



Initial proposals – South West

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2023 Review	
Electoral Quota = 73,393	
Electorate range = 69,724 - 77,062	

Allocation of constituencies

Table 1: Allocation of constituencies by ceremonial/metropolitan county

County	Electorate	Mathematical Constituency entitlement
Gloucestershire	483,442	6.59
Wiltshire (including Swindon) ¹	533,514	7.27
Dorset (including Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole) ²	587,471	8.00
Avon (Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire)	854,331	11.64
Somerset	425,570	5.80
Devon (including Plymouth and Torbay) ³	919,454	12.53
Cornwall (including Isles of Scilly) ⁴	438,354	5.97

¹ Hereafter referred to simply as 'Wiltshire'

² Hereafter referred to simply as 'Dorset'

³ Hereafter referred to simply as 'Devon'

⁴ Hereafter referred to simply as 'Cornwall'

Totals	4,242,136	57.80
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Sub-regions

Table 2: Headline numbers by sub-region

Sub-region	Electorate	Mathematical Constituency entitlement	Existing constituencies	Proposed constituencies	Average constituency size of proposed sub-region
Preferred sub-regions					
Gloucestershire and Wiltshire (including Swindon)	1,016,956	13.86	13	14	72,640
Dorset (including Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole)	587,471	8.00	8	8	73,434
Avon, Somerset and Devon (including Plymouth, and Torbay)	2,199,355	29.97	28	30	73,312
Cornwall (including Isles of Scilly)	438,354	5.97	6	6	73,059
Region Totals	4,242,136	57.80	55	58	73,140

The sub-regions are the same in each of the schemes presented. The electorate of Gloucestershire does not allow for a whole number of constituencies, and thus requires to be included in a sub-region with a neighbouring county/local authority. Gloucestershire and Wiltshire are therefore treated as one sub-region (with a mathematical entitlement of 13.86 constituencies), and a cross-county boundary constituency is proposed, crossing the county boundary around Cirencester. This allows for 14 whole constituencies to be constructed in the sub-region.

In both schemes, Cornwall and Dorset are each treated as their own sub-region. Cornwall has a mathematical entitlement of 5.97 constituencies allowing the allocation of six. This avoids a potentially contentious “Devonwall” constituency crossing the Cornwall and Devon county boundary that was mathematically necessary in previous reviews. The mathematical entitlement in Dorset is exactly 8.0, allowing for 8 constituencies to be allocated. By considering these counties as separate sub-regions, the Secretariat has been able to more easily reflect existing constituency boundaries, local authority boundaries and local ties in these areas.

The Secretariat has proposed a sub-region that comprises Avon, Somerset and Devon. With a mathematical entitlement of 29.97 constituencies, it allows for 30 whole constituencies to be created within the sub-region, with two constituencies crossing the Avon and Somerset county boundary and one constituency crossing the Somerset and Devon county boundary.

Headline numbers and summary of schemes

Table 3: Headline numbers for schemes

Schemes	Constituencies - ward changes				Districts in constituencies incl. Unitary Authorities			Constituencies crossing more than one ceremonial county	Split wards	Orphan wards	Const. names retained
	Number wholly unchanged	Number changed by rewording only	Minor substantive changes (1-2 wards)	Major substantive changes (3+ wards)	One	Two	Three or more				
Preferred Scheme	3	8	16	31	39	13	6	4	1	3	41
Alternative Scheme 1	5	6	16	31	40	13	5	4	0	1	39

Names of wards to be split:

- **Preferred Scheme:** Peverell ward (City of Plymouth)
- **Alternative Scheme 1:** No split wards are being proposed

The Secretariat's aim has been to try to have regard to existing constituencies and to retain as many unchanged as is practicable, having regard to the other statutory factors.

Options for schemes in the Gloucestershire and Wiltshire sub-region are limited, due to the natural geography and location of the major settlements, as well as the regional boundaries with Wales, West Midlands, and the South East. The Secretariat considers that the county crossing should not be between Gloucestershire and Swindon itself, and a more rural crossing constituency would present the least disruptive solution, as detailed in the preferred scheme. Two wards from the existing South Swindon constituency

are included in the proposed East Wiltshire constituency, as the electorate of the existing South Swindon constituency is above the electorate range. The existing North Swindon constituency is unchanged, apart from local government rewording.

There is minimal change to the existing arrangement for Dorset, with four constituencies changed only by rewording.

