



2018 PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS PUBLISHED

10 SEPTEMBER 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boundary Commission for England publishes final recommendations for new constituency boundaries

The Boundary Commission for England has today published its final recommendations for new constituency boundaries. This follows submission of its final report to Government last week, and that report now being presented to Parliament.

The Commission has now fulfilled its statutory responsibility, and submission of the report and its publication ends the Commission's involvement in the 2018 Boundary Review.

Secretary to the Commission, Sam Hartley, said, 'The recommendations we've published today mark the end of a thorough and consultative process to build the new map of constituencies. We've travelled the country, taken account of over 35,000 public comments, and heard many impassioned views about how best to reflect local communities in our recommendations, while ensuring that constituencies are all much more equally represented. We're confident that the map we propose today is the best match of the legal rules Parliament has set us. It's now up to Parliament to decide whether these boundaries will be used at the next general election.'

The Government must now make arrangements for the Commission's recommendations to be voted on by both Houses of Parliament. It is for the Government to decide when to do so.

The final recommendations can be viewed on the Commission's website, at www.bce2018.org.uk.

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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 report and the final recommendations could not be published until the Government had laid the report in Parliament. This happened on 10 September 2018 and the Boundary Commission then published the report and its contents.
7. It is now for the Government to lay in Parliament the Statutory Instruments (SIs) that would give effect to the recommendations. Both Houses of Parliament must vote on these SIs. The timing of such a vote is a matter for Government. If the recommendations are approved, they will be used at the next General Election.
8. The BCE will be providing spokespeople and will take interview requests on publication of the recommendations. Please contact our press office for interview requests on 07834 174632 or email press@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk.
9. For general enquiries contact 020 7276 1102 or email information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk