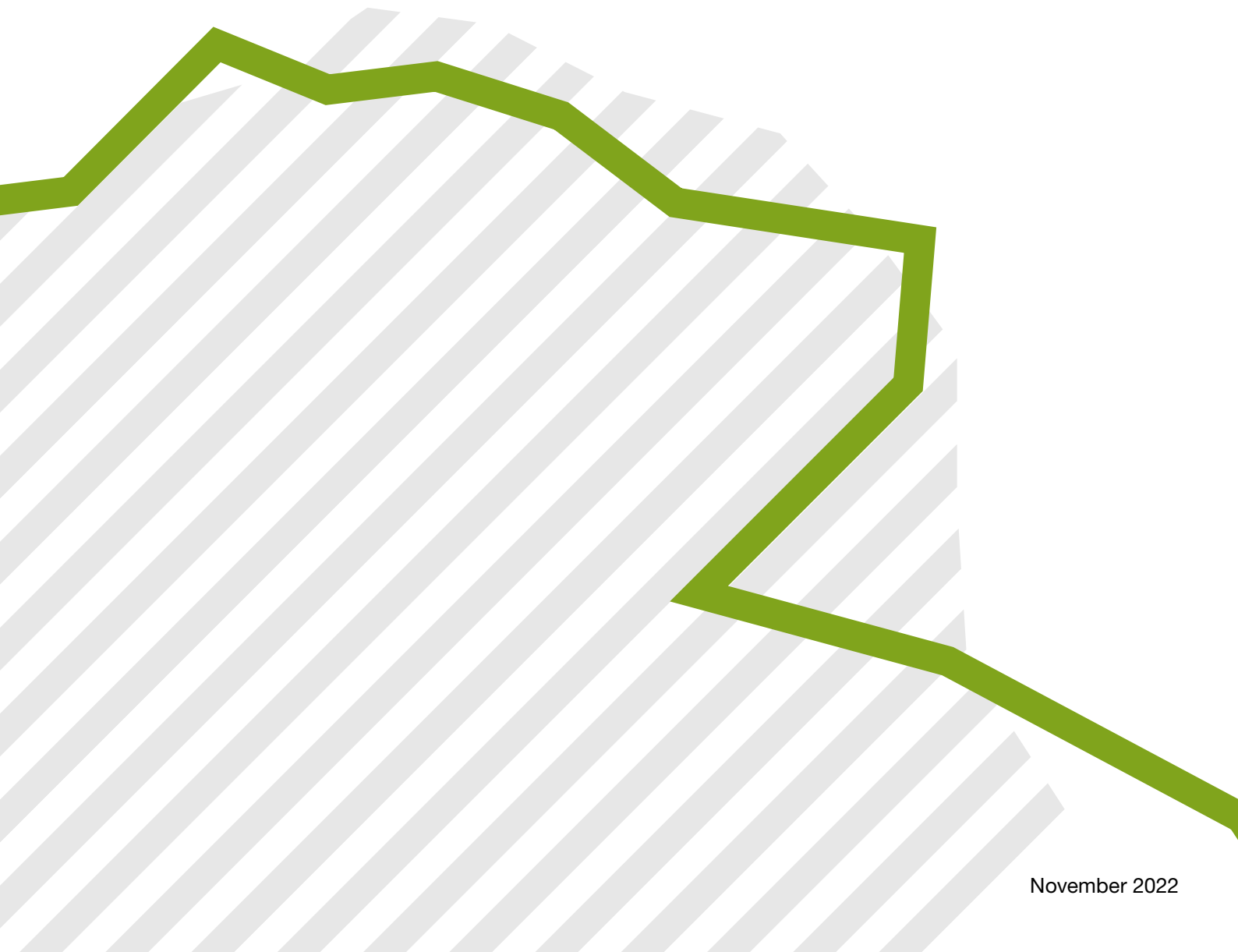


Revised proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the **West Midlands** region



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Summary

Who we are and what we do – ‘The 2023 Review’¹

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

We are currently conducting a review on the basis of legal rules most recently updated by Parliament in 2020, which will conclude with a final report and recommendations from us by 1 July 2023. The rules require there to still be 650 constituencies across the UK, but more equally distributed across the four parts of the UK, which will see the number of constituencies in England increase to 543. Each (apart from five ‘protected’ constituencies) must also contain a number of electors that is no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062 (as at the fixed date of 2 March 2020).

We published our initial proposals for the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England on 8 June 2021 and there have been two rounds of statutory consultation relating to those to which we received over 45,000 responses. We have considered all of the comments received and taken them into account in developing our revised proposals, which we are now publishing for final consultation. For each region, a full report sets out a summary of the responses received to previous consultation on our initial proposals, our analysis of those, and the conclusions we have reached as to how the proposals should be revised as a result. The Appendix to each report contains details of the composition of each constituency we are now proposing, and maps to illustrate these can be viewed on our website or in hard copy at a local place of deposit.²

What are the revised proposals for the West Midlands region?

We have revised the composition of 11 of the 57 constituencies we proposed in June 2021, and maintained our initial proposals for the remainder. We have revised the name of seven of our initially proposed constituencies. Our revised proposals would leave nine existing constituencies in the West Midlands region wholly unchanged, and ten unchanged except to realign constituency boundaries with local government ward boundaries.³

As it is not always possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual counties or unitary authorities, we sometimes group these into sub-regions, meaning some constituencies cross county or unitary authority boundaries. After consideration of the responses to the sub-regions in our initial proposals, our revised proposals are based on unchanged sub-regions, as follows: Herefordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Warwickshire; a sub-region covering the city of Coventry; and

¹ Further details about the BCE and 2023 Review are published on our website: <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/>

² A list of places of deposit is published on our website (as above).

³ Where the Order to make such wards was made by 1 December 2020.

two sub-regions which pair Birmingham and Solihull, and Staffordshire and the Black Country respectively

We propose retaining our initially proposed constituency of Kingswinford and South Staffordshire, which would contain parts of both Dudley and Staffordshire. Elsewhere in the Black Country, we have significantly revised the initial proposals in Sandwell, resulting in new proposals for constituencies of Tipton and Wednesbury, West Bromwich, and Smethwick. We have proposed to split a ward in Walsall, enabling us to propose an Aldridge-Brownhills constituency that would contain all of the existing constituency of the same name. We have also proposed splitting a ward in Staffordshire, in order to better reflect community ties in the proposed Lichfield and Tamworth constituencies. We propose no other revisions elsewhere in Staffordshire.

We do not propose making any revisions to the configuration of constituencies in Shropshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, or Coventry, but have proposed minor revisions to both constituencies in Herefordshire. We have retained much of our initial proposals in Birmingham and Solihull, other than minor adjustments to two constituencies in north Birmingham, which split the Stockland Green Ward in order to allow the transfer of Aston and Lozells wards to Birmingham Perry Barr, and the Kingstanding and Oscott wards to Birmingham Erdington.

How to have your say

We are consulting on our revised proposals for a four-week period, from 8 November 2022 to 5 December 2022. We encourage everyone to use this final opportunity to contribute to the design of the new constituencies – the more views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when we make our final recommendations and report to Parliament. Our consultation portal at www.bcereviews.org.uk has more information about our revised proposals and how to give us your views. You can also follow us on Twitter [@BCEReviews](https://twitter.com/BCEReviews) or at facebook.com/BCEReviews.

1 What is the Boundary Commission for England?

- 1.1 As already mentioned, BCE is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body, which is required to review Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. We must conduct a review of all the constituencies in England every eight years. Our role is to make recommendations for new constituency boundaries, which are then made by Statutory Instrument and used at the next General Election.
- 1.2 The Chair of the Commission is the Speaker of the House of Commons, but – as an MP themselves – by convention they do not actively participate in the work of the Commission. The Deputy Chair and two further Commissioners determine its policies within the legislative framework, oversee the progression of a Review, and take decisions on the actual proposals and recommendations for new constituency boundaries. Further information about the Commissioners can be found on our regular website.

You can find further information on our regular website at www.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk, or on our consultation portal at www.bcereviews.org.uk. You can also contact us with any general enquiries by emailing information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk, or by calling 020 7276 1102.

2 Background to the 2023 Review

- 2.1 We are currently conducting a review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries on the basis of rules most recently updated by Parliament in 2020.⁴ These rules require us to make the number of electors in each constituency more equal. This report covers only the work of the Boundary Commission for England (there are separate Commissions for Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales) and, in particular, introduces our revised proposals for the West Midlands.
- 2.2 Parliamentary boundaries are important, as they define the area in which voters will elect a Member of Parliament. When our recommendations are accepted, they are then used for the first time at the next General Election following their acceptance.
- 2.3 The legislation states that there will be 650 Parliamentary constituencies covering the UK – the same as the current number, but a statutory formula now distributes that total proportionately across the four parts of the UK. England has therefore been allocated 543 constituencies for the 2023 Review, ten more than there are currently. There are also other rules that the Commission has regard to when conducting the review – a full set of the rules can be found in our Guide to the 2023 Review,⁵ but they are also summarised later in this chapter. Most significantly, the rules require every constituency we recommend to contain no fewer than 69,724 electors and no more than 77,062.
- 2.4 This is a significant change to the old rules under which Parliamentary boundary reviews took place, in which achieving as close to the average number of electors in each constituency was an aim, but there was no statutory fixed minimum and maximum number of electors. This, together with the passage of time since constituencies were last updated (based on data from 2000), means that in England, existing constituencies currently range from 53,210 to 109,246 electors. Achieving a more even distribution of electors in every constituency across England, together with the increase in the total allocation of constituencies, means that a significant amount of change to the existing map of constituencies is inevitable.
- 2.5 When implemented, the final recommendations that we will make will be the first set of boundaries to be defined under the new rules. While there has to be a significant amount of change across the country, we have, where practicable, attempted to limit the extent of such change, having regard to the statutory factors and the need to create the best possible pattern for constituencies as a whole. Under the legislation, we have a challenging job in conducting a review of constituency boundaries that is necessarily going to result, in many places, in constituencies that are unfamiliar to the public. Nevertheless, we have conducted the review in a rigorous and thorough fashion.

⁴ The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020, available at www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/25/contents

⁵ Available at www.bcereviews.org.uk

- 2.6 The revised proposals that we set out in this report, and in the reports for the other eight regions across England, are made on the basis of the evidence we received during two consultation exercises relating to our initial proposals, the careful consideration of that evidence by the Secretariat and our Assistant Commissioners, and the best judgement of the three Commissioners. We are confident that these revised proposals strike the best balance between the statutory factors and, having consulted twice already, we are close to settling on a final pattern of constituencies to recommend to Parliament next year. There are areas across the country where our judgement has been a balanced and marginal one between competing alternatives, and in such cases we have made clear that we are particularly looking for further evidence before we finalise our recommendations. In many other areas we are persuaded by the evidence we have received thus far, and we would therefore require new and significantly stronger arguments to make us depart from our revised proposals. If it exists, such new and compelling evidence would be welcome, but we will not be assisted by a repetition of arguments that have already been made, and which we have already considered. The requirement to keep constituencies within the permitted range of electors is strict, but otherwise we have sought to balance often conflicting considerations. Our proposals must also be comprehensive. We are acutely aware that very often a change that may seem obvious to make in one constituency necessarily requires far less attractive alterations in one or more neighbouring constituencies, and sometimes the consequential alterations reverberate through a whole chain of constituencies.
- 2.7 Our Guide to the 2023 Review contains further detailed background information, and explains all of the policies and procedures that we are following in conducting the review. We encourage anyone wishing to respond to the review to read this document, which will give them a greater understanding of the rules and constraints placed on the Commission, especially if they are intending to comment on our revised proposals and/or make their own counter-proposals.

The rules in the legislation

- 2.8 As well as the primary rule that constituencies must have no fewer than 69,724 electors and no more than 77,062, the legislation also states that, when deciding on boundaries, the Commission may take into account:
- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
 - local government boundaries which existed, or were prospective, on 1 December 2020;
 - boundaries of existing constituencies;
 - any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies; and
 - the inconveniences attendant on such changes.

- 2.9 In relation to local government boundaries in particular, it should be noted that for a given area, where we choose to take account of local government boundaries, if there are prospective boundaries (as at 1 December 2020), it is those, rather than existing boundaries, of which account may be taken. This is a significant change to the former legislation, which referred only to the local government boundaries as they actually existed on the relevant date.
- 2.10 Our initial proposals for the West Midlands (and the accompanying maps) were therefore based on local government boundaries that existed, or – where relevant – were prospective, on 1 December 2020. Our revised proposals contained within this report continue to be based on those boundaries. Our Guide to the 2023 Review outlines further our policy on how, and to what extent, we take into account local government boundaries. We have used the existing and prospective wards as at 1 December 2020 of unitary authorities, and borough and district councils (in areas where there is also a county council) as the basic building blocks for our proposals.
- 2.11 In a number of existing constituencies, changes to local government wards since constituencies were last updated (in 2010) have resulted in the new ward effectively being split, between the constituency the old ward was wholly a part of, and at least one other existing constituency. As part of our proposals, we will by default seek to realign the boundaries of constituencies with up-to-date ward boundaries, thus reuniting wards that are currently divided between existing constituencies. In places where there has been only a minor change to a ward, this may see an existing constituency boundary change only very slightly, to realign with the new ward. However, where wards in an area have been changed more significantly, this may result in the area covered by the new ward becoming part of a different constituency than the one much of that area was in previously.
- 2.12 Although the 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies will inevitably result in significant change, we have also taken into account the boundaries of existing constituencies so far as we can. We tried to retain existing constituencies as part of our initial proposals wherever possible, as long as the other factors could also be satisfied. This, however, proved difficult. Our initial proposals retained 15% of the existing constituencies in the West Midlands as wholly unchanged, and a further 20% changed only to realign with changed boundaries of their component wards.
- 2.13 Among the many arguments we heard in response to the consultations on our initial proposals was the need to have particular regard to this factor of the rules to which we work. While some respondents might put a higher value on retaining existing constituency boundaries over the other factors in the rules, the legislation does not give any of these precedence over another, and the Commission therefore considers that its task is to seek to strike the best balance of all the factors in each area, within the numerical constraints.

- 2.14 Our proposals are based on the nine English regions as defined in the legislation; a description of the extent of each region also appears in the Guide to the 2023 Review. This report relates to the West Midlands region. There are eight other separate reports containing our revised proposals for the other regions. At the very beginning of the 2023 Review we decided, in agreement with all the qualifying political parties, to use these regions as discrete areas within which to undertake our work. You can find more details in our Guide to the 2023 Review and on our website. We stated in our initial proposals report that, while this approach does not prevent anyone from making proposals to us that cross regional boundaries, very compelling reasons would need to be given to persuade us to depart from the region-based approach.
- 2.15 In response to the consultations on our initial proposals, we did not receive sufficient evidence across the country to suggest that we should depart from the regional approach to this review. Therefore, this report, and all other regional reports, continue to use the regional boundaries as the basis for proposals for constituencies.

Timetable for our review

Stage one – development of initial proposals

- 2.16 We began this review in January 2021. We published electorate data from 2 March 2020 (the relevant date specified by the legislation) for each local government ward in England, including – where relevant – wards that were prospective on 1 December 2020. The electorate data was provided by individual local electoral registration officers and the Office for National Statistics. These figures are available on our website. The Commission then considered the statutory factors outlined above and drew up the initial proposals. We published our initial proposals for consultation for each of England's nine regions on 8 June 2021.

Stage two – consultation on initial proposals

- 2.17 We consulted on our initial proposals for eight weeks, from 8 June 2021 until 2 August 2021. We received over 34,000 discrete written representations across the country as a whole, including over 3,900 unique written representations relating to the West Midlands. We are grateful to all those who took the time and effort to read and respond to our initial proposals.

Stage three – consultation on representations received

- 2.18 The legislation required us to publish all the responses we received on our initial proposals. We published the representations on 7 February 2022 ahead of a six-week 'secondary consultation' period, which took place from 22 February 2022 until 4 April 2022. The purpose of the secondary consultation was for people to

see what others said in response to our initial proposals, and to make comments on those views, for example by countering an argument, or by supporting and reinforcing what others said. We received over 10,000 unique written representations across the country as a whole, including almost 700 unique representations relating to the West Midlands. We also hosted between two and five public hearings in each region. We heard more than 100 oral representations at the three public hearings in the West Midlands. We are grateful to all those who attended and spoke at our public hearings.

Stage four – development and publication of revised proposals

- 2.19 As we detail in chapter 3 below, having considered the evidence presented to us, we have decided that the evidence is such that it is appropriate to revise our initial proposals in some areas. Therefore, as we are required to do under the legislation, on 8 November 2022, we are publishing this report – *Revised proposals for new constituency boundaries in the West Midlands region* – alongside eight others, one for each of the other regions in England. We are consulting on our revised proposals for the statutory four-week period, which closes on 5 December 2022. Unlike the secondary consultation period, there is no provision in the legislation for further public hearings. Chapter 4 outlines how you can contribute during this consultation period. It should be noted that this will be the final opportunity for people to contribute their views during the 2023 Review.

Stage five – development and publication of the final report and recommendations

- 2.20 Once the consultation on revised proposals has closed on 5 December 2022, we will consider all the representations received at this stage, and throughout the review, before determining our final recommendations. The recommendations will be set out in a report to the Speaker of the House of Commons, who will lay it before Parliament, at which time we will also publish the report. The legislation states that we should submit that report to the Speaker by 1 July 2023. Further details about what the Government must then do with our recommendations in order to implement them are contained in our Guide to the 2023 Review.
- 2.21 Throughout each consultation period, we have taken – and are continuing to take – all reasonable steps to publicise our proposals, so that as many people as possible are aware of the consultation and can take the opportunity to contribute to our review of constituencies.

