



PRESS NOTICE – 2018 BOUNDARY REVIEW – REVISED PROPOSALS

EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01 17 OCTOBER 2017

Boundary Commission for England publishes revised proposals

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) today publishes proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries as it opens its third and final consultation (17 October 2017).

Following a decision by Parliament to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK to 600 from 650, and to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is equal, the BCE has been asked to make independent recommendations about where the boundaries of English constituencies should be.

An initial 12-week consultation was held in the autumn last year, giving the public the first chance to view and comment on BCE's plans, followed by a second consultation in the Spring of this year. Over 25,000 public responses were received during these consultations. Based on what the public have told us about their local communities, we have decided to revise over half of our initial proposals.

From today (17 October), people can go to the BCE's website, www.bce2018.org.uk, to view the new plans we have published. All the public comments we received during the first two consultations are also published on the website.

People have until 11 December to have their say.

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

“We’re delighted with the huge number of comments on our initial proposals that we’ve received from members of the public, many of which contain valuable evidence about people’s local communities. Based on what people have said to us, we have revised more than half of our initial proposals. The new map of the country we publish today is, we think, close to the best set of Parliamentary constituencies we can achieve, based on the rules to which we work and the evidence given to us by local citizens. But we still want people to tell us what they think of this latest map before we make our final recommendations to Parliament next year. It’s so important to have your say in this fundamental democratic exercise.”

Following this third and final consultation, the Boundary Commissioners will consider all the evidence submitted throughout the process. They will then decide on their final recommendations before submitting them to Parliament in September 2018.

If agreed by Parliament, the new constituencies will be in use at the next scheduled General Election in 2022.

ENDS

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 UK Parliament constituencies in England 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. That Act introduced a mandatory reduction in constituencies (from 650 to 600 for the UK as a whole) and a statutory electorate range that every constituency (except four island exceptions) must adhere to.
3. The Act also requires the Commission to base this review on electorate data from December 2015. The Commission has no power to instead use figures from revisions to the electoral registers since that date. At December 2015, England's total electorate was 37,399,942. It was therefore entitled to 501 constituencies for this review, a reduction of 32 from the current total.
4. The rules in the Act state that every constituency must be within 5% of the electoral quota (the 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. Two constituencies allocated to the Isle of Wight are exempt from this requirement.
5. The third and final consultation runs for eight weeks, from 17 October 2017 to 11 December 2017. The Commission must make its final report and recommendations to Parliament in September 2018.
6. For media enquires contact our press office on 07834 174632 or email press@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk
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