In the preferred scheme Avon is combined with Somerset and Devon, creating a mathematical entitlement of 29.97 constituencies and an allocation of 30 constituencies to the sub-region. An additional two constituencies have needed to be created to reflect the change in overall entitlement for the sub-region. It has been necessary to cross the county boundary between Avon and Somerset in the proposed Frome, and Wells and Mendip Hills constituencies.

With regard to the boundaries of the existing Bridgwater and Somerset West constituency, we propose expanding the western part of the constituency southwards. This creates a further cross-county boundary constituency (between Somerset and Devon) with the inclusion of wards from Devon and West Somerset (leaving Bridgwater itself in a wholly Somerset constituency). We propose that this constituency be called Tiverton and Minehead to reflect the inclusion of parts of both Devon and Somerset. While this represents significant change in the immediate locality, it allows the remainder of the proposals in this area to leave two existing constituencies unchanged (other than by rewording), and a number seeing relatively small change.

In Cornwall, the entitlement of 5.97 constituencies means that six whole constituencies can be allocated without the need for a constituency to cross the Cornwall/Devon county boundary. Despite extensive local government ward boundary changes, the Secretariat has been able to keep change to a minimum.

Breakdown of schemes by sub-region/county

Preferred Scheme

Table 4A: Preferred Scheme - sub-region/county breakdown

Sub-region/ county	Constituencies - ward changes				Districts in constituencies incl. Unitary Authorities			Constituencies crossing more than one ceremonial county	Split wards	Orphan wards	Const. names retained
	Number wholly unchanged	Number changed by rewording only	Minor substantive changes (1-2 wards)	Major substantive changes (3+ wards)	One	Two	Three or more				
Gloucestersh ire and Wiltshire*	1	1	2	10	9	3	2	1	0	1	9
Dorset	0	4	0	4	6	2	0	0	0	0	8
Avon Somerset, and Devon**	1	3	11	15	18	8	4	3	1	2	18
Cornwall	1	0	3	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Totals	3	8	16	31	39	13	6	4	1	3	41

*The proposed Cirencester and North Wiltshire constituency will cross the county boundary between Gloucestershire and Wiltshire

**The proposed Tiverton and Minehead constituency will cross the country boundary between Somerset and Devon; The proposed Wells and Mendip Hills constituency will cross the county boundary between Somerset and Avon; The proposed Frome constituency will cross the county boundary between Somerset and Avon

Gloucestershire and Wiltshire

There is significant reconfiguration in much of Gloucestershire with the creation of a cross-county boundary constituency between Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. This constituency comprises wards from the existing The Cotswolds constituency and from the North Wiltshire constituency. As a result, we have had to make modest adjustments to increase the electorate of The Cotswolds constituency by extending it northwards to include rural areas from the existing Tewkesbury constituency. Elsewhere in Gloucestershire, the electorate of the existing Gloucester constituency is too large and has to be reduced in order to be within the electorate range. The City of Gloucester ward of Longlevens is not currently in the existing Gloucester constituency. We propose that this ward should continue to be in the Tewkesbury constituency, as well as the additional City of Gloucester wards of Elmbridge and Barnwood. We did consider whether to include the Kingsholm and Wotton ward in the Tewkesbury constituency in exchange for the Barnwood ward, but considered that Kingsholm and Wotton had much closer links with the centre of Gloucester city, containing half of Gloucester train station, the council offices, the Premiership rugby club, and Gloucestershire Royal Hospital. The Borough of Cheltenham wards of Prestbury and Swindon Village are currently included in the existing Tewkesbury constituency. As the electorate of the existing Cheltenham constituency is too large, we have additionally included the ward of Springbank in the Tewkesbury constituency. In order to accommodate these changes in Gloucestershire, four wards from the existing Stroud constituency are included in The Cotswolds constituency, while the Wotton-under-Edge and Kingswood wards are included in the Stroud constituency. The existing Forest of Dean constituency remains wholly unchanged.

The proposed cross-county boundary constituency between Gloucestershire and Wiltshire has been named Cirencester and North Wiltshire, reflecting its composition. The existing Swindon North constituency is unchanged, apart from minor ward readjustments, while the two wards of Wroughton and Winchelstowe, and Chiseldon and Lawn are included in the East Wiltshire constituency in order to necessarily reduce the electorate of the existing South Swindon constituency. Elsewhere in Wiltshire there has been some significant change. The towns of Devizes and Chippenham are no longer contained within the existing constituencies that bear their names. There have therefore been a number of name changes to the constituencies in Wiltshire; although Devizes and Chippenham continue to feature in the names of their new constituencies.

