



2018 PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW FINAL REPORT SUBMITTED

5 SEPTEMBER 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boundary Commission for England submits final report on new constituency boundaries to Government

The Boundary Commission for England has today submitted its report containing final recommendations for new constituency boundaries to the Government. In doing so, the Commission has fulfilled its statutory responsibility, and submission of the report ends the Commission's involvement in the 2018 Boundary Review.

It is now up to the Government to lay the report before Parliament. **The Boundary Commission cannot publish the report, or announce its recommendations, until the Government has laid the report before Parliament.**

Secretary to the Commission, Sam Hartley, said, 'We're delighted to present our recommendations to Government today. We're confident that the new map of constituencies best reflects the rules set for us by Parliament and we're especially pleased that our recommendations are based heavily on what members of the public have told us about their local areas. It is now up to the Government to present our report to Parliament, and we look forward to being able to publish our recommendations once that has happened.'

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. 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 Commission began the 2018 Boundary Review in February 2016. It issued its initial proposals in September 2016, and consulted on them for 12 weeks. This included hosting public hearings across England. Two further consultation periods were held in 2017. Over 35,000 public comments were received during these consultations. The BCE reported its final recommendations to Government on 5 September 2018.
6. The law dictates that the Government is now responsible for laying the report in Parliament. There is no prescribed timetable for this to happen - **it is entirely up to the Government when it chooses to lay the report, and the Boundary Commission has no say in this matter.**
7. The report and the final recommendations contained within it cannot be published until the Government lays the report in Parliament. Once the report has been laid in Parliament, the report and its contents become public, and it will be published by us on our website, and can be reported on.
8. Because of the unusual statutory arrangements for the completion of the review, **there will not be any embargoed release of our report and recommendations.**
9. The BCE **will not** be taking interview/media requests at this point due to the report not yet being public. Any queries about the timing of the report being laid in Parliament should be made to the Government.
10. The BCE **will** be providing spokespeople and will take interview requests as soon as the Government has laid the report and it is therefore published. Please contact our press office for interview requests **after this time** on 07834 174632 or email press@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk.
11. For general enquiries contact 020 7276 1102 or email information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk