



Boundary Commission for England

Media Handbook:

**The 2018 Review of Parliamentary
Constituencies**

**Updated September 2018 - Final
recommendations publication**

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1. Contacts and resources

Press enquiries

Times	Monday to Friday 09.00 to 17.00 hours
Telephone	07834 174 632
Email	press@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk

General enquiries

Address	Boundary Commission for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BQ
Enquiry line	020 7276 1102
Email	information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk

Website resources

BCE website	bce2018.org.uk
News (including press releases)	boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/category/news/
Guide to 2018 Review	boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/2016-07-11-Guide-to-2018-review-Final-Version.pdf
Data and resources (For proposed constituencies: spreadsheets of electorate data, and GIS files for boundary lines)	boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/data-and-resources



Social Media

Twitter	Follow us @BCE2018
Facebook	Like us at www.facebook.com/BCommEngland/
YouTube	www.youtube.com/channel/UCU_kn6sSoiesdRZq9fZkhSA

2. What we do

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body, which periodically reviews the boundaries of Parliamentary constituencies in England. We have recently concluded the 2018 Review of Parliamentary constituencies in England, and made recommendations for changes to the distribution, size, shape, name or designation of constituencies in England.

There are separate Commissions that review the Parliamentary constituencies in [Scotland](#), [Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#), and [local government boundaries in England](#).

3. Who's who

Chair of the Commission

The Chair of the Commission is the Speaker of the House of Commons, but by convention he or she does not participate in the conduct of the review or formulation of the Commission's recommendations. The Deputy Chair therefore leads the Commission in the conduct of its review work and is supported by two other commissioners.

Commissioners

Mr Justice (Andrew) Nicol (Deputy Chair) – appointed Deputy Chair of the BCE in March 2017 following the death of Mrs Justice (Frances) Patterson in December 2016.

David Elvin QC – appointed a Commissioner in January 2009 and acted as an Assistant Commissioner for BCE in 2001.

Neil Pringle – appointed a Commissioner in July 2009.

More details about the Commissioners can be found on our [website](#).

Assistant Commissioners

Assistant Commissioners were appointed for the 2018 Review to:

- attend the public hearings in the region they were assigned to
- chair the public hearings in their region (lead Assistant Commissioners mainly)
- assist with the Secretariat's analysis of all representations relating to their region
- contribute to the production of a written paper from the Secretariat to the Commissioners, recommending any revisions to the initial proposals for their region

A list of the Assistant Commissioners is available in [Appendix A](#).

The Secretariat

The Secretariat consists of a small team of civil servants responsible for administering the review and generally supporting the Commissioners in their work. The team is led by the Secretary to the Commission, Sam Hartley.

4. The 2018 Review

The 2018 Review was conducted under rules laid down by Parliament, which require the number of constituencies across the UK to be reduced from 650 to 600 and the number of electors in each constituency to be brought more in line with each other. This means the number of constituencies in **England** must reduce from 533 to 501 and there must be no fewer than 71,031 and no more than 78,507 electors in each (except in the two seats that must be given to the Isle of Wight): full details of how many constituencies there will be in each region and how the electoral quota has been calculated can be found in [Appendix B](#).

The review process was heavily informed by public consultation. The Commission developed and published **initial proposals for constituencies across England in September 2016**. Representations from the public about these proposals were then taken both in writing and at public hearings in each region of England. In light of all the views expressed about the initial proposals, the Commission decided to revise them and then conduct a further round of written consultation on the revised proposals. The **revised proposals were published on 17 October 2017** and we

consulted on them until **11 December 2017**. We then reconsidered all representations before formulating our final recommendations, which were reported to the Government on **5 September 2018**.

The Government must now turn the recommendations into draft legislation, which is then presented to Parliament. If Parliament approves that legislation, the recommended changes will be implemented for the next General Election, currently scheduled to be in 2022.

5. The 2018 Review timetable

Key Event	Date
Review starts	24 February 2016
Guide to 2018 Review published	12 July 2016
Assistant Commissioners for the regions appointed	July 2016
Initial proposals published	13 September 2016
Public consultation starts	13 September 2016
Public hearings start	11 October 2016
Public hearings finish	18 November 2016
Public consultation ends	5 December 2016
Publication of representations and start of four week consultation period on representations	28 February 2017
Revised proposals published and start of eight week consultation period on revised proposals	17 October 2017
Submission of final recommendations	5 September 2018

6. Consultation process

Initial and revised proposals

We published our initial and revised proposals on our consultation website (www.bce2018.org.uk), where people were able to compare them with our initial proposals, the existing map of constituencies, and local government boundaries. We also published all the data needed to make counter-proposals and to be able to directly submit their views to us using an online form.

Both sets of proposals were also available in hard copy in places of deposit, mainly in local authority offices and public libraries in each of the proposed constituencies

For each of the nine regions we produced in hardcopy and pdf electronic format:

- An A0 map of the region showing all the proposed constituencies
- A3 maps for each proposed constituency in the region
- A report (including a summary), which explains what the changes are and the main rationale for the composition of the proposed constituencies.

We changed over half of our initial proposals based on what people said to us during the first two consultation periods.

Final recommendations

We received over 35,000 individual representations from citizens during the consultation periods, and travelled the country both hearing from people direct, and also looking at local areas on the ground.

We took account of all these representations when coming up with our final recommendations, which were reported to the Government on 5 September 2018. Our final recommendations result in changes to 85% of the existing constituencies.

Appendix A: Assistant Commissioners

Region	Assistant Commissioner
Eastern	Sarah Hamilton (Lead)
	Laura Jane Smallwood
East Midlands	Scott Handley JP (Lead)
	Ashraf Khan
London	Howard Simmons (Lead)
	Emma Davy
	Richard Wald
North East	Eileen Brady (Lead)
	Adele Baumgardt
North West	Neil Ward (Lead)
	Graeme Clarke
	Nicholas Elliott QC
South East	Colin Byrne (Lead)
	Stephen Lawes
South West	Anita Bickerdike (Lead)
	Catherine Elliott
West Midlands	Margaret Gilmore (Lead)
	David Latham
Yorkshire and the Humber	John Feavyour QPM (Lead)
	Collette Rawnsley

Appendix B: Key facts and figures

Numbers and regions

Region	Electorate	Existing constituencies	New constituencies
Eastern	4,242,266	58	57
East Midlands	3,275,046	46	44
London	5,118,884	73	68
North East	1,874,396	29	25
North West	5,074,302	75	68
South East	6,067,475*	83*	81*
South West	3,930,770	55	53
West Midlands	3,989,320	59	53
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,772,035	54	50
Total	37,294,494*	532*	499*

*Figures exclude one current Isle of Wight constituency and its electorate, and two proposed Isle of Wight constituencies, which are exempt from the electorate quota rule.

Electorate numbers

74,769	The electoral quota to the nearest whole number. The electoral quota is established by dividing 44,562,440 (the UK electorate at the prescribed date of 1 december 2015) by 596 (the number of non-'protected'*** constituencies).
78,507	The largest constituency electorate permissible for non-protected constituencies
71,031	The smallest constituency electorate permissible for non-protected constituencies.

**‘Protected’ constituencies - The two constituencies that must be created on the Isle of Wight (together with two island constituencies in Scotland) that are not included in the calculations for the distribution of constituency numbers around the UK, and are exempt from the permitted electorate range requirements.