3 Revised proposals for the West Midlands

- 3.1 After the consultation on the initial proposals in 2021, we arranged for the appointment of two Assistant Commissioners for the West Midlands – Sir David Natzler KCB and Ruth Bagley OBE – to assist us with the analysis of the representations received during the first two consultation periods. This included chairing public hearings held in the region to collect oral evidence, as follows:
- Birmingham: 28 February-1 March 2022
 - Stafford: 3-4 March 2022
 - Worcester: 7-8 March 2022
- 3.2 We asked the Assistant Commissioners to consider all the written and oral representations, and to make recommendations to us on whether our initial proposals should be revised, in light of evidence provided in the representations. It is important to stress that the Assistant Commissioners had no involvement in developing – and therefore no vested interest in supporting – our initial proposals. Accordingly, they came to the analysis with an independent mind, open to viable alternative proposals supported by evidence. We are very grateful for the thorough and methodical approach the Assistant Commissioners have taken to their work.
- 3.3 What follows in this chapter is:
- a brief recap of our initial proposals;
 - a description of the views and counter-proposals put forward during the consultations;
 - the Assistant Commissioners’ analysis of the strength of the arguments for adoption of any of those counter-proposals; and
 - our decision on whether or not to make changes to our proposals in the given area.
- 3.4 A tabular summary of the revised constituencies we now propose appears in the Appendix to this report.
- 3.5 Throughout this chapter, where we refer to a respondent’s response, we do so by using the reference number, i.e. BCE-12345 (we only include an individual’s name if they gave permission for it to be published). This reference number corresponds with the representations that can be found on our consultation website at www.bcereviews.org.uk. All representations received in response to the first two consultations are publicly available on this website. The representations received in response to these revised proposals will be published at the end of the review.

Sub-regions

- 3.6 Our initial proposals sought to respect county boundaries wherever possible. Herefordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire all have electorates that allow them to be treated as self-contained sub-regions, as they are in the existing pattern of constituencies. In order to respect local authority and existing constituency boundaries, we proposed that each of these counties be a sub-region. The West Midlands metropolitan county is made up of seven local authorities, each containing wards with very large electorates and with their own distinct identity. For this reason we deemed it beneficial to divide the county when allocating sub-regions rather than treating it as a single unit. The electorate of Solihull is too large to be allocated two constituencies and too small for three, and therefore had to be paired with either Birmingham to the west, or Coventry to the east. We proposed to allocate three whole constituencies to the City of Coventry, and therefore as part of our initial proposals we paired Solihull with Birmingham. Although it was possible to allocate 11 constituencies to both the Black Country (comprising Dudley, Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Walsall) and Staffordshire, doing so would have resulted in 56 constituencies in the region, one fewer than the allocated figure. We therefore proposed to pair Staffordshire and the Black Country for the final sub-region. In the initial proposals we proposed one cross-county boundary constituency between the West Midlands and Staffordshire, which we considered improved the proposals for constituencies in both counties.
- 3.7 We received broad support for the proposed sub-regions throughout both consultation periods, with all qualifying political parties supporting the sub-regions we proposed. We received some counter-proposals that proposed Birmingham as a standalone sub-region, combining Solihull with Warwickshire instead (BCE-80763 and BCE-94673, John Bryant).
- 3.8 We also received a substantial number of representations supporting the counter-proposal from Sir Gavin Williamson, MP for South Staffordshire (BCE-75677), advocating for Staffordshire as a standalone sub-region. Sir Gavin Williamson MP argued that the ‘unique character’ of the county would be negatively impacted by combining it with parts of the Black Country. Instead, his counter-proposal would include Birmingham in a sub-region with the Black Country.
- 3.9 We considered pairing Solihull with Warwickshire at the initial proposal stage and this was considered once more by the Assistant Commissioners when formulating the revised proposals. The initial proposals for Warwickshire would transfer only a single ward between constituencies in the whole county, and many of the proposals for Birmingham constituencies, such as those for

Northfield, Selly Oak and Edgbaston, were broadly supported in the consultation. The Assistant Commissioners noted that altering the sub-regional groupings of these areas would result in substantial disruption to the existing constituencies in Warwickshire and Birmingham.

- 3.10** While the Assistant Commissioners understood the merits of treating Staffordshire as a standalone sub-region, they also noted that doing so would require all constituencies in the county to have an average electorate of almost 76,000, very close to the top of the permitted range. This approach would significantly hamper the ability to create constituencies in Staffordshire, Birmingham and the Black Country that would satisfy the statutory factors. The Assistant Commissioners particularly noted that Sir Gavin Williamson MP's counter-proposal would require nine wards to be split between constituencies, an increase of six from the initial proposals. They also concluded that the counter-proposal would significantly disrupt local ties in parts of Birmingham and the Black Country, demonstrating the clear knock-on effects of treating Staffordshire as a standalone sub-region.
- 3.11** While the Assistant Commissioners acknowledged the existence of some benefits in each of these alternative sub-region groupings, they also judged that they would cause severe disruption to existing constituency boundaries and local ties across the region. For this reason, they did not recommend changing the sub-region grouping for these revised proposals. We agree with the recommendation of the Assistant Commissioners on this point and therefore do not propose making adjustments to the sub-regions as part of our revised proposals.

Herefordshire

- 3.12** Both of the existing constituencies in Herefordshire are within the permitted electorate range; however, due to local ward boundary changes in the county, it is not possible to retain both of these constituencies unchanged without dividing wards between constituencies. Two wards, Holmer and Stoney Street, cross the existing boundary between the two constituencies. The initial proposals would include the Stoney Street ward wholly in the North Herefordshire constituency and the Holmer ward wholly in Hereford and South Herefordshire, but otherwise made no changes to the existing constituencies.
- 3.13** The initial proposals for Herefordshire were supported by the Labour Party (BCE-79523) and the Liberal Democrats (BCE-80896); however, the Conservative Party (BCE-86587) put forward a counter-proposal for the county that would swap the two divided wards, including Stoney Street in the Hereford and South Herefordshire constituency, and transferring the Holmer ward to the North Herefordshire constituency.

- 3.14** Evidence received in support of the Conservative counter-proposal emphasised the significance of the River Wye in the county. Although they noted that there is a bridge over the River Wye into North Herefordshire within the Stoney Street ward, the Assistant Commissioners agreed that the river provides a geographical barrier separating the ward from the northern half of the county; Councillor David Hitchiner (BCE-97263) described the River Wye as a 'natural boundary'. The Assistant Commissioners also accepted the evidence from those such as Sir Bill Wiggan (BCE-59017), MP for North Herefordshire, who indicated that the vast majority of the electorate in the Stoney Street ward live south of the River Wye, and therefore fewer electors would see their existing constituency changed under the Conservative Party counter-proposal relative to the initial proposals.
- 3.15** Although it was not submitted as a counter-proposal, the Assistant Commissioners considered the possibility of splitting the Stoney Street and Holmer wards in order to retain both constituencies in the sub-region unchanged. This alternative scheme would allow for the River Wye to act as the constituency boundary within the Stoney Street ward. The Holmer ward would be split along the Roman Road to allow all areas south of it to remain in the Hereford and South Herefordshire constituency. While acknowledging that this configuration would better reflect both local geography and the existing constituency boundaries, the Assistant Commissioners concluded that this would not significantly enhance our ability to adhere to local ties in the county. As such, they did not recommend splitting wards in Herefordshire as part of the revised proposals.
- 3.16** We accept the Assistant Commissioners' recommendation to adopt the counter-proposal put forward by the Conservative Party in Herefordshire. We agree that including the Stoney Street ward in the Hereford and South Herefordshire constituency would better reflect the statutory factors, particularly with regard to reducing change to the existing constituencies and better reflecting community ties within the county. We therefore propose transferring the Holmer ward to North Herefordshire, with the Stoney Street ward moving in the opposite direction into Hereford and South Herefordshire. We do not propose revising either constituency name.

Shropshire

- 3.17** Although four of the five existing Shropshire constituencies are outside of the permitted electorate range, the initial proposals transferred only four whole wards between constituencies – minimising change to existing constituencies. We proposed transferring two wards from Shrewsbury and Atcham to Ludlow, and two from North Shropshire to The Wrekin.

- 3.18 We also proposed changing the names of the existing constituencies of Shrewsbury and Atcham, Ludlow, and The Wrekin to, respectively: Shrewsbury; Ludlow and Bridgnorth; and Newport and Wellington, as these would better align with the Commission's naming policy.
- 3.19 All qualifying political parties endorsed the initially proposed boundaries of the North Shropshire, Shrewsbury, and Ludlow and Bridgnorth constituencies. The boundaries of Telford, and Newport and Wellington, were also supported by the Conservative Party, Liberal Democrats and Green Party. We received a joint submission from every Constituency Labour Party in Shropshire (BCE-62418) concerning these latter two constituencies. It argued for the inclusion of Hadley and Leegomery ward in the Telford constituency, and the inclusion of Priorslee ward in the Newport and Wellington constituency. This counter-proposal received support and opposition from other respondents in both consultation periods.
- 3.20 We received one counter-proposal putting forward an alternative configuration for the Shropshire sub-region (David Jones – BCE-54131). This proposal would transfer the Rea Valley ward to the Ludlow and Bridgnorth constituency, allowing the Severn Valley ward to remain in the Shrewsbury constituency.
- 3.21 We received very few representations commenting on the configuration of both the proposed North Shropshire and Shrewsbury constituencies. We did receive some comments from residents within the Severn Valley ward; these included some objections from the very north of the ward (Councillor Rosemary Dartnall – BCE-89652), and some supportive comments from southern parts of it (BCE-67709). We did not receive any representations supporting David Jones' counter-proposal.
- 3.22 We received a significant number of representations supporting the Labour Party counter-proposal for the proposed Telford constituency, stating that the initial proposals did not reflect local ties in the area. Councillor Shaun Davies (BCE-71905) said that Priorslee's closest community links lay outside of the Telford constituency. Councillor Davies stated that Priorslee 'has never really been part of Telford New Town', but rather that 'It has closer links to Shifnal'. A representation from Councillor Vanessa Holt (BCE-75906) argued that Hadley and Leegomery would benefit from being included in the Telford constituency, as its local ties with Telford were far stronger than with Wellington. Notwithstanding such representations supporting the Labour Party counter-proposal, we received a greater quantity of comments objecting to it. Representation BCE-87892 stated that, contrary to the comments of Councillor Davies, the links between Telford and Priorslee 'are historical and existed before the New Town was built'. We also received representations commenting on the strong and historical links between Hadley and Wellington, such as that from Councillor Stuart Parr (BCE-97232).

- 3.23 We received a large number of representations objecting to the two proposed changes to constituency names within the county. Those objecting to the new 'Newport and Wellington' constituency name said that it did not recognise the many other towns and villages in the area, particularly with the introduction of Hodnet and Cheswardine into the constituency. In contrast, many people, such as Marianne West (BCE-66554), argued that all areas within the proposed Newport and Wellington constituency could identify with the existing name of The Wrekin. Mark Pritchard (BCE-68448), MP for The Wrekin, also raised the point that several other Wellingtons and Newports exist within the UK, and therefore that the proposed name would not sufficiently identify the area it describes.
- 3.24 We also received a number of representations opposing the proposed Ludlow and Bridgnorth constituency name. Most of the objections provided similar arguments to those made regarding the 'Newport and Wellington' constituency name, that naming specific towns was to the exclusion of others. Accordingly, while some respondents favoured reverting to the existing Ludlow constituency name, many felt that South Shropshire would be a more appropriate and inclusive name. The Association of British Counties (BCE-76801) submitted evidence to argue that South Shropshire would better reflect the cultural identity and generally very dispersed nature of the population across the constituency. As in the case of The Wrekin, this generated a large amount of support, with respondents generally arguing that an alternative name would be more inclusive of the constituency as a whole.
- 3.25 The Assistant Commissioners recognised the merits of Councillor David Jones' counter-proposal for Ludlow and Shrewsbury constituencies, particularly for residents who live north of the A5 road where it runs to the south of Shrewsbury but within the Severn Valley ward; however, they were also aware that the existing Ludlow constituency is too small and needs to gain electors. We did not receive any support for the proposal to remove the Rea Valley ward from the proposed Shrewsbury constituency. We therefore agree with the Assistant Commissioners that there is insufficient evidence to suggest that this counter-proposal would better reflect the statutory factors, and accept their recommendation that the initial proposals be retained for the Shrewsbury and North Shropshire constituencies, and that the boundaries of the proposed Ludlow and Bridgnorth constituencies are also retained.

- 3.26 Although we received evidence to support the Labour Party's counter-proposal for the Telford constituency, we felt that the evidence received in opposition was overall more persuasive. Although our Assistant Commissioners accepted that Priorslee and Hadley have some local ties to Shifnal and Telford respectively, their view was that this counter-proposal would not represent an improvement on the initial proposals, particularly as the proposed Telford constituency was changed only to align with new local government ward boundaries. Therefore, with views on local ties being, at times, contradictory, the Assistant Commissioners took account of the existing constituency boundaries and recommended retaining the initial proposals for the Telford, and Newport and Wellington constituencies, and we agree.
- 3.27 The naming policy of the Commission outlines a general preference for naming the main population centre(s) in the constituency, but also states that we would accept a suitable alternative with strong local support. The evidence presented to the Assistant Commissioners that the existing name of The Wrekin constituency was both popular and well-grounded in a distinctive and well-known physical geographical feature in the area – to which many people felt affinity – was compelling. We therefore agree with the recommendation to retain the existing The Wrekin as the constituency name in place of Newport and Wellington. While some respondents in the consultation process argued for the retention of Ludlow as a constituency name, the Assistant Commissioners were persuaded that the name South Shropshire would be a more inclusive name to reflect the whole area covered by the constituency, and we accept their recommendation.

Worcestershire

- 3.28 Four of the six existing constituencies in the county of Worcestershire are within the permitted electorate range, and three are coterminous with their local authority boundaries. The initial proposals therefore proposed moving only two whole wards, from the existing Mid Worcestershire constituency to the Redditch constituency. We also proposed two constituency name changes, to better align with our general constituency naming policy: Mid Worcestershire to Droitwich and Evesham, and Wyre Forest to Kidderminster.
- 3.29 Of the four qualifying political parties, the Labour Party, the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats accepted the initial proposals in full. A counter-proposal was submitted by the Green Party (BCE-97178), which would retain Harvington and Norton ward in a constituency with Evesham, instead transferring Alvechurch South ward into the Redditch constituency. While we received no representations that supported this approach, some opposed it.

- 3.30** We received a significant number of submissions regarding the proposed Kidderminster constituency. Although almost all representations supported the configuration of the constituency, they largely opposed changing the Wyre Forest constituency name.
- 3.31** Some respondents objected to the proposed Redditch constituency. Almost all of these objections came from residents of the Dodderhill ward and the Harvington and Norton ward, which would be transferred to the Redditch constituency under the initial proposals. We received a counter-proposal (BCE-60839) that advocated for reorienting the proposed constituencies of Droitwich and Evesham, and West Worcestershire. This proposal would combine Droitwich with Great Malvern, and Evesham with the southern portion of the Malvern Hills local authority.
- 3.32** Very few representations were received regarding the configuration of the proposed constituencies of West Worcestershire, Worcester and Bromsgrove. Of the representations that were received, the vast majority of respondents supported our initial proposal to leave all three constituencies wholly unchanged.
- 3.33** In the initial proposals report, we acknowledged that the proposed Redditch constituency was likely to break ties between the Harvington and Norton ward and Evesham, and the evidence received in both consultation periods corroborated this. Representations from the ward referenced its close ties with Evesham, as well as the poor transport links with Redditch (for example, BCE-81942). While we received representations objecting to the inclusion of the Harvington and Norton ward in the proposed Redditch constituency, we did not receive any comments directly supporting the Green Party's counter-proposal for the sub-region; the Liberal Democrats (BCE-97146) and Conservative Party (BCE-97169) opposed it during the secondary consultation.
- 3.34** Consultation responses expressed very strong support for retaining the Wyre Forest constituency name. Most respondents said they did not feel any connection to the town of Kidderminster, despite it being the largest population centre in the constituency. By contrast, we received substantial evidence to show that people felt a sense of belonging to Wyre Forest, a name that most respondents felt was more inclusive of other settlements in the district, such as Bewdley or Stourport-on-Severn (Alan Wakeman – BCE-74024). We also note the argument made by those such as the MP for Wyre Forest, Mark Garnier (BCE-60975), who pointed out that as the proposed boundaries were remaining unchanged, it would be consistent with our naming policy to therefore retain the existing name.

- 3.35** The Assistant Commissioners recognised the close links between Harvington and Norton ward and Evesham and considered the counter-proposals that sought to improve local ties in this part of the county. While they saw some merit in the counter-proposal submitted by the Green Party, they also identified some areas in which it did not demonstrate improvements when considering the statutory factors. They noted in particular that it would divide the village of Alvechurch between constituencies. It would also adjust the Bromsgrove constituency, which would otherwise be wholly unchanged under the initial proposals, as well as being coterminous with its local authority boundary. The Assistant Commissioners did not believe that this counter-proposal would result in a better reflection of the statutory factors in the sub-region overall, and therefore did not recommend adopting it. We agree with the position of the Assistant Commissioners on this point and therefore do not endorse the Green Party proposal. Given the support we received for our initial proposals for the Bromsgrove constituency, the Assistant Commissioners saw no reason to recommend change to it. We agree, and propose retaining the initial proposals for the Bromsgrove constituency.
- 3.36** The Assistant Commissioners also considered the counter-proposal in submission BCE-60839, but felt this counter-proposal to be less compliant when considering the statutory factors. Both constituencies put forward in this counter-proposal demonstrate a far greater degree of change from the existing pattern than in the initial proposals. Furthermore, both took less account of local government boundaries, crossing between Wychavon and Malvern Hills districts, something the Assistant Commissioners felt was unnecessary given the minimal change in the county in the initial proposals. The Assistant Commissioners also noted that the proposed West Worcestershire constituency was largely supported throughout both consultation periods. As a result, they did not recommend the counter-proposal and we agree with them on this point. Consequently, we do not propose making any change to the composition of the proposed Droitwich and Evesham, West Worcestershire, Worcester, or Redditch constituencies.
- 3.37** The Assistant Commissioners noted the high level of support for the retention of the Wyre Forest constituency name and understood that it reflects the geographic extent of the constituency better than Kidderminster. They also noted that the proposed constituency is wholly unchanged from the existing Wyre Forest constituency. Therefore, respecting the unchanged composition of the constituency and strong local support for the retention of Wyre Forest, they recommended retaining that existing constituency name, with boundaries unchanged from the initial proposals. We accept that recommendation.

Warwickshire

- 3.38 Four of the six existing constituencies in Warwickshire are within the permitted electorate range. The initial proposals would balance the electorates of the remaining two constituencies by transferring a single ward, Budbrooke, from the Warwick and Leamington constituency to Kenilworth and Southam. The Stratford-on-Avon and Rugby constituencies would be changed only to align with local ward boundaries changes. The proposed Bedworth and North Warwickshire, and Nuneaton constituencies would be wholly unchanged under the initial proposals from their existing form.
- 3.39 The four largely unchanged constituencies in Warwickshire were supported by all four qualifying parties. The transfer of the Budbrooke ward was supported by the Labour, Liberal Democrat, and Green parties, but opposed by the Conservative Party (BCE-86587), who instead proposed splitting this ward, transferring the Hatton Park area to the Kenilworth and Southam constituency to allow the remainder of the ward to be retained in Warwick and Leamington. This counter-proposal generated a significant amount of support among respondents to the public consultations.
- 3.40 Respondents provided evidence on the ‘strong geographical, historical and cultural links’ between villages in the Budbrooke ward and the towns of Royal Leamington Spa and Warwick, stressing the shared community between these villages and their two nearest towns (BCE-78118). Correspondingly, these representations argued that these areas have very few, if any, ties to either Kenilworth or Southam. Supporters of the Conservative Party counter-proposal argued that it would allow for strong community ties between the parishes of Barford, Budbrooke and Norton Lindsey, and the rest of the Warwick and Leamington constituency to be respected (Councillor Andrew Day – BCE-79462). Supporters of this counter-proposal also argued that the avoidance of a ‘doughnut constituency’ should be seen as a significant improvement over the initial proposals (BCE-78118).

- 3.41 The Assistant Commissioners visited the area in order to assess the viability of this ward split. They observed that the Hatton Park area of the ward appeared to be a distinct community that showed more similarity with rural areas in the Kenilworth and Southam constituency than it did to Warwick town. Evidence gathered on the site visit, however, also showed a clear rural-urban separation between Warwick and the rest of the Budbrooke ward. In particular, the M40 and A46 provide a sizable and distinct boundary between Warwick and population centres such as Barford and Sherbourne. Having considered the evidence collected from representations and their site visit, our Assistant Commissioners concluded that splitting the Budbrooke ward would not meaningfully improve either constituency with regard to the statutory factors. We agree with this assessment, and therefore propose no change to both the Warwick and Leamington, and Kenilworth and Southam constituencies as initially proposed.
- 3.42 We received some counter-proposals (such as David Murray – BCE-96434, and Benjamin Nunn – BCE-79834) that would significantly alter the composition of constituencies in the sub-region in order to align closer with local authority boundaries. We raised this as a potential alternative approach in the initial proposals report; however, the Assistant Commissioners noted that almost no evidence was received requesting change to the constituencies that were left largely or wholly unchanged in the initial proposals. Our revised proposals therefore retain the initial proposals for the Bedworth and North Warwickshire, Nuneaton, Rugby, and Stratford-on-Avon constituencies.

Coventry

- 3.43 Two of the three existing constituencies in Coventry have electorates that are within the permitted range; however, as the wards in the city have very high electorates, it was not possible to develop a pattern of constituencies in the borough that involved the transfer of a single ward. Without splitting a ward between constituencies it was therefore necessary to transfer at least two wards between constituencies. We therefore initially proposed to transfer the Lower Stoke ward from Coventry East to Coventry South, with the Binley and Willenhall ward transferring in the opposite direction.
- 3.44 While the Labour Party supported the initial proposals for Coventry in full, both the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats opposed them and submitted counter-proposals. The Conservative Party (BCE-86587) proposed transferring the Woodlands ward (from the proposed Coventry North West constituency) into Coventry South and transferring the St Michael's ward in the opposite direction. This counter-proposal generated a large amount of support during the consultation process.

- 3.45 The Liberal Democrats (BCE-97146) submitted a counter-proposal that would unite Woodlands and Westwood wards together in the Coventry South constituency. They proposed transferring Lower Stoke ward back to Coventry East, and Foleshill ward to Coventry North West, effectively altering the initial proposals by transferring three wards. Although we received an identical counter-proposal from David Murray (BCE-96434), we received little other evidence throughout the consultation process to support this approach.
- 3.46 Some respondents provided evidence to contest the proposal to transfer the wards of Lower Stoke, and Binley and Willenhall. The proposal to include Lower Stoke and Upper Stoke in separate constituencies was highlighted as a key issue, with responses stating the two areas were ‘very closely integrated’ while Lower Stoke’s connection to the rest of the Coventry South constituency was described as being comparatively weak (BCE-65308).
- 3.47 Meanwhile, residents of Binley and Willenhall ward said that leaving it out of the Coventry South constituency would ‘weaken the strong and loved community relationship’ (BCE-68515) shared with neighbouring Cheylesmore. Councillor Gary Ridley (BCE-76107) argued that the initial proposals would leave the neighbourhoods within Binley and Willenhall ‘divided and isolated’.
- 3.48 As well as objecting to the changes in the initial proposals, respondents also provided evidence to directly support the changes in the Conservative Party counter-proposal. Daniel Dalton (BCE-97220) agreed with the proposal to transfer St Michael’s ward to the Coventry North West constituency, arguing that the ward boundaries to the north west are less significant than those to the south and north east. We also received evidence to support the presence of close community links between the wards of Woodlands and Westwood (BCE-97188, John Blundell).
- 3.49 Contrary to this, we received thorough evidence and a number of petitions to support the initial proposals in Coventry. This included representations (such as BCE-93223) that highlighted a difference between Binley and Willenhall and neighbouring Cheylesmore, arguing that the two areas are socially and geographically distinct. We also received responses (such as BCE-93982) highlighting the close links between the Lower Stoke ward and the neighbouring wards of St Michael’s and Cheylesmore within the proposed Coventry South constituency.

- 3.50 We also received evidence that demonstrated the ties of the St Michael's ward within the Coventry South constituency. Nazifa Zaman (BCE-97163) felt that it would be inappropriate to transfer the St Michael's ward to the Coventry North West constituency due to the distribution of housing in the ward, which largely lies to the east, bordering Lower and Upper Stoke. This respondent also provided evidence for a lack of linkages between Lower and Upper Stoke, arguing that residents in Lower Stoke were more likely to travel into the city centre for amenities and services than into Upper Stoke.
- 3.51 The cases in favour of retaining the initial proposals, and in favour of change, were both persuasively made, and in light of the differing views, the Assistant Commissioners deemed it necessary to conduct site visits in the city, visiting the wards of St Michael's, Lower and Upper Stoke, Woodlands, and Westwood.
- 3.52 The Assistant Commissioners visited the St Michael's ward to assess access routes to neighbouring wards and the communities within it. They judged that, while the ward is bordered by Coventry city wards on all sides, the A4053 central Coventry ring-road is a clear boundary between it and neighbouring wards in the Coventry North West constituency. In contrast, travel between St Michael's and Lower or Upper Stoke was comparatively seamless. The Assistant Commissioners also noted the relative ease with which it was possible to move between St Michael's and Cheylesmore wards, despite the inaccessibility mentioned in some representations.
- 3.53 Although some continuity was noted between the Lower Stoke and Upper Stoke wards, the boundary between the two was distinctive, with the A4600 providing a clear demarcation. Although not to the same extent, the Assistant Commissioners felt similarly regarding the boundary between the Woodlands and Westwood wards that make up the Tile Hill area of the city. Although there was some evidence of a shared community between these two wards, the ward boundary and distinctiveness between the two is clear for the most part.
- 3.54 Representations received during the public consultations provided us with evidence on the various community links within Tile Hill, and Lower and Upper Stoke. While the Assistant Commissioners recognised the opportunity to reunite both of these areas under the Liberal Democrats' counter-proposal, they did not feel that it was proportionate to transfer three wards within the city, altering every existing constituency within Coventry, when one could remain unchanged. They also did not feel it was justifiable to make this adjustment, as this move would break community ties shared between Foleshill and both wards with which it shares its eastern boundary. The Assistant Commissioners accordingly did not recommend adopting this counter-proposal and we agree with their assessment.

- 3.55 We received comprehensive evidence concerning the wards of St. Michael's, Lower Stoke, and Binley and Willenhall, both in support of and in opposition to the initial proposals. After reviewing the evidence received from the consultation process and the site visits, the Assistant Commissioners did not recommend making any adjustments to the initial proposals in the city. The Assistant Commissioners did not deem it appropriate to transfer the St Michael's ward into the Coventry North West constituency, as it would break community ties within the areas to the east, which appeared stronger than those over the central ring road that forms the ward boundary to the north west. We agree with the views of the Assistant Commissioners in respect of the three Coventry constituencies, and feel that the balance of evidence received leads us towards retaining the initial proposals for Coventry. We therefore propose no change to either the boundaries or names of the three initially proposed constituencies for Coventry.

Birmingham and Solihull

Solihull

- 3.56 Both constituencies in the borough of Solihull are above the permitted electorate range, and the local authority therefore needed to be paired with a neighbouring local authority in the initial proposals. We proposed pairing Solihull with Birmingham, transferring the wards of Castle Bromwich and Smith's Wood to the Birmingham Hodge Hill constituency. In order to balance the two constituencies wholly within the borough, the initial proposals would transfer the Elmdon and Silhill wards from the Solihull constituency to Meriden, moving Blythe in the opposite direction.
- 3.57 We received broad support for both proposed Solihull constituencies throughout both public consultations, with all qualifying political parties supporting our pattern of constituencies, including the proposal to link the Castle Bromwich and Smith's Wood wards with the Birmingham Hodge Hill constituency.
- 3.58 Despite support from the qualifying political parties, a large proportion of representations received from members of the public in Solihull were made in reference to Castle Bromwich and Smith's Wood. Comments were almost unanimous in their objection to the initial proposals.

- 3.59 Although we received both supportive and opposing representations regarding the proposed Solihull and Meriden constituencies, the weight of representations from residents outside of Castle Bromwich and Smith's Wood were heavily in favour of the initial proposals. We also received a supportive letter writing campaign regarding the two constituencies from residents of Dorridge, Knowle and Elmdon (BCE-86004). Although it did not include a full counter-proposal, we also received a representation that recommended splitting wards in Solihull borough in order to limit change to existing constituency boundaries as far as possible (BCE-60824).
- 3.60 The public consultations provided us with evidence regarding local ties in the north of Solihull borough. Despite their close geographical proximity to Birmingham, residents of the Castle Bromwich and Smith's Wood wards considered their area culturally and socially detached from the city. Most respondents felt a close affinity to Solihull and wished to continue under the representation of a Solihull MP. Despite this, we did not receive evidence to support a cross-local authority boundary constituency anywhere else between Solihull and Birmingham.
- 3.61 We received evidence to support the initial proposals for the proposed Meriden constituency. At the Birmingham public hearing, Saqib Bhatti, MP for Meriden (BCE-97171), said that the decision to link Solihull and Birmingham together in the Hodge Hill constituency reflected the 'functional economic geography of the area'. The Assistant Commissioners agreed with Saqib Bhatti MP's additional acknowledgment that any alternative proposals may result in a greater degree of disruption across the sub-region.
- 3.62 A number of respondents argued that the rural-urban distinction between the Solihull and Meriden constituencies would be blurred under the initial proposals and, as two Solihull town wards would be moved into the Meriden constituency, Solihull should be included in both constituency names (BCE-80842). This position was also argued in a petition submitted by Saqib Bhatti MP (BCE-83344). Despite this, we also received some comments that disagreed with this proposed amendment, arguing that it would imply 'superiority over the historic name [of Meriden]' (BCE-79721).
- 3.63 The Assistant Commissioners considered splitting a ward in Solihull as put forward in submission BCE-60824. They noted the possibility of splitting the Elmdon ward, thus allowing the Solihull constituency to remain largely unchanged from its existing form. While they recognised that this would help to limit change to existing constituency boundaries, they also noted the lack of support for this approach during the public consultations. Conversely, they acknowledged the weight of representations supporting the decision to avoid splitting Solihull borough wards in the initial proposals (Meriden Conservative Association – BCE-73613).

- 3.64 The Assistant Commissioners agreed that the proposals to include Castle Bromwich and Smith's Wood wards in the Birmingham Hodge Hill constituency may not be ideal for those wards; however, in their view, the inclusion of these allows for a pattern of constituencies that better satisfies the statutory factors across the sub-region overall. The Assistant Commissioners took into consideration the support we had received for the proposed Solihull and Meriden constituencies, and lack of objection from the Birmingham part of the proposed Hodge Hill constituency. They therefore recommended no change to the proposed Hodge Hill constituency, and we accept their recommendation.
- 3.65 The Assistant Commissioners recognised the desire for an alteration of the Solihull and Meriden constituency names. The boundaries of both constituencies under the initial proposals would differ from the existing constituencies, and the rural-urban divide between the two become more ambiguous. The Assistant Commissioners also felt, however, that the proposed names are both clear and in line with the Commission's naming policy. They therefore did not recommend making any alterations to the names or boundaries of the proposed Solihull and Meriden constituencies. We accept their recommendation, and therefore do not propose any revisions to either constituency as initially proposed.

Birmingham

- 3.66 Due to local ward boundary changes, it was not possible to keep any of the Birmingham constituencies wholly unchanged. The initial proposals aimed to limit changes to existing constituencies as far as practicable. In our initial proposals we proposed to split two wards in the city: Weoley & Selly Oak; and Brandwood & King's Heath. This was proposed to preserve community ties within the Birmingham Selly Oak and Birmingham Northfield constituencies, and avoid significant disruption to constituencies across the south of the city – and consequential breaking of other local ties – that would have been necessitated by a pattern of constituencies comprising whole wards. Both wards are split by the existing constituency boundaries, and the initial proposals would broadly retain the existing split in both cases.

- 3.67 The Labour Party supported our initial proposals for Birmingham in full, while the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats proposed counter-proposals impacting different parts of the city. The counter-proposal from the Conservative Party (BCE-86587) proposed changes to the Perry Barr and Erdington constituencies. They put forward an alternative that would meet the electorate requirement by splitting the Stockland Green ward; this counter-proposal drew considerable support from respondents in both public consultations. The Liberal Democrats (BCE-97146) proposed an alternative pattern of constituencies that would impact the constituencies of Ladywood, Hall Green, Edgbaston, Selly Oak and Northfield; this counter-proposal would not split any wards in the city. We did not receive any representations supporting this proposal, or providing evidence of local ties.
- 3.68 The proposed Northfield constituency was largely supported by respondents. They felt that the constituency would be reflective of community ties in south Birmingham and respect existing constituency boundaries (BCE-82596). The proposal to split the Weoley & Selly Oak ward was also supported by Gary Sambrook, MP for Birmingham Northfield (BCE-97156), among others.
- 3.69 Some respondents objected to the proposed Selly Oak constituency due to concerns about community ties in the area (BCE-58098), or access issues within the constituency (David Murray – BCE-97186). Overall, however, the proposed constituency was well supported, and responses such as BCE-69340 provided evidence that the proposed boundaries would keep areas that share close community ties within the same constituency.
- 3.70 The proposed Edgbaston constituency was well supported by respondents in the consultation process. Residents particularly argued that the proposal to transfer the whole of North Edgbaston into the constituency would help to reflect close community ties between the ward and the rest of the existing Edgbaston constituency (BCE-68948).
- 3.71 Evidence received regarding the proposed Sutton Coldfield constituency commented on the local identity held within the Sutton Coldfield wards. Sutton Coldfield was described as having a distinct community identity, separate from the rest of the City of Birmingham, marked by a 'clear, historic and defining boundary' (BCE-85955). This same town boundary was also discussed by the MP for Sutton Coldfield, Andrew Mitchell (BCE-86951), who argued for the constituency name to be changed to Royal Sutton Coldfield, stating that, as the proposed constituency is coterminous with the town boundary, its name should match that of the town.

- 3.72 The proposed Selly Oak, Edgbaston, Northfield and Sutton Coldfield constituencies all drew an overall level of support throughout the consultation periods. Meanwhile, we received fewer representations regarding the proposed Hall Green, Yardley and Ladywood constituencies. In the view of the Assistant Commissioners, we did not receive any compelling evidence that changing the boundaries of any of these constituencies would better reflect the statutory factors. The Assistant Commissioners therefore did not recommend making any changes to the proposed composition of these seven constituencies. We agree with the position of the Assistant Commissioners on this point and therefore do not propose making revisions to any of them.
- 3.73 The Assistant Commissioners considered the arguments for adjusting the name of the Sutton Coldfield constituency; however, they noted that the existing constituency name is well aligned with the Commission's naming policy. Additionally, as the proposed constituency boundary is largely unchanged from the existing one, they saw no grounds on which to recommend a name change. We accept the arguments of the Assistant Commissioners and understand that the local government wards in Sutton Coldfield do not have the prefix of Royal; therefore, we are minded to not change the proposed name of the constituency.
- 3.74 The proposed Erdington and Perry Barr constituencies drew significant objection throughout both consultation periods. We also received several petitions opposing these two constituencies (BCE-84738, BCE-85143 and North Birmingham Community Together – BCE-85111).
- 3.75 The initial proposals report acknowledged that the Aston and Lozells wards may not share local ties with the Erdington area; this assessment was substantiated by the evidence received. Respondents commented on the close relationship between Aston and Lozells wards, and the proposed Perry Barr constituency south of the M6. One respondent particularly emphasised the shared retail services and religious communities linking Aston and Lozells with Perry Barr (BCE-74220). We were also provided evidence of a geographical separation between Aston and Lozells wards and the rest of the proposed Erdington constituency. Respondents identified a lack of direct bus routes (BCE-74220) and the physical barrier of the M6 motorway (John Preston – BCE-67865) as reasons for this feeling of separation.
- 3.76 Respondents also outlined the existence of a 'shared community' between the wards of Kingstanding and Oscott (BCE-80766). One local resident identified the historical and long-lasting Roman Catholic connection between Oscott, Kingstanding and Erdington (BCE-80887). This close connection between the areas was also recognised in the initial proposals report. In addition to the close ties these areas share with each other, we also received evidence arguing that Erdington, and Erdington High Street in particular, served as the key community centre that Kingstanding and Oscott relate most closely to (BCE-80825).

- 3.77 The Conservative Party counter-proposal for north Birmingham would rely on a split of the Stockland Green ward, transferring three polling districts, centred around Slade Road, to the Perry Barr constituency. Gary Sambrook MP discussed this area at the Birmingham public hearing (BCE-97156), stating that the area was a 'neighbourhood in its own right'. Despite this, we received very little evidence regarding the local ties of the Slade Road area; the Assistant Commissioners therefore visited the Stockland Green ward in order to assess the merit of this proposal.
- 3.78 The site visit corroborated the evidence of Gary Sambrook MP, as it was clear that Slade Road provided amenities and community services to the surrounding housing. The Assistant Commissioners concluded that the Slade Road area could indeed be considered an area in its own right within the Stockland Green ward. The Assistant Commissioners also considered the potential access problems between Slade Road and the area south of the M6. They noted that the A4040 / Brookvale Road provides the only direct road link between the Slade Road area and Aston.
- 3.79 The site visits supplied little evidence that this area of Stockland Green has particular affinity to Perry Barr, and indeed this was conceded by some respondents during the consultation process. Councillor Ewan Mackey (BCE-97154) said that there was 'an element of compromise' involved in this counter-proposal, with the overarching objective of the counter-proposal being to include Aston, Lozells, Kingstanding, and Oscott in constituencies with which they had the strongest community ties.
- 3.80 Based on the balance of evidence gathered from both the consultation process and the site visits, the Assistant Commissioners accepted the argument put forward by the Conservative Party regarding the Erdington and Perry Barr constituencies. The Assistant Commissioners recognised that the links between the Slade Road area and the proposed Perry Barr constituency are not as clear as those of Kingstanding and Oscott to Erdington, or Aston and Lozells to Perry Barr. Despite this, they considered the Conservative Party's counter-proposal would achieve a far better reflection of community ties overall across both constituencies, without any wider disruptions.
- 3.81 Having considered the evidence presented to us, and particularly whether splitting a ward is an appropriate solution to this issue, we are persuaded both that the initial proposals for these constituencies are unsatisfactory, and that there is no whole ward solution that does not result in substantial changes to the pattern of constituencies across Birmingham. We recognise the community identity evidence received, and that our initial proposals divided communities. We acknowledge that a pattern of constituencies in this part of Birmingham needs to cross the M6 in order to propose a pattern of constituencies within the permitted electorate range. Furthermore, the Perry Barr ward already crosses the M6 and

has a shared ward boundary – along Brookvale Road – with the Brookvale part of Stockland Green ward. We therefore consider a constituency that crosses the M6 at this point is suitable. Furthermore, we consider that splitting the Stockland Green ward between constituencies allows a better reflection of communities in this and other parts of the city (which would have to be changed under a whole ward pattern of constituencies). On balance, we therefore accept the recommendation of the Assistant Commissioners, and propose to adopt the Conservative Party counter-proposal for north Birmingham, including a split of the Stockland Green Ward, that would transfer polling districts STG-5, STG-6 and STG-7 to a revised Perry Barr constituency.

Staffordshire and the Black Country

The Black Country

- 3.82** Every existing constituency in the Black Country is below the permitted electorate range, and it is therefore unavoidable that every constituency will require some element of change in this review. When developing the initial proposals, we were acutely aware of the strong community identities across the Black Country, and the initial proposals sought to preserve these ties as far as practicable.

Dudley

- 3.83** In Dudley borough, we proposed Halesowen and Stourbridge constituencies, which would contain all the core wards that make up each respective town. The initial proposals would split the Sandwell borough ward of Blackheath, transferring the southernmost polling district to the Halesowen constituency. We proposed expanding the existing Dudley North constituency southward to include the Brockmoor and Pensnett ward. The remaining wards from the existing Dudley South constituency would either transfer to Stourbridge, or form part of the proposed cross-county boundary constituency of Kingswinford and South Staffordshire.
- 3.84** The initial proposals in Dudley were supported in full by the Conservative Party (BCE-86587). The Liberal Democrats (BCE-97146) supported the Dudley and Stourbridge constituencies, but proposed an alternative configuration for Halesowen. The Labour Party (BCE-79523) supported the proposed Stourbridge and Halesowen constituencies; however, they opposed crossing the West Midlands combined authority boundary at Kingswinford, instead advocating for a crossing at Aldridge (see below). Consequently, the Labour Party counter-proposal would include two constituencies in the north of the Dudley borough, crossing the boundary with Sandwell to include parts of Tipton and Rowley Regis. Both the Labour Party counter-proposal and that of the Liberal Democrats were opposed by representations received in the secondary consultation.

- 3.85 We received two other counter-proposals that advocated changes to the Kingswinford and South Staffordshire constituency. The proposal of Sir Gavin Williamson MP (BCE-75677) sought to eliminate a cross-county boundary constituency altogether, whereas Mike Wood, MP for Dudley South (BCE-86083), proposed extending the constituency to include the Dudley ward of Brockmoor and Pensnett. Both of these counter-proposals combined Dudley with parts of Birmingham, and Sir Gavin Williamson MP's proposal in particular generated a substantial number of representations, both in support and in opposition.
- 3.86 The proposed constituencies of Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen were largely supported by members of the public, MPs, and local councillors during the public consultations. By far the most substantial issue raised during the consultation periods was the proposal to include the three wards comprising Kingswinford in a constituency with parts of Staffordshire.
- 3.87 The public consultation generated a largely negative response to the proposed Kingswinford and South Staffordshire constituency. Residents in Kingswinford argued that the initial proposals would break community ties between Kingswinford and the rest of Dudley borough. Furthermore, Dave Tyler (BCE-81254) argued that, despite their proximity, the links between Kingswinford and South Staffordshire were particularly weak, stating that there is 'no Social, Community or Economic connection between those areas and our existing local townships'.
- 3.88 The Assistant Commissioners visited the Kingswinford area on a site visit. They observed that, while the Kingswinford area seemed to have commonality with the urban area of Dudley, it also appeared to be a distinct community in its own right, with some element of separation between itself and the town of Dudley.
- 3.89 We received evidence in the secondary consultation to support the approach of keeping Staffordshire as a self-contained sub-region, as in the counter-proposal submitted by Sir Gavin Williamson MP. While not all respondents directly supported this alternative proposal specifically: respondents more generally felt the separate identity of Staffordshire should not be combined with urban areas in the Black Country. Councillor Clive Rathbone (BCE-90589) argued that the initial proposals would break bonds between towns in South Staffordshire and damage the 'unique identity' of the area.
- 3.90 Despite the large amount of support we received for Sir Gavin Williamson MP's counter-proposal, we also received evidence that objected to it. The Assistant Commissioners noted that the counter-proposal would involve multiple divided wards across Birmingham, the Black Country and Staffordshire, something which was directly objected to by Brewood and Coven Parish Council (BCE-93214).

- 3.91 The Assistant Commissioners judged that counter-proposals from the Labour Party, Liberal Democrats and Sir Gavin Williamson MP would all involve the disruption of local ties across Birmingham, Dudley and Sandwell; they also noted that they would make alterations to proposed constituencies that had been largely supported in public consultation, such as Halesowen or Dudley. The Assistant Commissioners considered that we received satisfactory evidence that these counter-proposals would be a poor reflection of community links in the area (Councillor Simon Phipps – BCE-95024).
- 3.92 The proposed Halesowen constituency was well received during the public consultations. Respondents supported the decision to include the Cradley and Wollescote ward in the constituency, as well as the decision to split the Blackheath ward (Belle Vale Conservatives – BCE-84789). At the Birmingham public hearing, Mick Freer (BCE-97208) provided evidence that the initial proposals for Halesowen ‘closely equate to cultural, historic and industrial heritage’ in the area.
- 3.93 The initial proposals would retain all wards described by Suzanne Webb, MP for Stourbridge (BCE-83929), as the ‘four core Stourbridge wards’ within the Stourbridge constituency; and also retain the constituency name and the borough designation. Responses from this constituency, welcomed and supported this approach.
- 3.94 Although to a lesser extent, we also received support for the proposed Dudley constituency. In particular, the proposal to transfer the Dudley borough ward of Brockmoor and Pensnett was supported, with the Dudley North Conservative Association (BCE-79495) stating that this ‘unifies a wider community surrounding the Town Centre into one parliamentary constituency’.
- 3.95 The Assistant Commissioners appreciated that Sir Gavin Williamson MP’s counter-proposal for the region would satisfy the desire of many respondents for Staffordshire to be a self-contained sub-region; however, they also considered that it would split multiple wards unnecessarily and disrupt community ties, existing constituency boundaries and local authority boundaries across the region. For this reason, they could not see that it demonstrated an improvement on the initial proposals for Staffordshire or the West Midlands metropolitan area. We agree with the assessment of the Assistant Commissioners and therefore do not propose adopting this counter-proposal or making any adjustments to the proposed Kingswinford and South Staffordshire constituency.

- 3.96** The Assistant Commissioners were satisfied that the Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge constituencies were all largely supported in the consultation period. They judged that we did not receive evidence to demonstrate that alterations would better reflect the statutory factors across the sub-region. Furthermore, we agree with the assertion of the Assistant Commissioners that counter-proposals from the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats would disrupt local ties across the Black Country by dividing towns such as Dudley and Smethwick. After reviewing the evidence provided to us by the Assistant Commissioners, we do not propose making any changes to the initial proposals for Dudley, Halesowen or Stourbridge.

Sandwell

- 3.97** As in Dudley, all constituencies in Sandwell have electorates that require them to be changed. We proposed expanding the West Bromwich East constituency southwards to include the ward of St Pauls. West Bromwich West was proposed to be expanded westwards to include the Dudley borough ward of Coseley East. In order to compensate for the loss of the St Pauls ward, we proposed extending the existing Warley constituency westwards to take in the Rowley ward and most of the Blackheath ward.
- 3.98** The initial proposals for Sandwell were opposed by the Conservative Party, the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats. The Conservative Party's counter-proposal (BCE-86587) was supported locally, and would include the St Pauls ward in a Smethwick constituency, but divide the two named Wednesbury wards between constituencies. The Labour Party (BCE-79523) submitted a counter-proposal that would also include the St Pauls ward in a Smethwick constituency; however, they opted for a different approach in the rest of the borough, instead combining Tipton and Rowley Regis with Dudley, and Wednesbury with Walsall. While we received evidence to support the proposal to join Wednesbury and Walsall, we did not receive many representations endorsing their proposed amendments to the rest of the borough. The Liberal Democrats (BCE-97146) also proposed a cross-local authority boundary constituency between Sandwell and Walsall, advocating for a constituency that would combine Wednesbury and Darlaston, and combine parts of Smethwick in a constituency with Halesowen.

- 3.99** All three of the proposed constituencies in the Sandwell local authority drew objections from residents in the borough. The proposal to transfer the St Pauls ward to the West Bromwich East constituency generated the largest amount of opposition.
- 3.100** Over 650 representations were received regarding Sandwell – more than any other local authority in the region – most of which were in opposition to the initial proposals. Evidence received in the public consultations reinforced the point that Sandwell, rather than a single cultural unit, is made up of six distinct towns, ‘which all have their own cultural and historic identity’ (BCE-71611).
- 3.101** The proposal to transfer the St Pauls ward into the West Bromwich East constituency raised a significant level of opposition, as did the proposal to include the Rowley ward in a constituency with Smethwick. The Assistant Commissioners noted, however, that while the number of comments received during the consultation periods was extensive, there was, at times, contradictory evidence regarding local ties in the borough.
- 3.102** Consultation respondents almost unanimously argued that the proposed transfer of the St Pauls ward into the West Bromwich East constituency would break community ties in Smethwick. Councillor Jay Anandou (BCE-81640) said that, if adopted, Smethwick town centre would be ‘ripped apart’ by the initial proposals.
- 3.103** Evidence was also provided that pointed to a physical separation between St Pauls and West Bromwich (BCE-92740). The Assistant Commissioners visited the area to ascertain the extent of these physical barriers. Upon visiting Smethwick, they considered the boundary between St Pauls and the rest of Smethwick to be indiscernible on the ground. In contrast, St Pauls and West Bromwich are separated by the M5 motorway and a large industrial estate. The Assistant Commissioners’ assessment was that the ties of the St Pauls ward were clearly to Smethwick in the south, rather than north to West Bromwich, corroborating much of the evidence that we received.
- 3.104** We received evidence outlining the local ties around Rowley Regis. Most of the evidence said that the links between Rowley Regis and Smethwick were weak, with poor transport links and a lack of shared community services between the two areas (BCE-81708). Rather than Smethwick, respondents identified Blackheath (BCE-85216) or Tividale (BCE-85004) as areas with which Rowley Regis has closer connections.

- 3.105** The Assistant Commissioners also visited Rowley Regis in order to discern the community ties in the area and provide context to the representations given during the consultation process. Upon visiting the area, the Assistant Commissioners found far greater evidence of a shared community with Blackheath than with Tividale. Despite this, there did appear to be some community links between Rowley and Tividale wards and it was considered plausible that they could be included in the same constituency.
- 3.106** We received a substantial amount of evidence regarding the community ties of Wednesbury. Supporters of the Conservative Party counter-proposal argued that Wednesbury North has a far greater connection with neighbouring Friar Park than Wednesbury South and the counter-proposal would 'unite' the two communities (Councillor Scott Chapman – BCE-70193). Despite many attendees at the public hearings supporting this claim, we received a substantial number of comments from Wednesbury residents in the secondary consultation giving evidence to the contrary. One respondent stated that the Conservative Party counter-proposal 'would not 'Unite Wednesbury' as has been suggested but would seek to divide it another way instead' (BCE-95693). Similarly, Robert Yardley (BCE-97213) highlighted that the Conservative Party counter-proposal would create a constituency boundary through the town centre, separating it from the main residential area of Wednesbury; proposing instead transferring Friar Park into a constituency with both Wednesbury wards in order to truly reflect a united Wednesbury.
- 3.107** Upon visiting Wednesbury, the Assistant Commissioners found that, while there are evidently some local ties between Wednesbury North and Friar Park, there are also strong ties with Wednesbury South, with the ward boundary between the two cutting directly through Wednesbury town centre.
- 3.108** In order to achieve a full analysis of local ties and ward boundaries in the district, the Assistant Commissioners also visited the Hateley Heath ward. They found little separation between Hateley Heath, Friar Park and Wednesbury South, and some evidence of community between all three wards was observed. It appeared that the roads to the south and east of the Hateley Heath ward provide some separation between the ward and West Bromwich town centre.
- 3.109** The representations and site visits provided the Assistant Commissioners with significant evidence on the community links in Sandwell. The Assistant Commissioners concluded that it was essential to transfer the St Pauls ward back into a constituency with the rest of Smethwick. They also accepted that, while Rowley has close links with Blackheath, links also exist with Tividale to the north. The Assistant Commissioners therefore recommended transferring the Rowley ward out of the constituency and replacing it with

St Pauls, in order to preserve close local ties within Smethwick. We agree with the Assistant Commissioners' recommendation, and propose adopting their recommendations. Given the loss of the Rowley ward, we propose renaming the constituency simply to Smethwick in our revised proposals.

- 3.110** Having considered the evidence received throughout both the consultation periods and their own visit to the area, the Assistant Commissioners were struck by the extent to which local ties across Sandwell are structured by the six towns that make up the borough. In formulating their recommendations, therefore, they opted to prioritise keeping towns whole, even where this disrupts existing constituencies more than is necessary. We have reviewed the possible alternatives, and are satisfied that this approach balances the statutory factors appropriately.
- 3.111** These revised proposals for the St Pauls and Rowley wards are in line with the Conservative Party counter-proposal for Sandwell; however, on the balance of the evidence received, the Assistant Commissioners did not deem it appropriate to recommend dividing Wednesbury North and South. Instead, they recommended transferring Friar Park and Hateley Heath wards westwards to join the towns of Wednesbury and Tipton. We recognise that this approach would disrupt the existing constituency boundaries more than both the initial proposals and the Conservative Party counter-proposal; however, we agree with the view of the Assistant Commissioners that this solution would minimise the division of any of the six Sandwell towns, and thereby allow local ties to be reflected as best as possible across the whole borough. We therefore propose a constituency named Tipton and Wednesbury.
- 3.112** Consequently, the Assistant Commissioners recommended transferring the remaining Sandwell borough wards of Rowley, Tividale and Oldbury into a constituency with West Bromwich and Great Barr. In making this recommendation, the Assistant Commissioners acknowledged that there is little evidence of clear community ties between Great Barr at one end of this proposed constituency, and Rowley Regis at the other; however, their assessment is that there is no alternative that would not divide more than one of the six Sandwell towns. Having considered these alternatives, we agree, and therefore we accept the recommendation of the Assistant Commissioners, and propose to name this constituency West Bromwich.

Wolverhampton

- 3.113** The initial proposals would retain three constituencies for the City of Wolverhampton, with both the Wolverhampton North East and Wolverhampton South East constituencies expanded into the Walsall local authority, creating an eastern boundary running along the M6 motorway. We proposed expanding the Wolverhampton South West constituency eastwards to include the wards of Oxley and Blakenhall.

- 3.114 While the initial proposals for Wolverhampton were accepted in full by the Conservative Party, both the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats opposed them, and submitted counter-proposals for the city.
- 3.115 The Labour Party submitted a counter-proposal that would transfer Blakenhall into a constituency with Bilston, but divide Bushbury North from Bushbury South in the process (BCE-79523). This proposal was well supported and accounted for the majority of the responses we received regarding the initial proposals for Wolverhampton. The Liberal Democrats submitted a proposal that would both retain Blakenhall in the Wolverhampton South East constituency and keep both Bushbury wards together (BCE-97146). This counter-proposal would also retain the Dudley borough ward of Coseley East in the Wolverhampton South East constituency and combine Willenhall in a constituency with the city centre.
- 3.116 We received evidence, particularly at the Birmingham public hearing, that Blakenhall looked east towards Bilston for its community ties. Councillor Paul Birch (BCE-97167) argued that strong community, educational and religious links existed between Blakenhall and neighbouring wards to the east, which contrasted sharply with Penn to the west, with which it shared few similarities and local ties.
- 3.117 Contrary to this, we also received evidence that, while Blakenhall does share strong links with Spring Vale and Ettingshall to the east, it also has ‘community and family ties’ with Graiseley and Penn in the proposed Wolverhampton West constituency (BCE-95937). We received further evidence to oppose the Labour Party counter-proposal for Wolverhampton in regard to Bushbury. Councillor Andrew McNeil (BCE-97148) described Labour’s proposal for Wolverhampton as ‘very inappropriate’, going on to describe the long-standing history and ‘deep roots’ between the two Bushbury wards.
- 3.118 The Assistant Commissioners accepted the argument that Blakenhall has strong local ties eastwards towards Bilston; however, they also recognised that some links exist westwards too, with Graiseley and, to a lesser extent, with Penn. Furthermore, the Assistant Commissioners do not agree that Blakenhall should be transferred back into the Wolverhampton South East constituency at the expense of a divided community elsewhere. After reviewing the evidence received, they therefore concluded that they could not recommend the adoption of the Labour Party counter-proposal for Wolverhampton.
- 3.119 We did not receive any representations with evidence to support the Liberal Democrats’ counter-proposal for the city, and the Assistant Commissioners did not recommend this counter-proposal either. We accept their judgement, and therefore do not propose making any revisions to the initial proposals for Wolverhampton.

Walsall

- 3.120** In the remainder of the Walsall local authority, we initially proposed reconfiguring the orientation of the existing constituencies, combining the part of the existing Walsall South constituency east of the M6 with the wards of Aldridge Central and South, and Streetly into a new Walsall constituency. The remaining wards in the borough, comprising the remainder of the existing Walsall North and Aldridge-Brownhills constituencies, would be combined into a proposed Bloxwich and Brownhills constituency. Both constituencies drew opposition in the consultation period, although our proposed Walsall constituency was considerably more unpopular, particularly the proposal to divide the two named Aldridge wards from each other.
- 3.121** The initial proposals for Walsall were opposed by the Conservative Party, the Labour Party and the Liberal Democrats. Counter-proposals from the Conservative Party (BCE-86587) and the Liberal Democrats (BCE-97146) both sought to bring the two Aldridge wards within the same constituency. Both these counter-proposals would instead divide what representations said constitute the four 'core' urban Walsall wards between two constituencies. We received a sizeable petition from the residents of Aldridge, objecting to the initial proposals and endorsing the Conservative Party counter-proposal (BCE-83623). We did not receive evidence to support the Liberal Democrats' counter-proposal for the borough.
- 3.122** The Labour Party's counter-proposal for the Walsall local authority would involve the creation of a 'Walsall and Wednesbury' constituency, crossing the M6 motorway and local authority boundary between the two towns (BCE-79523). This counter-proposal would also create a Lichfield and Aldridge constituency, crossing over the metropolitan boundary. While this proposal generated some support during the consultation process, it was also strongly opposed by residents of Aldridge.
- 3.123** We also received a counter-proposal from David Murray (BCE-96434), which would combine Walsall and Bloxwich, allowing the existing Aldridge-Brownhills constituency to remain largely unchanged; this proposal would require a split of the Paddock ward.

- 3.124** The sizeable opposition to the proposed Walsall constituency was largely accompanied by support for either the Conservative or Labour Party counter-proposal. Supporters of the Labour Party counter-proposal argued that Walsall shares community ties with Wednesbury to the south, and that they should comprise a Walsall and Wednesbury constituency. Valerie Vaz, MP for Walsall South, (BCE-97260) provided a thorough account of Walsall's shared community ties with Wednesbury, as well as describing the divisions between the town and neighbouring Aldridge and Streetly. Valerie Vaz MP explained how strong educational, retail and transport links accounted for the 'already considerable overlap between the communities in both local authority areas', additionally outlining the role of rural land as a 'strong geographical boundary' between Walsall and Aldridge to the east.
- 3.125** On a site visit to the area, it was clear to the Assistant Commissioners that, despite some evidence of shared retail services, the M6 motorway represents a substantial physical barrier between Walsall and Wednesbury. While there is road access underneath the motorway, the Assistant Commissioners saw little evidence of a continuous community of interest. Other than the oral and written evidence provided by Valerie Vaz, we received very little evidence to support the counter-proposal submission from the Labour Party in Walsall. Furthermore, we received evidence in the secondary consultation that directly opposed the Labour Party counter-proposal for the area (BCE-94585).
- 3.126** The Assistant Commissioners felt that opposing comments submitted by residents of Aldridge were both numerous and rich in detail throughout both consultation periods. Arguments put forward by respondents stressed the close community environment shared between both Aldridge wards and Rushall-Shelfield (Maria Smith – BCE-75470). Speaking at the Birmingham public hearing, Jon Jo MacNamara (BCE-97192) echoed the views of many Aldridge residents throughout the consultation periods. While they supported the proposal to transfer the Pheasey Park Farm ward into a constituency with Aldridge Central and South, they stressed the point that 'there is no commonality at all between Walsall and Aldridge'. Many of the responses regarding Aldridge supported the counter-proposal submitted by the Conservative Party; however, the Assistant Commissioners noted that very few recognised or acknowledged that the proposal would divide the town of Walsall in half.

- 3.127** We received little evidence supporting counter-proposals for Walsall borough from the Liberal Democrats or David Murray. Despite this, the Assistant Commissioners visited the Paddock ward, in order to assess whether it would be a suitable ward to split, as proposed by David Murray. They concluded that areas to the east of the canal within the ward appeared to share commonality with areas of the Daisy Bank area within the Pheasey Park Farm ward; the canal was also deemed by the Assistant Commissioners to be a clear line by which the ward could be divided. They considered that the polling districts to the west of the canal appeared more urban and central due to their proximity to the ring-road and town centre.
- 3.128** The Assistant Commissioners also visited St Matthew's ward, in order to investigate another possible area where splitting a ward could result in a pattern of constituencies that did not divide either Aldridge or Walsall. They observed that some parts of the St Matthew's ward appeared to show evidence of historic community links to Rushall, part of the existing Aldridge-Brownhills constituency. The Assistant Commissioners saw evidence of the name of Rushall being used in the ward; sites such as Rushall Hall, Rushall Close and Saint Michael the Archangel Rushall Parish Church.
- 3.129** The Assistant Commissioners agreed with those who argued that the links between Walsall and Aldridge are weak; however, they considered that the evidence to support the idea that Walsall should be included in a cross-local authority boundary constituency with parts of Sandwell was unpersuasive. Furthermore, the Assistant Commissioners recognised that the Labour Party counter-proposal would not only impacted Walsall, but also create a domino effect, disrupting well-received constituencies across the sub-region. They did not consider that this counter-proposal would better reflect the statutory factors across the wider area, and therefore did not recommend adopting it. We agree with this recommendation.
- 3.130** After consideration of all the evidence received, the Assistant Commissioners believed that revisions should be made to the proposed Walsall, and Bloxwich and Brownhills constituencies, in order to allow for the whole of Aldridge to be represented in a single constituency. Despite this, they did not agree that this should be achieved by splitting the urban core of Walsall between constituencies, as would be the case in both the Conservative Party and Liberal Democrats' counter-proposals. The Assistant Commissioners felt that these options would seek to respect community ties in one area of the borough by breaking them in another, and therefore did not recommend them to us. We accept the argument put forward by the Assistant Commissioners and do not propose adopting either counter-proposal.

- 3.131** The Assistant Commissioners considered the counter-proposal submitted by David Murray, which would retain the existing Aldridge-Brownhills constituency largely unchanged; only the Pheasey Park Farm ward and three polling districts from the Paddock ward would be transferred into the constituency. They also considered a similar alternative pattern of constituencies that divided the St Matthew's ward, utilising a single polling district in place of the polling districts from the Paddock ward. In both of these variations, the Assistant Commissioners acknowledged that the whole of the Paddock and St Matthew's wards look towards Walsall rather than Aldridge; however, they also felt that splitting one of these wards would minimise the disruption to local ties across the borough as a whole.
- 3.132** Based on the evidence received from David Murray (BCE-97235), the Assistant Commissioners regarded Paddock as a more suitable ward to split than St Matthew's; however, deviating slightly from David Murray's counter-proposal, they felt it more appropriate to transfer two polling districts instead of three. The Assistant Commissioners recommended retaining the existing Aldridge-Brownhills constituency, with the addition of Pheasey Park Farm and two polling districts from the Paddock ward in which the great majority of the housing lies to the east of the Rushall canal, forming a constituency boundary that would run partly along the canal. Accompanying this, they also recommended a Walsall and Bloxwich constituency that would comprise the remainder of the four core Walsall wards, together with Bloxwich, Blakenall, and Birchills Leamore.
- 3.133** While our general approach aims to minimise the number of wards we split across the region, we accept the conclusion of the Assistant Commissioners that this approach would allow for the best representation of community links across Walsall borough; without a split ward either the urban core of Walsall or Aldridge would have to be divided between two constituencies. Based on the evidence presented by the Assistant Commissioners, we accept their recommendations and propose these changes as part of our revised proposals, including a split of the Paddock ward, transferring polling districts UE and UF to a revised Aldridge-Brownhills constituency.

Staffordshire

- 3.134** Several existing constituencies in Staffordshire are within the permitted electorate range and, when formulating the initial proposals, we sought to limit change to these wherever possible. In practice, this proved difficult, owing to the disruption caused by the proposal to include Kingswinford with South Staffordshire, and the need for constituencies in the north of the county to gain additional electors. Despite this, the initial proposals would keep two constituencies, Burton and Cannock Chase, wholly unchanged. Four more constituencies, Lichfield, Tamworth, Stoke-on-Trent North and Newcastle-under-Lyme, would be changed only to align with new local ward boundaries.

- 3.135** From the March 2020 electorate figures on which this Review must be based, Stoke-on-Trent Central had the lowest electorate of any existing constituency in England; it was therefore necessary to expand the constituency considerably. We proposed extending it southwards to include Fenton, as well as the wards of Sandford Hill and Meir Hay. Similarly, the initial proposals would extend Stoke-on-Trent South southwards in order to include three wards from the Stafford local authority and two wards from Staffordshire Moorlands district. The initial proposals would reorient the existing Stafford constituency to include rural areas to the north west of the town, and proposed a Stone and Great Wyrley constituency, which would include wards from both Stafford and South Staffordshire local authorities. Our recommendations for the Kingswinford and South Staffordshire constituency have already been discussed in the section above.
- 3.136** The initial proposals were largely accepted by the Liberal Democrats and the Conservative Party. The Liberal Democrats (BCE-97146) supported the initial proposals for Staffordshire in full and the Conservative Party (BCE-86587) only proposed a minor alteration to the boundary between the proposed Lichfield and Tamworth constituencies, which received significant local support during the public consultations.
- 3.137** The Labour Party submitted a counter-proposal that would require a more comprehensive adjustment of the initially proposed Staffordshire constituencies (BCE-79523). This counter-proposal would retain a wholly unchanged South Staffordshire constituency, and instead proposed a cross-county boundary constituency that would impact the proposed Walsall and Lichfield constituencies. It also proposed alterations to the proposed Tamworth, Stone and Great Wyrley, and Stafford constituencies. We received a very small number of representations commenting on this counter-proposal and received limited local evidence to support it.
- 3.138** We received several counter-proposals covering the full Staffordshire and the Black Country sub-region. Nicky Davis (BCE-92319) and David Murray (BCE-96434) submitted identical counter-proposals for Staffordshire, which would include Stourbridge (in place of Kingswinford) in a cross-county boundary constituency with parts of South Staffordshire. We also received a counter-proposal from Ant Reid (BCE-66416), which was also presented at the Stafford public hearing. Instead of including parts of South Staffordshire in a cross-county boundary constituency, this proposal would include a Brownhills and Burntwood constituency, based on wards from the Walsall and Lichfield local authorities. We received no representations endorsing any of these counter-proposals; however, each one was thoroughly scrutinised and analysed by the Assistant Commissioners alongside all other representations received during the consultation process.

- 3.139 The Assistant Commissioners recognised some of the benefits of Ant Reid’s counter-proposal for Staffordshire; for example, allowing the Checkley ward to be included in a Staffordshire Moorlands constituency and limiting change to the existing South Staffordshire constituency. They noted, however, that adopting this counter-proposal would alter the configuration of proposed constituencies that were supported during the consultation process (such as Halesowen), or wholly unchanged constituencies (such as Cannock Chase). As a result, while the Assistant Commissioners did note the merits of this counter-proposal in some areas, they did not feel that it represented an improvement on the initial proposals across the region overall in respect of the statutory factors. They therefore did not recommend adopting the counter-proposal and we share their views on this.
- 3.140 Both Nicky Davis and David Murray would include five wards making up the town of Stourbridge in a cross-county boundary constituency. The Assistant Commissioners felt that evidence received throughout the public consultations demonstrated that much of this pattern of constituencies may represent an improvement on our initial proposals for Staffordshire. They did not, however, feel that these benefits would justify the consequential effects on constituencies in the Black Country. While the counter-proposal from Nicky Davis only covered Staffordshire, David Murray’s covered the full region. This counter-proposal included a Halesowen constituency that would not only cross the boundary with Birmingham, but with Worcestershire too. While the Assistant Commissioners felt this counter-proposal would offer some improvement in certain areas of the region, they did not feel it demonstrated an improvement overall on the initial proposals; they therefore did not recommend adopting it. We accept the opinion of the Assistant Commissioners on this counter-proposal and do not propose adopting it for these revised proposals.
- 3.141 We received a large amount of opposition to the proposed changes to the existing South Staffordshire constituency; many wrote in support of the ‘Staffordshire Together’ campaign and counter-proposal (BCE-75677). While the Assistant Commissioners considered options that either crossed the county boundary elsewhere or not at all, they did not propose any revisions to the Kingswinford and South Staffordshire constituency. As discussed above, they believe this helps to best satisfy the statutory factors across the sub-region and the region as a whole.
- 3.142 We received an extremely small number of responses commenting on the unchanged composition of the proposed Burton and Cannock Chase constituencies. Some comments were received that commented on the name of the proposed Burton constituency, arguing for the inclusion of Uttoxeter in the name of this constituency, and stating that a change would ‘enhance the sense of belonging and community links’ for residents in Uttoxeter and surrounding areas in the north of the constituency (Councillor Philip Atkins – BCE-77497).

- 3.143** The Assistant Commissioners recognised the strength of feeling in Uttoxeter in favour of a name change; however, they considered that the existing constituency name of Burton is suitable and, as it is well in-line with our naming policy, did not recommend any naming adjustments. Given that these constituencies were proposed unchanged from their existing configurations, and nothing that we received said that alterations would be welcomed, we do not propose adjusting the names or boundaries of the initially proposed Burton and Cannock Chase constituencies.
- 3.144** The proposed Stoke-on-Trent North, Stoke-on-Trent Central, and Newcastle-under-Lyme constituencies drew an overall level of support, although we did receive alternative proposals for the name of the Stoke-on-Trent North constituency (discussed below). Councillor Faisal Hussain (BCE-84241) said that the proposed changes to the configuration of the constituencies in Stoke-on-Trent would 'reflect many pre-existing transport and community links'. In light of the evidence presented by the Assistant Commissioners, we are content to propose the Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stoke-on-Trent North, and Stoke-on-Trent Central constituencies remain unchanged from the initial proposals.
- 3.145** Respondents from within the unitary authority of Stoke-on-Trent were largely supportive of the proposed Stoke-on-Trent South constituency, agreeing with the approach to retain three named Stoke-on-Trent constituencies. Residents in the proposed constituency based outside of Stoke-on-Trent, however, were far less supportive. Residents of villages such as Barlaston, Oulton and Swynnerton felt that their local ties would be broken by the initial proposals. There was an almost unanimous agreement that these villages had very close community ties to Stone; however, while some respondents felt that a Stoke-on-Trent South and Stone constituency would accurately reflect local ties in the area (BCE-68646), others felt these areas had no association with Stoke-on-Trent at all (BCE-54159).
- 3.146** Due to the size of the electorate of the Staffordshire Moorlands local authority, it is not possible to create a constituency that is wholly coterminous with the boundary of the local authority. This was reflected in the feedback received during the public consultations; a substantial number of comments were received that objected to the proposed transfer of Forsbrook or Checkley from the Staffordshire Moorlands constituency to a Stoke-on-Trent South constituency. Forsbrook Parish Council (BCE-74562) highlighted the stark contrast between the communities of Staffordshire Moorlands and Stoke-on-Trent, stating that 'Forsbrook has very little in common with the urban conurbation of Stoke on Trent. The needs of a smaller semi-rural village like Forsbrook have very different needs to the larger settlements of Stoke on Trent South'.

