

2013 ELECTORATES

1. The 2013 electoral register was published on 16 October 2012 in England (except London) and Wales, due to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Elections which were held on 15 November 2012. In London, Northern Ireland and Scotland, where PCC Elections were not held, the 2013 electoral register was published as usual on 1 December 2012.

2. As in previous years, the total number of electors in England continued to rise. The table below shows the total number of electors in England in each of the last three years.

	2011	2012	2013	Change 2011-2013
England	38,443,481	38,654,024	38,837,344	393,063 (+1.02%)

3. There were also increases in the number of electors in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and when the effect of the exempted areas are taken into account, the table below shows the change in electorate between 2011 and 2013 and the effect on the electoral quota.

	2011	2012	2013	Change 2011-2013
England	38,322,557	38,543,124	38,726,235	393,678 (+1.03%)
Northern Ireland	1,190,635	1,212,967	1,230,197	39,562 (+3.32%)
Scotland	3,873,387	3,885,432	3,928,845	55,458 (+1.43%)
Wales	2,281,596	2,298,569	2,301,073	19,477 (+0.85%)
United Kingdom	45,678,175	45,940,092	46,186,350	508,175 (+1.11%)
Electoral Quota	76,641	77,081	77,494	853 (+1.11%)

4. If a review of parliamentary constituencies had started in 2013, there would have been a different allocation of constituencies between the four countries, with England being allocated 499 constituencies (excluding the two Isle of Wight constituencies), instead of 500 as in the 2013 review. Scotland would be allocated 51 constituencies (excluding the two Island constituencies), instead of 50 as in the 2013 review. The reason for this is that the St Laguë distribution favours the smaller units at the expense of the larger units. Even though England has added the equivalent of 5 additional constituencies worth of electors since 2011, this was not enough to gain England any additional constituencies. In regional terms, it would have been the South West region to lose the constituency.

5. In England, on the 2013 electoral register, just 192 (36%) of the 533 existing constituencies had an electorate within 5% of the electoral quota (73,620 to 81,368). The largest constituency continued to be Isle of Wight CC (111,109). The smallest constituency continued to be Wirral West CC (55,145). The disparity between the two electorates was 55,964. The second largest constituency was now Manchester Central BC (92,334). The table below shows the range of existing constituency electorates over the period 2011 to 2013.

	2011	2012	2103
EQ > +20%	1	1	1
EQ > +15%	3	3	3
EQ > +10%	7	8	10
EQ > +5%	26	26	23
Within 5% of EQ	200	197	192
EQ < -5%	133	133	136
EQ < -10%	103	96	104
EQ < -15%	47	56	47
EQ < -20%	13	13	17

6. The Secretariat has also calculated that, of the revised proposals published in October 2012, 59 constituencies (9.87%) would already have had an electorate that was more than 5% from the electoral quota. The highest electorate would have been 84,513 (Canterbury and Faversham CC), which is 9.06% above the electoral quota. The lowest electorate would have been 71,142 (Plymouth Sutton BC), which is 8.20% below the electoral quota. This illustrates the drift that can occur in electorate terms in a very short period of time.

7. The Commission are asked to note the 2013 electoral data and to also note that the 2014 electoral register will be published on 17 February 2014, due to the start of the implementation of Individual Electoral Registration (IER) in England. In Scotland and Wales, the 2014 electoral register will be published on 10 March 2014. Northern Ireland, which already has IER, will publish the 2014 electoral register on 1 December 2013. The Secretariat expects that statistics concerning the 2014 electoral register should be compiled by the end of April 2014.