided by

the Cabinet Office. In respect of questions 4 and 5 of this request you may therefore wish to send your request to the Cabinet Office's FOI team direct, at the following email address:
foiteam@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

If you have any queries about the content of this reply please contact me direct, quoting the above reference number on any communication.

Under the provisions of the FOI Act if you are dissatisfied with the response provided you may wish to ask for an internal review. The BCE has a reciprocal arrangement with the Boundary Commission for Wales and in this case you should write to:

The Secretary to the Boundary Commission for Wales,
Ground Floor,
Fitzalan Court,
Cardiff,
CF24 0BL
Email: bcomm.wales@wales.gsi.gov.uk

If it transpires you are not content with our response or the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the BCE. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Office of the Information Commissioner,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Wilcox', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Chris Wilcox,
Information Manager