

## 2014 ELECTORATES

1. The 2014 electoral register was published on 17 February 2014 in England. The publication of the register was delayed due to the preparations for Individual Elector Registration (IER), which will be used for the first time for the 2015 electoral register.

2. For the first time since 2004, the total number of electors in England has fallen. The number of electors decreased by 240,207 (0.62%). Not all local authorities experienced a decline in their electorate, but in those that did, the reason for the decrease was usually given as not carrying forward electors who did not respond to the annual canvas. Some local authorities decided to do this in preparation for IER. The local authorities with the most change are shown in the table below.

District	2013	2014	Change
Tower Hamlets	145,170	157,521	+ 8.51%
East Lindsey	101,192	106,037	+ 4.79%
Wycombe	120,294	125,901	+ 4.66%
Cambridge	79,341	82,439	+ 3.90%
Huntingdonshire	122,579	126,462	+ 3.17%
Northampton	149,562	138,479	- 7.41%
Newham	179,938	166,501	- 7.47%
Maidstone	117,140	108,059	- 7.75%
Allerdale	74,503	68,633	- 7.88%
Taunton Deane	84,162	76,989	- 8.52%

3. The table below shows the total number of electors in England in each of the last four years.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	Change 2011-2014
England	38,443,481	38,654,024	38,837,344	38,597,137	153,656 (+0.40%)

4. There were also slight decreases in the number of electors in Northern Ireland and Wales, but there was an increase in Scotland, probably due to the forthcoming independence referendum. When the effect of the exempted areas is taken into account, the table below shows the change in electorate between 2011 and 2014 and the effect on the electoral quota.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	Change 2011-2014
England	38,322,557	38,543,124	38,726,235	38,485,337	152,780 (+0.40%)
Northern Ireland	1,190,635	1,212,967	1,230,197	1,218,366	27,731 (+2.33%)
Scotland	3,873,387	3,885,432	3,928,845	3,970,180	97,423 (+2.52%)
Wales	2,281,596	2,298,569	2,301,073	2,297,250	15,654 (+0.69%)
United Kingdom	45,678,175	45,940,092	46,186,350	45,971,763	293,588 (+0.64%)
Electoral Quota	<b>76,641</b>	<b>77,081</b>	<b>77,494</b>	<b>77,134</b>	493 (+0.64%)

5. If a review of parliamentary constituencies had started in 2014, 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. In England there would have been a different allocation in three of the nine regions, with London gaining a constituency (69 up from 68), and the South West (52 down from 53) and West Midlands (53 down from 54) regions each losing a constituency. The table at Appendix A shows the number of electors in each local authority in England.

6. In England, on the 2014 electoral register, just 193 (36%) of the 533 existing constituencies had an electorate within 5% of the electoral quota (73,278 to 80,990). The largest constituency continued to be Isle of Wight CC (111,800). The smallest constituency continued to be Wirral West CC (54,814). The disparity between the two electorates was 56,986. The second largest constituency is still Manchester Central BC (95,373). The drift in the electorates means that there are now three constituencies with an electorate in excess of 90,000, and eight constituencies with an electorate below 60,000. The number of electors in each constituency is shown on the table at Appendix B. The table below shows the range of existing constituency electorates over the period 2011 to 2014.

	2011	2012	2013	2014
EQ > +20%	1	1	1	2
EQ > +15%	3	3	3	3
EQ > +10%	7	8	10	9
EQ > +5%	26	26	23	27
Within 5% of EQ	<b>200</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>193</b>
EQ < -5%	133	133	136	125
EQ < -10%	103	96	104	101
EQ < -15%	47	56	47	47
EQ < -20%	13	13	17	26

7. The Commission are asked to note the 2014 electoral data.