

Boundary Commission for England announces review of constituencies

The independent Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has today begun redrawing the map of parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.

The move follows a decision by Parliament to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK to 600, and to ensure that there are roughly the same number of electors in each constituency. The BCE is tasked with making independent recommendations about where the boundaries of English constituencies should be.

The total UK electorate has been announced by the Office for National Statistics as 44,722,004, which means the number of electors in each mainland English constituency must be no less than 71,031 and no more than 78,507.

England will therefore have 501 constituencies, 32 fewer than there are currently. The Commission has also decided how those constituencies will be distributed among the English regions.

The BCE now begins work on its initial proposals for new boundaries, which are expected to be published in September 2016. The publication of those proposals will begin a 12-week consultation period, during which the BCE will invite comments on the proposals to capture the views and knowledge of local residents.

The BCE will also be travelling across England in the autumn to hear from people in person. All comments will help the Commission further refine the boundary proposals before views are sought on any revisions later in 2017. The Commission must make its final recommendations to Parliament in 2018.

Sam Hartley, Secretary to the Boundary Commission for England said:

“Today marks the start of our work to review the constituency boundaries in England. Parliament has set us strict rules on reducing the number of constituencies and bringing greater equality of electorate size between the new constituencies - these new rules mean that there is likely to be a large degree of change across the country.

“Once we publish our initial proposals in the autumn, we will need the help of residents in all regions to ensure that our proposals take account of local ties and best reflect the geography on the ground. Everyone’s views will help us recommend a well-considered and practical set of constituency boundaries in England.”

More information is available on the [BCE’s website](#) and Twitter feed [@BCE2018](#).

The review will take place over two and a half years to ensure that the recommendations made are thorough and take public views into account. Final recommendations must be submitted to the Parliament in September 2018 to allow changes to come into effect at the General Election scheduled for 2020.

Notes to editors

1. The Boundary Commission for England is an independent and impartial advisory body, constituted under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. It is responsible for conducting reviews of English parliamentary boundaries and making recommendations to Parliament. The reviews for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are the responsibility of separate Commissions in those parts of the United Kingdom.
2. The statutory framework for how a review of constituencies must be conducted was significantly altered by Part 2 of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011. The Act dictates the method for allocating constituencies to each part of the UK once the UK electorate is known.
3. England's total electorate is **37,399,942**. The Act specifically provides for two constituencies for the Isle of Wight, and its electorate of 105,448 is therefore not included in the calculations for allocating constituencies to each part of the UK. England's electorate less the Isle of Wight is therefore **37,294,494**, which means it will have **499** mainland constituencies for this review, plus **two** covering the Isle of Wight. The new total of **501** constituencies is **32** fewer than it currently has.
4. The rules in the 2011 Act also state that every constituency must be within 5% of the electoral quota (the target average number of electors, which, for this review, is **74,769**), meaning constituencies must have no fewer than **71,031** and no more than **78,507** electors. The Isle of Wight is exempt from this calculation requirement.
5. The Commission has decided to use the same method of allocating constituencies among the regions in England as is used in the Act to allocate constituencies to each part of the UK. The number allocated to each region is as follows:

Region	Electorate	<i>Existing constituencies</i>	Proposed constituencies
Eastern	4,242,266	58	57
East Midlands	3,275,046	46	44
London	5,118,884	73	68
North East	1,874,396	29	25
North West	5,074,302	75	68
South East	6,067,475*	83*	81*
South West	3,930,770	55	53

West Midlands	3,989,320	59	53
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,722,035	54	50
Total	37,294,494*	532*	499*

* figures exclude one current Isle of Wight constituency and its electorate, and two proposed Isle of Wight constituencies, for the reason outlined above.

6. The last review of constituencies reported in 2006. The BCE began a review under the new legislation in 2011 that Parliament cancelled in 2013. The proposals from that review have no status for the current review and the BCE will not be taking any account of them.
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