

North West

Revised 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 new rules laid down by Parliament. These rules involve a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 501), resulting in the number of constituencies in the North West reducing by seven, to 68. The rules also require that every constituency – apart from two specified exceptions¹ – must have an electorate that is no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507.

How did we conduct the 2018 Review?

We published our initial proposals for new boundaries in September 2016 and consulted on them. We received written comments and oral submissions at public hearings held in each region. We published all the comments we received and we held a second consultation exercise in relation to them in March 2017. We are very grateful for all the comments that these two consultation exercises have generated. We have now completed the next stage of the review process and we are now publishing our revised proposals. For each region, the revised proposals report sets out our analysis of all the responses to our initial proposals in the first and second consultations, and the conclusions we have reached as to how those proposals should be revised as a result. The annex to

each report contains details of the composition of each constituency in our revised proposals for the relevant region; maps to illustrate these constituencies can be viewed on our website or in hard copy at a local place of deposit near you.

What are the revised proposals for the North West?

We have revised the composition of 25 of the 68 constituencies we proposed in September 2016. After careful consideration, we have decided not to make any revisions to the composition of the remaining 43. In some instances, however, we have revised our proposed names for these constituencies. Under our revised proposals, 13 constituencies in the North West would be the same as they are under the existing arrangements.

As it was not always possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual counties, our initial proposals grouped some local authority areas into sub-regions. It was also necessary to propose some constituencies that cross county or unitary authority boundaries. Following consideration of the representations made on our initial proposals, our revised proposal sub-regions remain unchanged from those initial proposals, as shown in the table below.

Sub-region	Existing allocation	Revised allocation
Cumbria	6	5
Lancashire	16	14
Merseyside (less the Wirral)	11	10
Greater Manchester, the Wirral, and Cheshire (Cheshire West and Chester, and Cheshire East)	42	39

¹ The specific exemptions in England to the rules on constituency size are the two constituencies in the Isle of Wight.

As in the initial proposals, we are recommending four cross-county constituencies. We have proposed two constituencies that contain electors from both Cheshire and Greater Manchester – one that combines the towns of Altrincham and Knutsford, and another that combines the town of Wilmslow, and the Stockport Borough suburb of Hazel Grove.

Although we have treated Lancashire and Merseyside as separate sub-regions, we have proposed a constituency that crosses the county boundary, which combines three wards from the Borough of West Lancashire with the town of Southport.

We recommend that one constituency crosses the county boundary between Cheshire and the Wirral, as in the initial proposals.

In Cumbria, we have proposed five constituencies contained entirely within the county, making one change to our initial proposals, affecting the Barrow and Furness, and Workington and Whitehaven constituencies, the latter of which we have recommended an alternative name.

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In Lancashire, we have reconfigured nine constituencies, one of which also has an alternative name proposed.

We have recommended no changes to the initial proposals in Merseyside.

In the Greater Manchester, the Wirral, and Cheshire sub-region, we have proposed changes to the composition of 14 of the initially proposed constituencies, including three in which we propose that the name of the constituency also be changed. We have further recommended that two constituencies should be changed by name only.

How to have your say

We are consulting on our revised proposals for an eight-week period, from 17 October 2017 to 11 December 2017. We encourage everyone to use this final opportunity to contribute to the design of the new constituencies – the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when we make recommendations to the Government in September 2018.

We ask everyone wishing to contribute to the design of the new constituencies to first look at the revised proposals report, and accompanying maps, before responding to us. The best way to respond to our revised proposals is through our consultation website: www.bce2018.org.uk