

West Midlands

Initial proposals summary

Who we are and what we do

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

The 2018 Review

We have the task of periodically reviewing the boundaries of all the Parliamentary constituencies in England. We are currently conducting a review on the basis of rules set by Parliament in 2011. The rules tell us that we must make recommendations for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in September 2018. They also result in a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 501), and require that every constituency – apart from two specified exceptions – must have an electorate that is no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507.

Initial proposals

We published our initial proposals for the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England on 13 September 2016. Information about the proposed constituencies is now available on our website.

What is changing in the West Midlands?

The West Midlands has been allocated 53 constituencies – a reduction of six from the current number.

Our proposals leave seven of the 59 existing constituencies unchanged.

As it has not always been possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual counties, we have grouped some county and local authority areas into sub-regions. The number of constituencies allocated to each sub-region is determined by the electorate of the combined local authorities.

Consequently, it has been necessary to propose some constituencies that cross county or unitary authority boundaries and to alter the boundary of some existing constituencies that have an electorate within 5% of the electoral quota, which could otherwise be left unchanged, so as to ensure that the electorates of all constituencies throughout the region are within 5% of the electoral quota.

We have proposed one constituency that contains electors from both Staffordshire and the south of Stoke-on-Trent. Three of the existing constituencies in Staffordshire are unchanged.

Sub-region	Existing allocation	Proposed allocation
Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, Warwickshire, West Midlands, and Worcestershire	47	42
Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent	12	11

We have proposed one constituency that contains electors from both Shropshire and the unitary authority of Telford and Wrekin, and combines the towns of Bridgnorth and Wellington. One constituency in Shropshire is unchanged.

We have proposed one constituency that contains electors from both Shropshire and Herefordshire, which combines the towns of Ludlow and Leominster. Another proposed constituency contains electors from Worcestershire and Herefordshire, which combines the towns of Great Malvern and Ledbury.

Additionally, we propose that electors from the south-east of the County of Worcestershire are combined with electors from the south-west of Warwickshire in one constituency. We also propose that electors from Solihull are combined with some electors from Warwickshire. Three constituencies in the County of West Midlands are unchanged.

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How to have your say

We are consulting on our initial proposals for a 12-week period, from 13 September 2016 to 5 December 2016. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to help us shape the new constituencies – the more views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when considering whether to revise our proposals.

Our website at www.bce2018.org.uk has more information about how to respond as well as details of where and when we will be holding public hearings in your area. You can also follow us on Twitter @BCE2018 or using #2018boundaryreview.