- 3.147** The unique identity of rural population centres in Staffordshire Moorlands was a present theme throughout the consultation process. Residents of Tean and Checkley said that they felt a far deeper ‘belonging’ to other settlements within the Staffordshire Moorlands local authority, as a result of a shared socio-cultural and industrial history; something they may not feel with Stoke-on-Trent (E Dawson Varughese – BCE-79031). To supplement the evidence received during the consultation periods, the Assistant Commissioners visited Checkley and Forsbrook on a site visit. They observed that, while there is an element of distance and some visible differences between the two Staffordshire Moorlands wards and Stoke-on-Trent, the two areas are well-connected by road and share some similarities in their nature; this was particularly evident in the Forsbrook ward.
- 3.148** For these revised proposals, the Assistant Commissioners investigated alternatives that could retain one of these wards within the Staffordshire Moorlands constituency. Due to the low electorates of the proposed Staffordshire constituencies, any alteration to the Staffordshire Moorlands constituency would result in a ‘domino effect’ of change, impacting almost all constituencies across Staffordshire and the Black Country. The Assistant Commissioners acknowledged the strong sense of community feeling held in Checkley and Forsbrook; however, given the scale of change necessary to include either of them in the Staffordshire Moorlands constituency, they did not feel that any alternative would be satisfactory across the sub-region as a whole. They therefore did not recommend any changes to the Staffordshire Moorlands and Stoke-on-Trent South constituencies. We support the recommendations of the Assistant Commissioners and therefore do not propose any revisions to either constituency.
- 3.149** Some respondents to the consultation process, such as Jonathan Gullis, MP for Stoke-on-Trent North (BCE-66516), argued that Kidsgrove and Talke should be included in the proposed Stoke-on-Trent North constituency name, in order to recognise their status as Newcastle-under-Lyme borough wards. This was supported by others, particularly at the Stafford public hearing; however, this feeling was not universal. Councillor Dean Richardson (BCE-97223) felt this change would be unnecessary, arguing that the existing name was clear in its existing form. The Assistant Commissioners agreed with this latter point, noting that the proposed Stoke-on-Trent North constituency would contain only one more Newcastle-under-Lyme borough ward than the existing constituency, and therefore did not recommend a change of name.
- 3.150** Similar arguments were advanced concerning the proposed Stoke-on-Trent South constituency, with the Conservative Party putting forward Stoke-on-Trent South, Barlaston, and Tean as a more inclusive alternative. While the Assistant Commissioners recognised that the proposed Stoke-on-Trent South constituency would contain a considerable rural element, they did not feel that the existing

constituency names are inappropriate or misleading as descriptors for the proposed constituencies. As all three Stoke-on-Trent constituency names are compliant with our naming policy, we agree with the Assistant Commissioners, and therefore do not propose making any adjustments to the names of these constituencies.

- 3.151** We received more representations concerning the Lichfield ward of Whittington and Streethay than any other single ward in the region. Over 500 individual responses raised unanimous objection to Streethay's proposed inclusion in the Tamworth constituency. Some of these representations were also sent in conjunction with support for the Conservative Party counter-proposal for Lichfield. Residents in both Lichfield and Streethay submitted thorough arguments advocating for Streethay's inclusion in the Lichfield constituency. Respondents referenced the physical proximity of Streethay to Lichfield, the reliance on the city for services and amenities, and the clear geographical separation from Tamworth (Steve Beresford – BCE-55827). Many representations (such as BCE-79165) explained how Streethay is no longer separated from the city, and is now considered an 'integral part of Lichfield'.
- 3.152** The Assistant Commissioners visited Streethay in order to observe the feasibility and suitability of a split of the Whittington and Streethay ward. The Assistant Commissioners observed that, while Streethay could be considered as its own separate community, it also appeared to have a heavy reliance on Lichfield for local amenities. Further to this, the A38 to the east of Streethay acts as a physical divide between Streethay and the rest of the ward, and reinforces the separation between Streethay and its nearest population centre to the east. The Assistant Commissioners also noted that we received many representations in the secondary consultation objecting to the Labour Party counter-proposal for Staffordshire, which would not only include Streethay in the Tamworth constituency, but also include Lichfield in a cross-county boundary constituency with Aldridge (Michael Fabricant, MP for Lichfield – BCE-89348).
- 3.153** As a result of the evidence gathered both during consultations and the site visit, the Assistant Commissioners agreed that excluding Streethay from the Lichfield constituency would be undesirable. They therefore considered several alternative patterns of constituencies, including options that split wards, such as the Conservative Party counter-proposal, and options that did not split any wards. They considered transferring the Hammerwich with Wall ward from the proposed Lichfield constituency to Tamworth, thereby allowing Whittington and Streethay to transfer to Lichfield; however, they judged that this arrangement would break close community ties within the town of Burntwood, and would be an inappropriate recommendation for these revised proposals.

- 3.154** The Assistant Commissioners also reviewed patterns of constituencies that would retain both the Hammerwich with Wall, and Whittington and Streethay wards wholly in the Lichfield constituency. They particularly noted the domino effect that would arise from this and accepted that all solutions following this approach would increase the scale of change in the region far beyond what is necessary. After reviewing several different approaches and possibilities, the Assistant Commissioners therefore concluded that the Conservative Party counter-proposal, which proposed splitting the Whittington and Streethay ward, was the best option for the Lichfield and Tamworth constituencies. They judged that this approach satisfied the statutory factors far better than the initial proposals and recommended that we adopt it for these revised proposals.
- 3.155** In considering this recommendation, we had particular regard to whether the conditions set out in our policy on ward splits had been met. We concluded that the Conservative Party counter-proposal demonstrated an improvement on the initial proposals with regard to several of the statutory factors. Firstly, splitting the ward would prevent local ties from being broken in both the Lichfield and Tamworth constituencies. Secondly, it would reduce the number of electors that would change constituencies when compared to the initial proposals. Finally, the Conservative Party counter-proposal would form a Lichfield constituency that better respects the physical geography and accessibility concerns raised during the consultation period. The shape of the Whittington and Streethay ward does not follow intuitive boundaries on its western edge, and includes settlements very close to the centres of both Lichfield and Tamworth. Splitting the ward to allow Streethay to remain in the Lichfield constituency would negate some of the clear accessibility issues within the proposed Tamworth constituency. After consideration of all of these matters by reference to the statutory factors, we therefore accept the Assistant Commissioners recommendation to adopt the Conservative Party counter-proposal for Lichfield and Tamworth.
- 3.156** While we received very few representations from residents in the proposed Stafford constituency, we received some opposition from those who live in the parts of the existing Stafford constituency that would be included in a Stone and Great Wyrley constituency under the initial proposals. Respondents commenting from wards such as Milford and Milwich objected on the grounds that their close local ties to Stafford would be broken by the initial proposals (BCE-69215). This, together with representations relating to Stone itself, made up the bulk of the largely negative response to this newly formed constituency.
- 3.157** The proposed Stone and Great Wyrley constituency was widely objected to on the grounds that it would fail to reflect local ties in Staffordshire. Residents in Stone commented that the proposed constituency would combine population centres with different identities and cultures (Stone Independents – BCE-79330). The geographic expanse of the proposed constituency was also criticised, with some respondents stating that there would be issues with accessibility within the

constituency (BCE-69008). We also received responses saying that the proposed Stone and Great Wyrley constituency would be damaging for local ties in the South Staffordshire local authority. Hatherton Parish Council (BCE-83075) stated that the two towns in the constituency name are 'not only geographically miles apart they are also miles apart with regard to identities'.

- 3.158** The Assistant Commissioners visited the proposed Stone and Great Wyrley constituency to assess the transport links and community ties within it. While they accepted that accessibility within the constituency is relatively poor, they noted that many of the settlements throughout the constituency shared a similar rural character.
- 3.159** The initial proposals report conceded that the proposed Stone and Great Wyrley constituency would be lacking in community ties between its northerly and southerly parts. The Assistant Commissioners felt that the evidence received throughout the consultation process corroborated this assessment. While the Assistant Commissioners accepted that the Stone and Great Wyrley constituency would not fully reflect community ties in the county, they felt that its retention is key to proposing a pattern of constituencies across the sub-region that satisfies the statutory factors as best as possible. They noted that three qualifying parties supported our proposal for Stone and Great Wyrley, and that the fourth, the Labour Party, still acknowledged the need for an expansive Mid Staffordshire constituency to enable a cohesive pattern of constituencies for Staffordshire as a whole.
- 3.160** We agree with the Assistant Commissioners that any adjustments to Stone and Great Wyrley would also result in changes to the composition of constituencies across the sub-region, disrupting supported constituencies and unchanged existing constituencies in the process. For this reason, we do not propose making any revisions to the Stone and Great Wyrley, or Stafford constituencies, as initially proposed.

4 How to have your say

- 4.1 We are consulting on our revised proposals for a four-week period, from 8 November to 5 December 2022 inclusive. We encourage everyone to use this last opportunity to help finalise the design of the new constituencies – the more public views we hear and the more local information that is provided, the more informed our decisions will be before making final recommendations to Parliament.
- 4.2 While people are welcome to write to us on any issue regarding the constituency boundaries we set out in this report and the accompanying maps, our main focus during this final consultation is on those constituencies which we have revised since our initial proposals. While we will consider representations that comment again on the initial proposals that we have not revised, it is likely that particularly compelling further evidence or submissions will be needed to persuade us to depart, at this late stage in the review, from those of our initial proposals, which have withstood intensive scrutiny of objections in the process of consultation and review to which they have already been subject. Representations relating to initial proposals that we have not revised and which simply repeat evidence or arguments that have already been raised in either of the previous two consultation stages are likely to carry little weight with the Commission.
- 4.3 When making comments on our revised proposals, we ask people to bear in mind the tight constraints placed on the Commission by the rules set by Parliament, discussed in chapter 2 and in our Guide to the 2023 Review. Most importantly:
- We cannot recommend constituencies that have electorates that contain more than 77,062 or fewer than 69,724 electors
 - We are basing our proposals on local government ward boundaries (existing or – where relevant – prospective) as at 1 December 2020 as the building blocks of constituencies – although where there is strong justification for doing so, we will consider dividing a ward between constituencies (see the Guide to the 2023 Review for more detailed information)
 - We have constructed constituencies within regions, so as not to cross regional boundaries – very compelling reasons would need to be given to persuade us that we should depart from this approach.
- 4.4 These issues mean that we encourage people who are making a comment about their local area to bear in mind there may be consequential effects for neighbouring areas that might result from their suggestions. The Commission must look at the recommendations for new constituencies across the whole region (and, indeed, across England). What may be a better solution for one location may have undesirable consequences for others. We therefore ask everyone wishing to respond to our consultation to be aware that their counter-proposals may have an impact on neighbouring constituencies, and on those further afield across the region.

How can you give us your views?

- 4.5 Views on our revised proposals should be given to the Commission in writing. We encourage everyone who wishes to comment on our proposals in writing to do so through our interactive consultation website at www.bcereviews.org.uk – you will find all the details you need and can comment directly through the website. The website allows you to explore the map of our proposals and obtain further data, including the electorate sizes of every ward. You can also upload text or data files you may have previously prepared setting out your views.
- 4.6 We encourage everyone, before submitting a representation, to read our approach to protecting and using your personal details (available at www.bcereviews.org.uk). As these consultations are very much concerned with a respondent's sense of place and community, when publishing responses, we will associate the response with the general locality (e.g. town or village) of the respondent's address, but we will not publish a respondent's name or detailed address with their response, unless they specifically ask us to do so.
- 4.7 It is important to stress that all representations, whether they have been made through our website or sent to us in writing, will be given equal consideration by the Commission.

What do we want views on?

- 4.8 We would particularly like to ask two things of people responding to our consultation. Firstly, if you support our revised proposals, please tell us so. Past experience suggests that too often people who are happy with our proposals do not respond in support, while those who object to them do respond to make their points. That can give a distorted view of the balance of public support or objection to our proposals. Secondly, if you are considering objecting to our revised proposals, please use the resources (such as maps and electorate figures) available on our website and at the places of deposit to put forward counter-proposals that are in accordance with the rules to which we are working.
- 4.9 Above all, however, we encourage everyone to have their say on our revised proposals and, in doing so, to become involved in drawing the map of new Parliamentary constituencies. This is the final chance to contribute to the design of the new constituencies, and the more views we get on those constituencies, the more informed our consideration in developing them will be, and the better we will be able to reflect the public's views in the final recommendations that we present in 2023.

Appendix: Revised proposals for constituencies, including wards and electorates

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
Aldridge-Brownhills BC			73,122
	Aldridge Central and South	Walsall	11,165
	Aldridge North and Walsall Wood	Walsall	10,156
	Brownhills	Walsall	9,860
	Paddock – part of (polling districts UE and UF)	Walsall	3,494
	Pelsall	Walsall	9,069
	Pheasey Park Farm	Walsall	9,026
	Rushall-Shelfield	Walsall	9,494
	Streetly	Walsall	10,858
Bedworth and North Warwickshire CC			70,245
	Atherstone Central	North Warwickshire	2,867
	Atherstone North	North Warwickshire	2,879
	Atherstone South and Mancetter	North Warwickshire	2,976
	Baddesley and Grendon	North Warwickshire	3,308
	Coleshill North	North Warwickshire	2,512
	Coleshill South	North Warwickshire	2,831
	Curdworth	North Warwickshire	2,764
	Dordon	North Warwickshire	2,261
	Fillongley	North Warwickshire	2,784
	Hurley and Wood End	North Warwickshire	3,008
	Kingsbury	North Warwickshire	2,980
	Newton Regis and Warton	North Warwickshire	2,852
	Polesworth East	North Warwickshire	2,904
	Polesworth West	North Warwickshire	2,602
	Water Orton	North Warwickshire	2,799
	Bede	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,149
	Exhall	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,963
	Heath	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,735
	Poplar	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,680

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Slough	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,391
Birmingham Edgbaston BC			71,354
	Bartley Green	Birmingham	15,537
	Edgbaston	Birmingham	12,493
	Harborne	Birmingham	15,525
	North Edgbaston	Birmingham	13,071
	Quinton	Birmingham	14,728
Birmingham Erdington BC			76,524
	Castle Vale	Birmingham	6,718
	Erdington	Birmingham	13,582
	Gravelly Hill	Birmingham	6,195
	Kingstanding	Birmingham	13,610
	Oscott	Birmingham	14,341
	Perry Common	Birmingham	7,469
	Pype Hayes	Birmingham	7,315
	Stockland Green – part of (polling districts STG1, STG2, STG3, and STG4)	Birmingham	7,294
Birmingham Hall Green BC			75,781
	Brandwood & King's Heath – part of (polling districts BKH1HG, BKH2HG, and BKH3)	Birmingham	8,044
	Hall Green North	Birmingham	15,269
	Hall Green South	Birmingham	7,909
	Moseley	Birmingham	15,918
	Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	Birmingham	15,539
	Sparkhill	Birmingham	13,102
Birmingham Hodge Hill BC			76,922
	Bromford & Hodge Hill	Birmingham	13,880
	Garretts Green	Birmingham	6,988
	Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	Birmingham	14,877
	Heartlands	Birmingham	7,196
	Shard End	Birmingham	8,284
	Ward End	Birmingham	7,831
	Castle Bromwich	Solihull	9,305
	Smith's Wood	Solihull	8,561

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
Birmingham Ladywood BC			76,585
	Alum Rock	Birmingham	15,553
	Balsall Heath West	Birmingham	7,263
	Bordesley & Highgate	Birmingham	6,891
	Bordesley Green	Birmingham	6,823
	Ladywood	Birmingham	12,721
	Nechells	Birmingham	6,900
	Newtown	Birmingham	6,831
	Soho & Jewellery Quarter	Birmingham	13,603
Birmingham Northfield BC			73,483
	Allens Cross	Birmingham	7,373
	Frankley Great Park	Birmingham	8,155
	King's Norton North	Birmingham	7,716
	King's Norton South	Birmingham	7,709
	Longbridge & West Heath	Birmingham	15,349
	Northfield	Birmingham	8,069
	Rubery & Rednal	Birmingham	7,221
	Weoley & Selly Oak – part of (polling districts WSO1ED, WSO4, WSO6, WSO7, WSO8, WSO9, and WSO10)	Birmingham	11,891
Birmingham Perry Barr BC			74,380
	Aston	Birmingham	13,901
	Birchfield	Birmingham	6,934
	Handsworth	Birmingham	6,805
	Handsworth Wood	Birmingham	13,311
	Holyhead	Birmingham	6,159
	Lozells	Birmingham	7,168
	Perry Barr	Birmingham	13,819
	Stockland Green – part of (polling districts STG5, STG6, and STG7)	Birmingham	6,283
Birmingham Selly Oak BC			76,285
	Billesley	Birmingham	14,030
	Bournbrook & Selly Park	Birmingham	15,748
	Bournville & Cotteridge	Birmingham	14,042
	Brandwood & King's Heath – part of (polling districts BKH4, BKH5, and BKH6)	Birmingham	6,149
	Druids Heath & Monyhull	Birmingham	7,788
	Hightner's Heath	Birmingham	7,794

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Stirchley	Birmingham	7,145
	Weoley & Selly Oak – part of (polling districts WSO2SO, WSO3SO, WSO5SO)	Birmingham	3,589
Birmingham Yardley BC			71,912
	Acocks Green	Birmingham	15,586
	Sheldon	Birmingham	14,211
	Small Heath	Birmingham	12,760
	South Yardley	Birmingham	6,969
	Tyseley & Hay Mills	Birmingham	7,042
	Yardley East	Birmingham	7,910
	Yardley West & Stechford	Birmingham	7,434
Bromsgrove CC			75,305
	Alvechurch South	Bromsgrove	2,315
	Alvechurch Village	Bromsgrove	2,269
	Aston Fields	Bromsgrove	2,561
	Avoncroft	Bromsgrove	2,607
	Barnt Green & Hopwood	Bromsgrove	2,446
	Belbroughton & Romsley	Bromsgrove	5,352
	Bromsgrove Central	Bromsgrove	2,386
	Catshill North	Bromsgrove	2,200
	Catshill South	Bromsgrove	2,218
	Charford	Bromsgrove	2,303
	Cofton	Bromsgrove	2,441
	Drakes Cross	Bromsgrove	2,469
	Hagley East	Bromsgrove	2,470
	Hagley West	Bromsgrove	2,934
	Hill Top	Bromsgrove	1,854
	Hollywood	Bromsgrove	2,402
	Lickey Hills	Bromsgrove	2,294
	Lowes Hill	Bromsgrove	2,565
	Marlbrook	Bromsgrove	2,434
	Norton	Bromsgrove	2,512
	Perryfields	Bromsgrove	1,515
	Rock Hill	Bromsgrove	2,402
	Rubery North	Bromsgrove	2,423
	Rubery South	Bromsgrove	2,507
	Sanders Park	Bromsgrove	2,776
	Sidemoor	Bromsgrove	2,700
	Slideslow	Bromsgrove	2,686

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Tardebigge	Bromsgrove	2,418
	Wythall East	Bromsgrove	2,503
	Wythall West	Bromsgrove	2,343
Burton CC			75,460
	Abbey	East Staffordshire	2,373
	Anglesey	East Staffordshire	3,633
	Branston	East Staffordshire	6,084
	Brizlincote	East Staffordshire	4,110
	Burton	East Staffordshire	2,159
	Churnet	East Staffordshire	2,150
	Crown	East Staffordshire	2,123
	Eton Park	East Staffordshire	4,402
	Heath	East Staffordshire	5,080
	Horninglow	East Staffordshire	6,022
	Rolleston on Dove	East Staffordshire	2,713
	Shobnall	East Staffordshire	4,629
	Stapenhill	East Staffordshire	5,428
	Stretton	East Staffordshire	6,218
	Town	East Staffordshire	5,287
	Tutbury and Outwoods	East Staffordshire	5,422
	Weaver	East Staffordshire	1,680
	Winshill	East Staffordshire	5,947
Cannock Chase CC			75,582
	Brereton and Ravenhill	Cannock Chase	5,255
	Cannock East	Cannock Chase	5,312
	Cannock North	Cannock Chase	5,350
	Cannock South	Cannock Chase	5,940
	Cannock West	Cannock Chase	5,730
	Etching Hill and The Heath	Cannock Chase	5,194
	Hagley	Cannock Chase	3,279
	Hawks Green	Cannock Chase	5,489
	Heath Hayes East and Wimblebury	Cannock Chase	4,845
	Hednesford Green Heath	Cannock Chase	4,931
	Hednesford North	Cannock Chase	5,259
	Hednesford South	Cannock Chase	4,168
	Norton Canes	Cannock Chase	6,016
	Rawnsley	Cannock Chase	3,707
	Western Springs	Cannock Chase	5,107

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
Coventry East BC			73,389
	Binley and Willenhall	Coventry	12,048
	Foleshill	Coventry	11,147
	Henley	Coventry	13,007
	Longford	Coventry	12,961
	Upper Stoke	Coventry	11,811
	Wyken	Coventry	12,415
Coventry North West BC			73,431
	Bablake	Coventry	12,663
	Holbrook	Coventry	12,364
	Radford	Coventry	11,685
	Sherbourne	Coventry	11,720
	Whoberley	Coventry	11,433
	Woodlands	Coventry	13,566
Coventry South BC			70,998
	Cheylesmore	Coventry	11,463
	Earlsdon	Coventry	11,955
	Lower Stoke	Coventry	13,933
	St. Michael's	Coventry	10,445
	Wainbody	Coventry	10,257
	Westwood	Coventry	12,945
Droitwich and Evesham CC			74,345
	Badsey	Wychavon	2,492
	Bengeworth	Wychavon	4,537
	Bowbrook	Wychavon	2,439
	Bretforton and Offenham	Wychavon	2,295
	Broadway and Wickhamford	Wychavon	4,077
	Drakes Broughton	Wychavon	2,129
	Droitwich Central	Wychavon	1,959
	Droitwich East	Wychavon	4,235
	Droitwich South East	Wychavon	4,881
	Droitwich South West	Wychavon	3,913
	Droitwich West	Wychavon	3,634
	Evesham North	Wychavon	3,248
	Evesham South	Wychavon	3,658
	Fladbury	Wychavon	2,306
	Great Hampton	Wychavon	2,654
	Hartlebury	Wychavon	2,372
	Honeybourne and Pebworth	Wychavon	2,382

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Little Hampton	Wychavon	3,612
	Lovett and North Claines	Wychavon	5,517
	Norton and Whittington	Wychavon	2,845
	Ombersley	Wychavon	2,020
	Pinvin	Wychavon	2,489
	The Littletons	Wychavon	2,383
	Upton Snodsbury	Wychavon	2,268
Dudley BC			71,083
	Brockmoor and Pensnett	Dudley	9,750
	Castle and Priory	Dudley	11,319
	Gornal	Dudley	10,392
	Sedgley	Dudley	9,676
	St. James's	Dudley	9,992
	St. Thomas's	Dudley	9,989
	Upper Gornal and Woodsetton	Dudley	9,965
Halesowen BC			69,907
	Belle Vale	Dudley	10,460
	Cradley and Wollescote	Dudley	9,769
	Halesowen North	Dudley	9,700
	Halesowen South	Dudley	9,910
	Hayley Green and Cradley South	Dudley	9,276
	Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood	Dudley	10,096
	Blackheath – part of (polling district BLG)	Sandwell	585
	Cradley Heath and Old Hill	Sandwell	10,111
Hereford and South Herefordshire CC			71,125
	Aylestone Hill	Herefordshire	2,450
	Belmont Rural	Herefordshire	2,630
	Birch	Herefordshire	2,522
	Bobblestock	Herefordshire	2,372
	Central	Herefordshire	2,324
	College	Herefordshire	2,734
	Dinedor Hill	Herefordshire	2,767
	Eign Hill	Herefordshire	2,716
	Golden Valley North	Herefordshire	2,512
	Golden Valley South	Herefordshire	2,668
	Greyfriars	Herefordshire	2,755

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Hinton & Hunderton	Herefordshire	2,704
	Kerne Bridge	Herefordshire	2,519
	Kings Acre	Herefordshire	2,514
	Llangarron	Herefordshire	2,780
	Newton Farm	Herefordshire	2,713
	Penyard	Herefordshire	2,891
	Red Hill	Herefordshire	2,850
	Ross East	Herefordshire	2,882
	Ross North	Herefordshire	2,668
	Ross West	Herefordshire	2,653
	Saxon Gate	Herefordshire	2,772
	Stoney Street	Herefordshire	2,755
	Tupsley	Herefordshire	2,532
	Whitecross	Herefordshire	2,564
	Widemarsh	Herefordshire	2,072
	Wormside	Herefordshire	2,806
Kenilworth and Southam CC			74,107
	Dunsmore	Rugby	6,340
	Leam Valley	Rugby	2,004
	Bishop's Itchington	Stratford-on-Avon	3,171
	Harbury	Stratford-on-Avon	2,879
	Kineton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,969
	Long Itchington & Stockton	Stratford-on-Avon	3,479
	Napton & Fenny Compton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,806
	Red Horse	Stratford-on-Avon	2,753
	Southam North	Stratford-on-Avon	2,799
	Southam South	Stratford-on-Avon	3,000
	Wellesbourne East	Stratford-on-Avon	3,021
	Wellesbourne West	Stratford-on-Avon	3,185
	Budbrooke	Warwick	5,013
	Cubbington & Leek Wootton	Warwick	4,552
	Kenilworth Abbey & Arden	Warwick	7,905
	Kenilworth Park Hill	Warwick	7,887
	Kenilworth St. John's	Warwick	7,688
	Radford Semele	Warwick	2,656
Kingswinford and South Staffordshire CC			71,896
	Kingswinford North and Wall Heath	Dudley	9,951
	Kingswinford South	Dudley	10,234
	Wordsley	Dudley	10,025

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Bilbrook	South Staffordshire	3,230
	Codsall North	South Staffordshire	3,488
	Codsall South	South Staffordshire	3,160
	Himley and Swindon	South Staffordshire	2,138
	Kinver	South Staffordshire	5,983
	Pattingham and Patshull	South Staffordshire	1,804
	Perton Dippons	South Staffordshire	1,605
	Perton East	South Staffordshire	1,674
	Perton Lakeside	South Staffordshire	4,773
	Trysull and Seisdon	South Staffordshire	1,823
	Wombourne North and Lower Penn	South Staffordshire	5,296
	Wombourne South East	South Staffordshire	3,225
	Wombourne South West	South Staffordshire	3,487
Lichfield CC			74,942
	Bagots	East Staffordshire	2,258
	Needwood	East Staffordshire	4,814
	Yoxall	East Staffordshire	2,256
	Alrewas & Fradley	Lichfield	5,032
	Armitage with Handsacre	Lichfield	6,130
	Boley Park	Lichfield	3,446
	Boney Hay & Central	Lichfield	5,147
	Chadsmead	Lichfield	3,273
	Chase Terrace	Lichfield	3,778
	Chasetown	Lichfield	3,327
	Colton & the Ridwares	Lichfield	1,964
	Curborough	Lichfield	3,342
	Hammerwich with Wall	Lichfield	3,523
	Highfield	Lichfield	3,787
	Leomansley	Lichfield	5,419
	Longdon	Lichfield	1,767
	St. John's	Lichfield	4,710
	Stowe	Lichfield	4,918
	Summerfield & All Saints	Lichfield	4,953
	Whittington & Streethay – part of (polling district AD)	Lichfield	1,098
Meriden CC			74,211
	Bickenhill	Solihull	9,794
	Chelmsley Wood	Solihull	9,162
	Dorridge and Hockley Heath	Solihull	8,923

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Elmdon	Solihull	9,453
	Kingshurst and Fordbridge	Solihull	8,895
	Knowle	Solihull	8,525
	Meriden	Solihull	10,089
	Silhill	Solihull	9,370
Newcastle-under-Lyme CC			70,025
	Audley	Newcastle-under-Lyme	6,616
	Bradwell	Newcastle-under-Lyme	6,622
	Clayton	Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,243
	Crackley & Red Street	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,298
	Cross Heath	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,997
	Holditch & Chesterton	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,947
	Keele	Newcastle-under-Lyme	1,920
	Knutton	Newcastle-under-Lyme	1,981
	Madeley & Betley	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,398
	May Bank	Newcastle-under-Lyme	6,633
	Silverdale	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,246
	Thistleberry	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,943
	Town	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,947
	Westbury Park & Northwood	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,044
	Westlands	Newcastle-under-Lyme	6,546
	Wolstanton	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,644
North Herefordshire CC			70,894
	Arrow	Herefordshire	2,950
	Backbury	Herefordshire	2,595
	Bircher	Herefordshire	3,194
	Bishops Frome & Cradley	Herefordshire	2,624
	Bromyard Bringsty	Herefordshire	2,811

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Bromyard West	Herefordshire	2,440
	Castle	Herefordshire	2,565
	Credenhill	Herefordshire	2,514
	Hagley	Herefordshire	3,167
	Hampton	Herefordshire	2,854
	Holmer	Herefordshire	3,068
	Hope End	Herefordshire	2,979
	Kington	Herefordshire	2,505
	Ledbury North	Herefordshire	2,546
	Ledbury South	Herefordshire	2,475
	Ledbury West	Herefordshire	2,673
	Leominster East	Herefordshire	2,766
	Leominster North & Rural	Herefordshire	3,014
	Leominster South	Herefordshire	2,602
	Leominster West	Herefordshire	2,134
	Mortimer	Herefordshire	2,713
	Old Gore	Herefordshire	2,537
	Queenswood	Herefordshire	2,744
	Sutton Walls	Herefordshire	2,551
	Three Crosses	Herefordshire	2,874
	Weobley	Herefordshire	2,999
North Shropshire CC			77,052
	Ellesmere Urban	Shropshire	3,266
	Gobowen, Selattyn and Weston Rhyn	Shropshire	5,600
	Llanymynech	Shropshire	3,487
	Market Drayton East	Shropshire	3,817
	Market Drayton West	Shropshire	6,815
	Oswestry East	Shropshire	6,807
	Oswestry South	Shropshire	3,292
	Oswestry West	Shropshire	2,685
	Prees	Shropshire	3,575
	Ruyton and Baschurch	Shropshire	3,377
	Shawbury	Shropshire	3,782
	St. Martin's	Shropshire	3,710
	St. Oswald	Shropshire	3,512
	The Meres	Shropshire	3,933
	Wem	Shropshire	6,837
	Whitchurch North	Shropshire	5,967
	Whitchurch South	Shropshire	3,255

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Whittington	Shropshire	3,335
Nuneaton CC			70,335
	Arley and Whitacre	North Warwickshire	4,330
	Hartshill	North Warwickshire	2,885
	Abbey	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,832
	Arbury	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,256
	Attleborough	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,609
	Bar Pool	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,278
	Camp Hill	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,982
	Galley Common	Nuneaton and Bedworth	6,148
	Kingswood	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,070
	St. Nicolas	Nuneaton and Bedworth	6,291
	Weddington	Nuneaton and Bedworth	7,002
	Wem Brook	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,095
	Whitestone	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,557
Redditch CC			69,921
	Abbey	Redditch	4,470
	Astwood Bank and Feckenham	Redditch	4,761
	Batchley & Brockhill	Redditch	6,042
	Central	Redditch	4,065
	Church Hill	Redditch	5,477
	Crabbs Cross	Redditch	4,458
	Greenlands	Redditch	6,375
	Headless Cross and Oakenshaw	Redditch	6,451
	Lodge Park	Redditch	3,564
	Matchborough	Redditch	4,286
	West	Redditch	4,803
	Winyates	Redditch	5,813
	Dodderhill	Wychavon	2,243
	Harvington and Norton	Wychavon	2,171

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Inkberrow	Wychavon	4,942
Rugby CC			72,603
	Bulkington	Nuneaton and Bedworth	5,096
	Admirals and Cawston	Rugby	6,243
	Benn	Rugby	4,648
	Bilton	Rugby	5,056
	Clifton, Newton and Churchover	Rugby	2,044
	Coton and Boughton	Rugby	5,157
	Eastlands	Rugby	5,400
	Hillmorton	Rugby	4,616
	New Bilton	Rugby	4,580
	Newbold and Brownsover	Rugby	5,421
	Paddox	Rugby	5,589
	Revel and Binley Woods	Rugby	5,254
	Rokeby and Overslade	Rugby	5,560
	Wolston and the Lawfords	Rugby	5,855
	Wolvey and Shilton	Rugby	2,084
Shrewsbury CC			75,139
	Abbey	Shropshire	3,407
	Bagley	Shropshire	3,851
	Battlefield	Shropshire	3,383
	Bayston Hill, Column and Sutton	Shropshire	10,055
	Belle Vue	Shropshire	3,453
	Bowbrook	Shropshire	3,391
	Castlefields and Ditherington	Shropshire	3,400
	Copthorne	Shropshire	3,301
	Harlescott	Shropshire	3,337
	Longden	Shropshire	3,375
	Loton	Shropshire	3,268
	Meole	Shropshire	3,319
	Monkmoor	Shropshire	3,280
	Porthill	Shropshire	3,431
	Quarry and Coton Hill	Shropshire	3,182
	Radbrook	Shropshire	4,171
	Rea Valley	Shropshire	3,355
	Sundorne	Shropshire	3,117
	Tern	Shropshire	3,884

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Underdale	Shropshire	3,179
Smethwick BC			71,195
	Abbey	Sandwell	7,977
	Blackheath – part of (polling districts BLA, BLB, BLC, BLD, BLE, BLF, and BLH)	Sandwell	8,524
	Bristnall	Sandwell	8,828
	Langley	Sandwell	9,091
	Old Warley	Sandwell	8,997
	Smethwick	Sandwell	9,006
	Soho and Victoria	Sandwell	9,264
	St. Pauls	Sandwell	9,508
Solihull BC			70,537
	Blythe	Solihull	11,291
	Lyndon	Solihull	10,193
	Olton	Solihull	9,967
	Shirley East	Solihull	8,886
	Shirley South	Solihull	9,824
	Shirley West	Solihull	9,880
	St. Alphege	Solihull	10,496
South Shropshire CC			77,034
	Alveley and Claverley	Shropshire	3,479
	Bishop's Castle	Shropshire	2,954
	Bridgnorth East and Astley Abbots	Shropshire	5,707
	Bridgnorth West and Tasley	Shropshire	5,671
	Broseley	Shropshire	3,843
	Brown Clee	Shropshire	3,234
	Burnell	Shropshire	3,850
	Chirbury and Worthen	Shropshire	2,418
	Church Stretton and Craven Arms	Shropshire	7,345
	Clee	Shropshire	3,662
	Cleobury Mortimer	Shropshire	6,090
	Clun	Shropshire	3,189
	Corvedale	Shropshire	3,102
	Highley	Shropshire	2,858
	Ludlow East	Shropshire	3,096
	Ludlow North	Shropshire	3,104
	Ludlow South	Shropshire	3,193

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Much Wenlock	Shropshire	3,537
	Severn Valley	Shropshire	3,660
	Worfield	Shropshire	3,042
Stafford CC			70,537
	Loggerheads	Newcastle-under-Lyme	3,649
	Maer & Whitmore	Newcastle-under-Lyme	2,094
	Baswich	Stafford	5,065
	Common	Stafford	2,958
	Coton	Stafford	5,065
	Doxey & Castletown	Stafford	2,749
	Eccleshall	Stafford	5,559
	Forebridge	Stafford	2,451
	Gnosall & Woodseaves	Stafford	5,633
	Highfields & Western Downs	Stafford	4,911
	Holmcroft	Stafford	5,495
	Littleworth	Stafford	4,406
	Manor	Stafford	5,367
	Penkside	Stafford	2,574
	Rowley	Stafford	2,627
	Seighford & Church Eaton	Stafford	5,170
	Weeping Cross & Wildwood	Stafford	4,764
Staffordshire Moorlands CC			70,113
	Alton	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,173
	Bagnall and Stanley	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,391
	Biddulph East	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,574
	Biddulph Moor	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,395
	Biddulph North	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,557
	Biddulph South	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,419
	Biddulph West	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,152
	Brown Edge and Endon	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,009
	Caverswall	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,461

