



2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

Partner guide - Revised proposals consultation

October 2017



Introduction

Dear partner,

We'd like to ask your help to promote the third and final public consultation on new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. This is the last chance for people to respond to the consultation, therefore it is more important than ever to make sure everyone has the opportunity to have their say. We have produced this partner pack with resources that are quick and easy to share with your audiences. We look forward to working with you and welcome any questions or feedback.

Sam Hartley
Secretary to the Commission
Boundary Commission for England

About the boundary review

The UK Parliament has decided to reduce the number of constituencies, and therefore MPs, from 650 to 600. In England, the number of constituencies will reduce from 533 to 501.

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is the independent and impartial body that is considering where the boundaries of the new constituencies should be.

While proposing a set of boundaries that are fairer and more equal, the BCE will also try to reflect geographic factors and local ties.

The BCE will also look at the boundaries of existing constituencies and local government patterns in redrawing the map of Parliamentary constituency boundaries across England.

How to have your say

It's quick and easy. You can view our proposals and see what other people have already said online at www.bce2018.org.uk.

During the eight-week consultation period, we want as many people as possible to look at our proposals – having consulted twice on our plans, we're now really only looking for new or compelling evidence for us to make changes before we make our final recommendations next year.

Timeline

- 17 October 2017: We published our revised proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England
- 11 December 2017: Third and final consultation closes
- September 2018: We will present the final recommendations and report to Government

If you wish to get in touch with us at any time, please do so by the following methods:

- E-mail us at: information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk
- Call us on: 020 7276 1102
- Or write to us at: Boundary Commission for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BQ

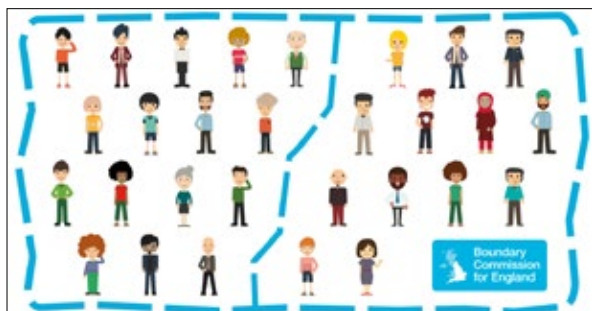
Five ways to get involved and help to spread the word

During the eight-week consultation period, we want as many people as possible to look at the proposals – but we're really looking for any new or compelling evidence that we haven't already taken into account.

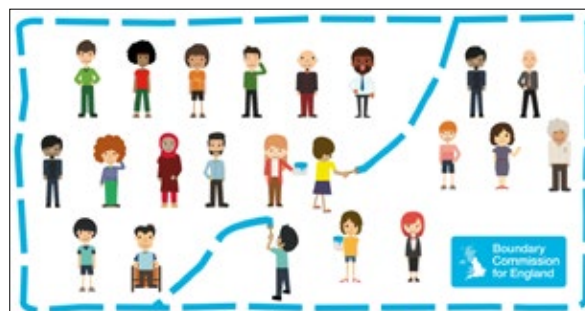
1. Follow us on social media [@BCE2018](#) and [Facebook.com/bcommengland](#) and, from 17 October 2017, share our social media posts on the third and final consultation. We have provided suggested tweets and Facebook posts for you to share from your social media platforms.
2. Link to the consultation website [www.bce2018.org.uk](#) from your organisation's website, bulletins and newsletters. We have provided suggested text for you to use.
3. Distribute campaign materials at your venues and events. We have provided graphics for posters and leaflets. If you work with arm's-length management organisations, such as housing associations or community groups, please encourage them to put up posters as well.
4. Send a press notice to local media encouraging people to share their views. We have provided a template press notice.
5. Attend a public hearing and have your say in person.

1. Social media

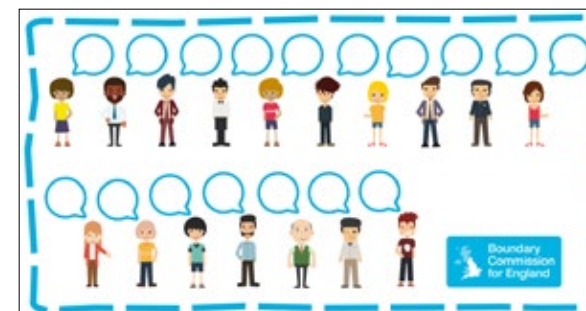
Follow us on social media [@BCE2018](#) and [Facebook.com/bcommengland](#) and, from 17 October 2017, share our social media posts on the third and final consultation. We have provided suggested tweets and Facebook posts below for you to share from your social media platforms.



Did you know the constituency boundaries for <insert your area here> could be changing?
Check now
www.bce2018.org.uk



Constituency boundaries are changing.
Help re-draw the Parliamentary map in <insert your area here>
www.bce2018.org.uk



Lots of people have had their say on boundary changes in <insert your area here>. Have you?
www.bce2018.org.uk



Time is running out if you want to have your say on the proposed boundary changes in <insert your area here>
www.bce2018.org.uk



Don't miss the last chance to have your say on the proposed boundary changes in <insert your area here>
www.bce2018.org.uk



Have you had your say on the boundary changes in <insert your area here>?
Hurry, this is your last chance!
www.bce2018.org.uk

Downloads

Facebook infographics [↗](#)

Twitter infographics [↗](#)

2. Website, bulletins and newsletters

Link to the consultation website www.bce2018.org.uk from your organisation's website, bulletins and newsletters. We have provided suggested text for you to use below.

