



Data Protection and Privacy Policy

Introduction

1. The Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) is committed to respecting personal data that we hold. This statement sets out what personal data we hold, and our approach to it.
2. The Commission holds personal data collected for three reasons:
 - a. through responses to its consultations (including applications to attend, and oral representations made at, public hearings);
 - b. in electoral registers collected during the conduct of a review of parliamentary boundaries; and
 - c. through requests to be included on our mailing lists.

The data we collect, and whether we hold it in electronic, paper, or other formats, will have appropriate safeguards in place to ensure we comply with the Data Protection Act 1998.

3. You may request a copy of any personal data we hold on you, at any time, by emailing information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk , or by writing to:

Support Team Manager
Boundary Commission for England
35 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BQ

Responses to our consultations

4. The legislation that governs how the Commission works dictates that we must invite representations on our initial proposals for new parliamentary constituency boundaries and, importantly, that we make publicly available these representations for further comment. The consultation process therefore is a fully open and transparent process. In deciding how to treat personal data received as part of the

consultation, we have had in mind these important legal considerations. Further information about the way we conduct consultations is available on our website.

5. The Commission has carefully considered how to handle the publishing of respondents' personal data, balancing the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 against the legislation under which we conduct reviews, mentioned above. The Commission has concluded that:
 - a. names and postal addresses will not be redacted from any representation (although consideration would be given to redaction in wholly exceptional cases: see 'special considerations', below);
 - b. all signatures would be redacted from representations;
 - c. MPs and those submitting representations in an official or elected capacity (e.g. councillors) would have only their signatures redacted;
 - d. members of the public (including officials submitting a representation in a personal capacity) would additionally have their email addresses and telephone numbers redacted (but not their postal address).

Special considerations

6. Given the statutory obligation on the Commission to publish all representations, we will not be able to take into account any representation that the sender requests us to not publish. Similarly, any representations that the Commission judges to have libellous, defamatory or offensive material will not be published, nor will it be treated as a representation.
7. Respondents to our consultations who wish to remain anonymous should make such a request as part of their representation, or in writing a reasonable time after their representations. The Commission will take a judgement as to whether to grant the request, but given nature of the public consultation we conduct, it is likely that we will require strong justification to accept any requests for anonymity.

Public hearings

8. The Commission is required to publish a record of each public hearing we conduct. This will be in the form of a verbatim transcript, in which people's oral representations will be able to be read, though we may edit the transcript for reasons of confidentiality or for other sound reason. As the public hearings are an opportunity to make oral representations to the Commission, we will treat such oral representations as we would written representations. People wishing to speak at the hearings will be asked to provide their names and addresses, and our approach to

how we handle personal data for public hearings will be consistent with that detailed above.

Electoral registers

9. The Commission is legally entitled, under the Representation of the People Act 2000, to hold copies of each local authority's Parliamentary register of electors. We hold this data in electronic form only on our secure servers, and they enable us to conduct reviews of Parliamentary boundaries. We hold and use the data in electoral registers only for the purpose of conducting reviews, and never pass the data on to other organisations or third parties.

Requests to be on our mailing lists

10. We regularly are provided with personal data by people wishing to be on our mailing lists, to whom we send (by email or post) our regular Newsletters or other announcements. We use their data only for these purposes and never pass the data on to other organisations or third parties.