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Cellarhead	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,638
	Cheadle North East	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,822
	Cheadle South East	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,892
	Cheadle West	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,051
	Cheddleton	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,423
	Churnet	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,665
	Dane	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,326
	Hamps Valley	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,501
	Horton	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,586
	Ipstones	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,527
	Leek East	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,002
	Leek North	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,208
	Leek South	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,501
	Leek West	Staffordshire Moorlands	3,672
	Manifold	Staffordshire Moorlands	1,517
	Werrington	Staffordshire Moorlands	2,651
Stoke-on-Trent Central BC			70,550
	Abbey Hulton and Townsend	Stoke-on-Trent	6,827
	Bentilee and Ubberley	Stoke-on-Trent	6,636
	Birches Head and Central Forest Park	Stoke-on-Trent	7,164
	Boothens and Oak Hill	Stoke-on-Trent	3,838
	Eaton Park	Stoke-on-Trent	3,394
	Etruria and Hanley	Stoke-on-Trent	3,679
	Fenton East	Stoke-on-Trent	3,985
	Fenton West and Mount Pleasant	Stoke-on-Trent	3,774
	Hanley Park and Shelton	Stoke-on-Trent	2,690
	Hartshill and Basford	Stoke-on-Trent	4,456

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Joiner's Square	Stoke-on-Trent	3,652
	Meir Hay	Stoke-on-Trent	3,748
	Penkhull and Stoke	Stoke-on-Trent	4,637
	Sandford Hill	Stoke-on-Trent	4,128
	Sneyd Green	Stoke-on-Trent	3,548
	Springfields and Trent Vale	Stoke-on-Trent	4,394
Stoke-on-Trent North BC			69,821
	Kidsgrove & Ravenscliffe	Newcastle-under-Lyme	7,020
	Newchapel & Mow Cop	Newcastle-under-Lyme	4,642
	Talke & Butt Lane	Newcastle-under-Lyme	6,887
	Baddeley, Milton and Norton	Stoke-on-Trent	12,882
	Bradeley and Chell Heath	Stoke-on-Trent	3,629
	Burslem Central	Stoke-on-Trent	3,910
	Burslem Park	Stoke-on-Trent	3,744
	Ford Green and Smallthorne	Stoke-on-Trent	4,150
	Goldenhill and Sandyford	Stoke-on-Trent	4,149
	Great Chell and Packmoor	Stoke-on-Trent	7,566
	Little Chell and Stanfield	Stoke-on-Trent	4,029
	Moorcroft	Stoke-on-Trent	3,631
	Tunstall	Stoke-on-Trent	3,582
Stoke-on-Trent South CC			69,831
	Barlaston	Stafford	2,231
	Fulford	Stafford	4,933
	Swynnerton & Oulton	Stafford	5,257
	Checkley	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,673
	Forsbrook	Staffordshire Moorlands	4,213
	Blurton East	Stoke-on-Trent	3,984
	Blurton West and Newstead	Stoke-on-Trent	4,526
	Broadway and Longton East	Stoke-on-Trent	3,805
	Dresden and Florence	Stoke-on-Trent	3,639
	Hanford and Trentham	Stoke-on-Trent	9,215
	Hollybush and Longton West	Stoke-on-Trent	4,124
	Lightwood North and Normacot	Stoke-on-Trent	3,765
	Meir North	Stoke-on-Trent	4,086
	Meir Park	Stoke-on-Trent	3,748

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Meir South	Stoke-on-Trent	3,700
	Weston Coyney	Stoke-on-Trent	3,932
Stone and Great Wyrley CC			70,701
	Brewood and Coven	South Staffordshire	5,393
	Cheslyn Hay North and Saredon	South Staffordshire	3,397
	Cheslyn Hay South	South Staffordshire	2,918
	Essington	South Staffordshire	3,979
	Featherstone and Shareshill	South Staffordshire	3,699
	Great Wyrley Landywood	South Staffordshire	3,702
	Great Wyrley Town	South Staffordshire	5,081
	Huntington and Hatherton	South Staffordshire	4,040
	Penkridge North East and Acton Trussell	South Staffordshire	3,069
	Penkridge South East	South Staffordshire	3,730
	Penkridge West	South Staffordshire	1,763
	Wheaton Aston, Bishopswood and Lapley	South Staffordshire	3,316
	Haywood & Hixon	Stafford	5,609
	Milford	Stafford	2,447
	Milwich	Stafford	5,224
	St. Michael's & Stonefield	Stafford	8,057
	Walton	Stafford	5,277
Stourbridge BC			69,840
	Amblecote	Dudley	10,260
	Brierley Hill	Dudley	10,198
	Lye and Stourbridge North	Dudley	9,294
	Netherton, Woodside and St. Andrews	Dudley	10,143
	Norton	Dudley	9,763
	Pedmore and Stourbridge East	Dudley	9,739
	Wollaston and Stourbridge Town	Dudley	10,443
Stratford-on-Avon CC			72,388
	Alcester & Rural	Stratford-on-Avon	2,961
	Alcester Town	Stratford-on-Avon	3,011
	Avenue	Stratford-on-Avon	2,343
	Bidford East	Stratford-on-Avon	3,145
	Bidford West & Salford	Stratford-on-Avon	3,022
	Bishopton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,415

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Brailes & Compton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,836
	Bridgetown	Stratford-on-Avon	3,119
	Clopton	Stratford-on-Avon	1,738
	Ettington	Stratford-on-Avon	2,906
	Guildhall	Stratford-on-Avon	2,520
	Hathaway	Stratford-on-Avon	2,166
	Henley-in-Arden	Stratford-on-Avon	3,178
	Kinwarton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,380
	Quinton	Stratford-on-Avon	2,692
	Shipston North	Stratford-on-Avon	3,074
	Shipston South	Stratford-on-Avon	2,982
	Shottery	Stratford-on-Avon	2,415
	Snitterfield	Stratford-on-Avon	2,944
	Studley with Mappleborough Green	Stratford-on-Avon	3,058
	Studley with Sambourne	Stratford-on-Avon	2,992
	Tanworth-in-Arden	Stratford-on-Avon	2,698
	Tiddington	Stratford-on-Avon	3,060
	Welcombe	Stratford-on-Avon	2,439
	Welford-on-Avon	Stratford-on-Avon	3,322
	Wotton Wawen	Stratford-on-Avon	2,972
Sutton Coldfield BC			74,584
	Sutton Four Oaks	Birmingham	7,642
	Sutton Mere Green	Birmingham	8,049
	Sutton Reddicap	Birmingham	7,355
	Sutton Roughley	Birmingham	8,509
	Sutton Trinity	Birmingham	7,554
	Sutton Vesey	Birmingham	15,381
	Sutton Walmley & Minworth	Birmingham	12,807
	Sutton Wylde Green	Birmingham	7,287
Tamworth CC			73,644
	Bourne Vale	Lichfield	1,790
	Fazeley	Lichfield	3,533
	Little Aston & Stonnall	Lichfield	4,117
	Mease Valley	Lichfield	1,553
	Shenstone	Lichfield	1,980
	Whittington & Streethay – part of (polling districts JA, YA, YB, YC, ZA, and ZB)	Lichfield	3,928
	Amington	Tamworth	5,981

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Belgrave	Tamworth	5,645
	Bolehall	Tamworth	5,490
	Castle	Tamworth	5,363
	Glascote	Tamworth	5,285
	Mercian	Tamworth	5,217
	Spital	Tamworth	5,664
	Stonydelph	Tamworth	5,584
	Trinity	Tamworth	5,738
	Wilnecote	Tamworth	6,776
Telford BC			70,768
	Brookside	Telford and Wrekin	4,005
	Dawley & Aqueduct	Telford and Wrekin	6,770
	Horsehay & Lightmoor	Telford and Wrekin	5,703
	Ironbridge Gorge	Telford and Wrekin	2,573
	Ketley & Overdale	Telford and Wrekin	7,945
	Madeley & Sutton Hill	Telford and Wrekin	7,480
	Malinslee & Dawley Bank	Telford and Wrekin	4,474
	Oakengates & Ketley Bank	Telford and Wrekin	6,829
	Priorslee	Telford and Wrekin	5,050
	St. Georges	Telford and Wrekin	4,599
	The Nedge	Telford and Wrekin	6,571
	Woodside	Telford and Wrekin	4,307
	Wrockwardine Wood & Trench	Telford and Wrekin	4,462
The Wrekin CC			76,143
	Albrighton	Shropshire	3,705
	Cheswardine	Shropshire	3,397
	Hodnet	Shropshire	3,106
	Shifnal North	Shropshire	4,655
	Shifnal South and Cosford	Shropshire	4,464
	Admaston & Bratton	Telford and Wrekin	2,297
	Apley Castle	Telford and Wrekin	2,515
	Arleston	Telford and Wrekin	2,201
	Church Aston & Lilleshall	Telford and Wrekin	2,474
	College	Telford and Wrekin	2,232
	Donnington	Telford and Wrekin	4,411
	Dothill	Telford and Wrekin	2,159
	Edgmond & Ercall Magna	Telford and Wrekin	4,932
	Ercall	Telford and Wrekin	2,751
	Hadley & Leegomery	Telford and Wrekin	6,909

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Haygate	Telford and Wrekin	2,281
	Muxton	Telford and Wrekin	5,178
	Newport North & West	Telford and Wrekin	5,155
	Newport South & East	Telford and Wrekin	4,430
	Park	Telford and Wrekin	2,126
	Shawburch	Telford and Wrekin	2,289
	Wrockwardine	Telford and Wrekin	2,476
Tipton and Wednesbury BC			73,820
	Coseley East	Dudley	9,378
	Friar Park	Sandwell	8,622
	Great Bridge	Sandwell	9,067
	Hateley Heath	Sandwell	9,247
	Princes End	Sandwell	8,859
	Tipton Green	Sandwell	10,132
	Wednesbury North	Sandwell	8,998
	Wednesbury South	Sandwell	9,517
Walsall and Bloxwich BC			74,866
	Birchills Leamore	Walsall	10,296
	Blakenall	Walsall	9,082
	Bloxwich East	Walsall	8,969
	Bloxwich West	Walsall	9,825
	Paddock – part of (polling districts UA, UB, UC, and UD)	Walsall	6,299
	Palfrey	Walsall	10,560
	Pleck	Walsall	9,587
	St. Matthew's	Walsall	10,248
Warwick and Leamington BC			72,784
	Bishop's Tachbrook	Warwick	3,557
	Leamington Brunswick	Warwick	7,292
	Leamington Clarendon	Warwick	7,742
	Leamington Lillington	Warwick	8,793
	Leamington Milverton	Warwick	7,398
	Leamington Willes	Warwick	7,316
	Warwick All Saints & Woodloes	Warwick	7,238
	Warwick Aylesford	Warwick	5,014
	Warwick Myton & Heathcote	Warwick	5,676
	Warwick Saltisford	Warwick	5,396
	Whitnash	Warwick	7,362

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
West Bromwich BC			72,206
	Charlemont with Grove Vale	Sandwell	9,035
	Great Barr with Yew Tree	Sandwell	9,660
	Greets Green and Lyng	Sandwell	8,340
	Newton	Sandwell	8,472
	Oldbury	Sandwell	9,255
	Rowley	Sandwell	9,562
	Tividale	Sandwell	8,934
	West Bromwich Central	Sandwell	8,948
West Worcestershire CC			76,638
	Alfrick and Leigh	Malvern Hills	2,992
	Baldwin	Malvern Hills	1,738
	Broadheath	Malvern Hills	3,067
	Chase	Malvern Hills	4,742
	Dyson Perrins	Malvern Hills	3,456
	Hallow	Malvern Hills	1,589
	Kempsey	Malvern Hills	3,783
	Lindridge	Malvern Hills	1,874
	Link	Malvern Hills	4,851
	Longdon	Malvern Hills	1,758
	Martley	Malvern Hills	1,566
	Morton	Malvern Hills	1,885
	Pickersleigh	Malvern Hills	4,356
	Powick	Malvern Hills	3,363
	Priory	Malvern Hills	3,221
	Ripple	Malvern Hills	1,554
	Teme Valley	Malvern Hills	1,682
	Tenbury	Malvern Hills	3,057
	Upton and Hanley	Malvern Hills	3,552
	Wells	Malvern Hills	2,604
	West	Malvern Hills	3,261
	Woodbury	Malvern Hills	1,787
	Bredon	Wychavon	2,142
	Eckington	Wychavon	2,288
	Elmley Castle and Somerville	Wychavon	2,068
	Pershore	Wychavon	6,439
	South Bredon Hill	Wychavon	1,963
Wolverhampton North East BC			70,449
	Short Heath	Walsall	8,896

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Willenhall North	Walsall	9,452
	Bushbury North	Wolverhampton	8,735
	Bushbury South and Low Hill	Wolverhampton	9,702
	Fallings Park	Wolverhampton	8,639
	Heath Town	Wolverhampton	7,787
	Wednesfield North	Wolverhampton	8,635
	Wednesfield South	Wolverhampton	8,603
Wolverhampton South East BC			75,685
	Bentley and Darlaston North	Walsall	9,389
	Darlaston South	Walsall	10,233
	Willenhall South	Walsall	11,281
	Bilston East	Wolverhampton	9,670
	Bilston North	Wolverhampton	8,557
	East Park	Wolverhampton	8,481
	Ettingshall	Wolverhampton	9,458
	Spring Vale	Wolverhampton	8,616
Wolverhampton West BC			75,592
	Blakenhall	Wolverhampton	7,724
	Graiseley	Wolverhampton	7,661
	Merry Hill	Wolverhampton	9,152
	Oxley	Wolverhampton	8,608
	Park	Wolverhampton	7,577
	Penn	Wolverhampton	9,918
	St. Peter's	Wolverhampton	6,592
	Tettenhall Regis	Wolverhampton	9,359
	Tettenhall Wightwick	Wolverhampton	9,001
Worcester BC			73,928
	Arboretum	Worcester	4,432
	Battenhall	Worcester	4,085
	Bedwardine	Worcester	6,638
	Cathedral	Worcester	7,727
	Claines	Worcester	6,482
	Gorse Hill	Worcester	3,510
	Nunnery	Worcester	5,821
	Rainbow Hill	Worcester	3,891
	St. Clement	Worcester	4,353
	St. John	Worcester	6,023
	St. Peter's Parish	Worcester	4,499
	St. Stephen	Worcester	4,326

Constituency	Ward	Local Authorities	Electorate
	Warndon	Worcester	3,720
	Warndon Parish North	Worcester	3,956
	Warndon Parish South	Worcester	4,465
Wyre Forest CC			77,015
	Aggborough & Spennells	Wyre Forest	6,542
	Areley Kings & Riverside	Wyre Forest	6,441
	Bewdley & Rock	Wyre Forest	7,049
	Blakebrook & Habberley South	Wyre Forest	6,689
	Broadwaters	Wyre Forest	6,547
	Foley Park & Hoobrook	Wyre Forest	7,391
	Franche & Habberley North	Wyre Forest	7,625
	Lickhill	Wyre Forest	2,217
	Mitton	Wyre Forest	7,485
	Offmore & Comberton	Wyre Forest	7,337
	Wribbenhall & Arley	Wyre Forest	4,335
	Wyre Forest Rural	Wyre Forest	7,357

Glossary

Assistant Commissioner	Independent person appointed at the request of the BCE to assist it with the discharge of its functions.	Public hearing	Formal opportunity during the secondary consultation period for people to make oral representations, chaired by an Assistant Commissioner.
Borough constituency (abbreviated to BC)	The designation for a Parliamentary constituency containing a predominantly urban area.	Representations	The views provided by an individual, group or organisation to the BCE on its initial or revised proposals (or on the representations of others), either for or against, including counter-proposals and petitions.
County constituency (abbreviated to CC)	The designation for a Parliamentary constituency containing more than a small rural element.	Review date	The ‘effective date’ at which electorate and local government boundary data is fixed so that we can then work with it on a stable basis. Defined by the 2020 Act for the 2023 Review as 2 March 2020 for the electorate numbers, and 1 December 2020 for local government boundaries.
Designation	Official classification as either a borough constituency or a county constituency. The designation of a constituency guides the determination of who the returning officer will be, and determines how much candidates can spend, in any election for that constituency.	Revised proposals	The initial proposals as subsequently revised.
Electorate	The number of registered Parliamentary electors in a given area.	Rules	The statutory criteria for Parliamentary constituencies recommended by a Parliamentary Boundary Commission, as set out in Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended by Acts up to and including the 2020 Act).
(Statutory/ Permitted) Electorate range	The statutory rule that requires the electorate of every recommended constituency to be – for the 2023 Review – between 69,724 and 77,062.	UK electoral quota	The average number of electors in a constituency, found by dividing the total electorate of the UK (less that of the five specific ‘protected’ constituencies in the UK) by 645.
Final recommendations	The recommendations submitted in a formal final report to Parliament at the end of a review. They may – or may not – have been amended since the earlier proposals in any given area.	Unitary authority	An area where there is only one tier of ‘principal area’ local council (above any parish or town council). Contrasted with those ‘shire district’ areas that have two tiers (i.e. both a non-metropolitan county council and a district/borough/ city council).
Initial proposals	First formal proposals published by the BCE during the review for public consultation.		
Periodical report	Report to Parliament following a general review of Parliamentary constituencies.		
Places of deposit	In each proposed constituency the Commission will make available hard copies of its revised proposals (including report and maps). The places of deposit where the public may inspect the proposals are usually the offices of the relevant local authority, although other public places such as libraries may be used. The Commission will publish a full list of places of deposit on its website.		