News: last chance to have your say on Parliamentary constituency boundaries

Did you know Parliamentary constituency boundaries are changing to make them fairer and more equal?

You can view the Boundary Commission for England's proposals and see what other people have already said about your local area online here: www.bce2018.org.uk.

You will find an interactive map that's quick and easy to use to respond to the consultation in minutes.

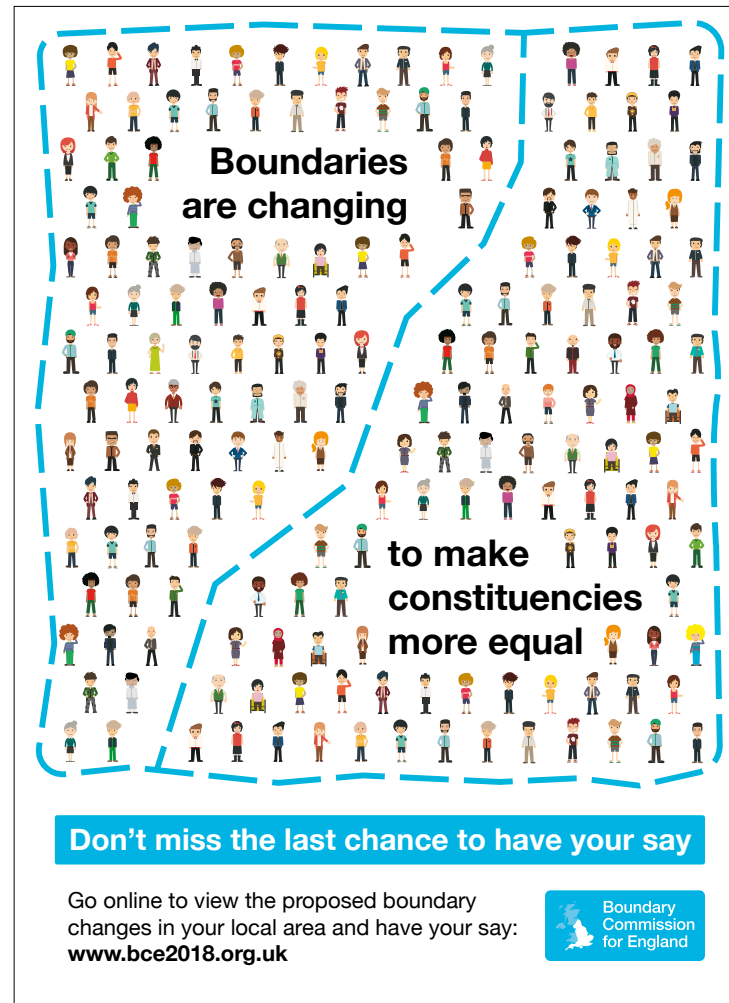
These proposals are a result of your feedback from public consultations in September 2016 and March 2017.

This the last chance to have your say.

The Boundary Commission for England is an independent body that is reviewing proposals to reduce the number of constituencies in England to make them more of an equal size.

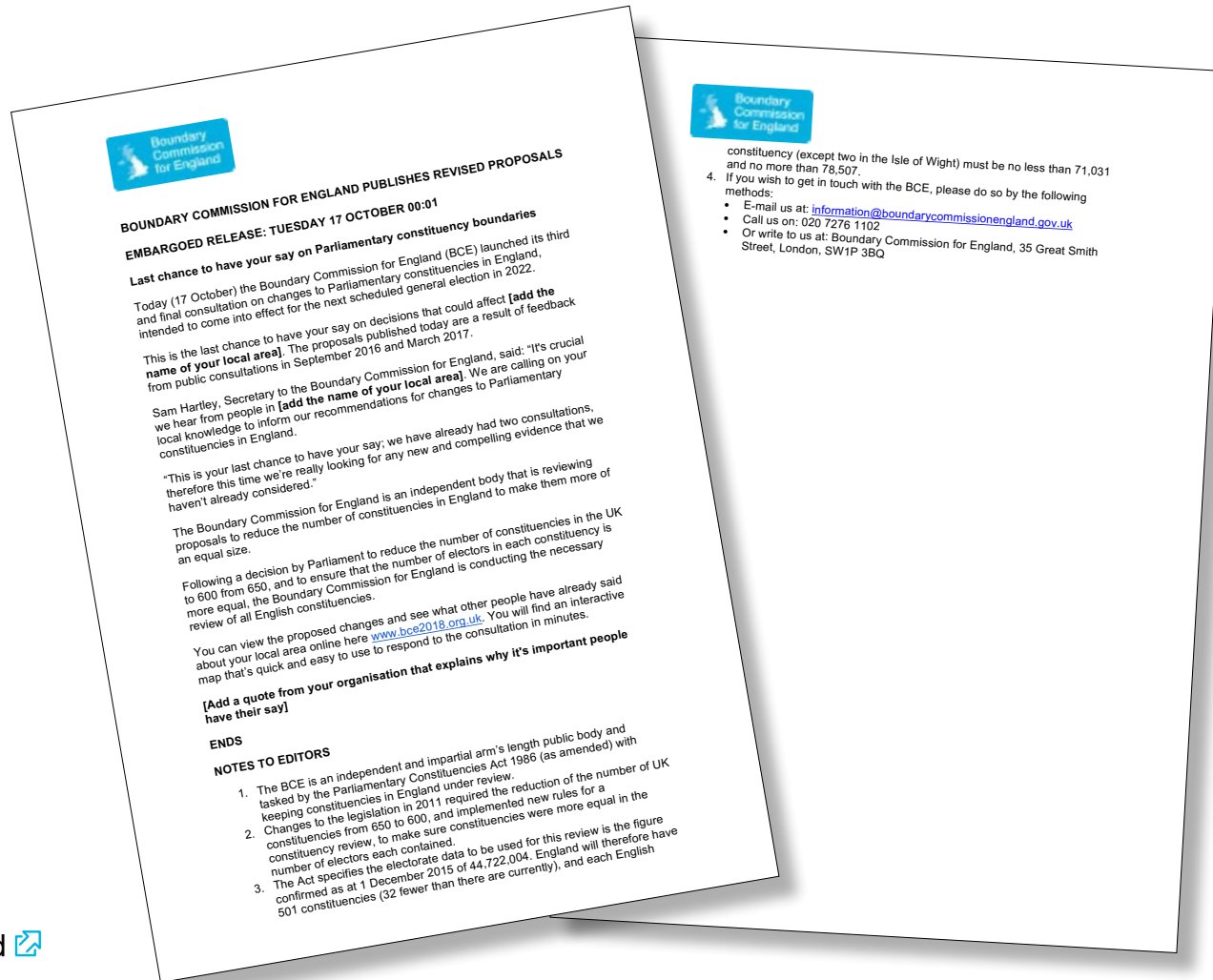
3. Poster and leaflet

Distribute campaign materials at your venues and events. We have provided graphics for posters and leaflets below. If you work with arm's-length management organisations, such as housing associations or community groups, please encourage them to put up posters as well.



Download 

4. Template press notice



Download 

Frequently asked questions

If your organisation is asked about the review, please feel free to issue the responses below. Alternatively contact the Boundary Commission for England on the details provided.

Why are you reviewing constituency boundaries?

We have been asked by Parliament to review constituencies in England to ensure that each has a more equal number of electors. Parliament also required the number of UK MPs to be reduced from 600 (there are currently 650). This means the number of constituencies in England will be reduced by 32, from 533 to 501. A review process is necessary to see how best these two significant requirements can best be implemented, as their combined effect will lead to some degree of change in a large number of constituencies across England.

How long will the review last?

The first consultation took place in September 2016 and March 2017. Our revised proposals were published on 17 October 2017. The eight-week consultation will close on 11 December 2017. Our final recommendations will be submitted to Parliament in September 2018.

When would the proposed changes take effect?

The Boundary Commission will make its final recommendations to Parliament in September 2018. If Parliament agrees the changes to boundaries, the new constituencies will take effect at the next scheduled General Election in 2022.

How have you worked out the proposed changes to boundaries?

The law specifies how to calculate the 'electoral quota' for a constituency review, which is essentially the mean average number of electors for each constituency. The electoral quota for this review is 74,769. Under the rules, every constituency in the UK – except two covering the Isle of Wight and two Scottish island constituencies – must have a number of registered electors within 5% of this figure. This means no constituency will have an electorate more than 78,507 or less than 71,031 (other than the four island exceptions).

Will the changes affect my local council services, bin collections or schools for example?

No. The boundary changes only relate to Parliamentary constituencies (the area an MP is elected to represent in Parliament). Services and council tax in your local area are set by your local authority and this review does not change local authority boundaries.

Will my MP or constituency be affected by the boundary changes?

The number of constituencies in England will need to reduce by 32, from 533 to 501, and each will need to have a similar number of electors. To implement these requirements, there will need to be changes to a large number of constituencies, although it is likely that some will remain unchanged.

Will this review favour one political party over another?

The BCE is independent and impartial and will not take into account patterns of voting or the results of elections when reviewing constituency boundaries. Nor do the political parties' views on where boundaries should be have any more weight than those of members of the public.

Who will make final decisions on the new boundary areas?

Parliament; the review will finish when the final report of the Commission's recommendations is published and provided to the Government in September 2018. The recommendations must then be put before Parliament by the Government, and Parliament will decide whether or not to implement the recommended new constituencies.

Will the name of my constituency change following the review?

Maybe. As well as looking at where the boundaries of constituencies should be, the BCE is also required to recommend a specific name for each constituency. Generally, the more a constituency has changed, the more likely it is that the BCE will recommend a change of name. Naming of proposed constituencies is certainly something the BCE welcomes views on during the consultation periods.