Dorset

Three of the eight constituencies in the Dorset sub-region are wholly unchanged. The existing Christchurch constituency is only altered to accommodate ward changes. Due to the new ward boundaries that have been created, the West Purbeck ward can no longer remain in the existing Mid Dorset constituency. The ward has expanded further to the coast and its inclusion in the Mid Dorset constituency would bisect the South Dorset constituency. Instead, we propose that the West Purbeck ward would now be included in the South Dorset constituency, meaning the Mid Dorset constituency expands northwards instead. In this configuration, it is proposed that the Chickerell ward be included in the South Dorset constituency in exchange for the Upwey and Broadway ward, which is transferred to the West Dorset constituency. This allows the Winterborne and Broadmayne ward to the south of Dorchester to remain in the West Dorset constituency.

Avon, Somerset and Devon

In the existing pattern of constituencies, Bristol effectively forms a self-contained sub-region. However, given the growth in the electorate of Bristol (particularly in Bristol West, which now is the largest constituency by electorate in England with almost 100,000 electors), there has to be significant change. The Secretariat looked at constructing constituencies in the north of the city that crossed the boundary with South Gloucestershire northwards. However, this would cause considerable disruption to South Gloucestershire and the existing Filton and Bradley Stoke constituency. As a result, the Secretariat favours instead an expansion eastwards into South Gloucestershire, with a newly created Bristol North East constituency. This proposed constituency would combine wards from the East Bristol area, with the Kingswood area. The Secretariat has concluded that this is a more suitable solution, better respecting local ties in the process. The Bristol West constituency would be renamed Bristol Central to better reflect the area it would now cover.

The existing Bath constituency includes two additional wards: Newbridge and Bathavon North. Due to the changes in the Kingswood area, the Secretariat has favoured a constituency which crosses the boundary between the South Gloucestershire unitary authority and the Bath and North East Somerset unitary authority to construct a Keynsham and North East Somerset constituency.

In Somerset, a more compact Weston-super-Mare constituency is created in order to reduce the electorate of the existing constituency, which is currently above the electorate range. The proposed Wells and Mendip Hills constituency contains wards from the existing Weston-super-Mare constituency and the existing North Somerset constituency, which similarly requires a reduction in

its electorate. This constituency crosses the Somerset and Avon county boundary at the North Somerset unitary authority. The reconfiguration of constituencies in this area has also led to a further cross-county boundary constituency with the inclusion of Bath and North East Somerset unitary authority wards (Avon) in a Frome constituency (Somerset). This constituency no longer includes the town of Somerton, which is instead included in a Glastonbury and Somerton constituency. The electorate of the existing Yeovil constituency is also too large; this has been remedied with the inclusion of two of its wards in the Glastonbury and Somerton constituency. As considered earlier, a cross-county boundary constituency called Tiverton and Minehead is constructed and is formed from wards from Mid Devon, and Somerset West and Taunton councils. The towns of Bridgwater and Taunton continue to provide the names of their respective reconfigured constituencies.

In Devon, the inclusion of Tiverton in the Tiverton and Minehead constituency has resulted in the renamed Honiton constituency expanding westwards to include wards from the existing East Devon constituency, including the towns of Ottery Saint Mary and Sidmouth. In addition to the City of Exeter ward of Topsham, which is not currently included in the existing Exeter constituency, two further wards are included in the proposed Exmouth and Cranbrook constituency. The existing Exeter constituency is otherwise unchanged.

The existing North Devon constituency is wholly unchanged, as is the Torbay constituency; the existing Newton Abbot and Central Devon constituencies are changed only due to local government ward boundary changes. The Central Devon constituency therefore still contains parts of four districts. Only relatively minor change is made to the proposed Totnes and South West Devon constituencies which each both gaining, and transferring two wards. The existing Torridge and West Devon constituency is largely unchanged, but would now contain just 9 of the 18 wards of the District of West Devon. To reflect this, the Secretariat is proposing that the constituency be renamed Torridge and Tavistock.

In the City of Plymouth, although it is possible to create two constituencies without splitting a ward, the resulting solution would include the Devonport ward in the Plymouth Moor View constituency, thereby constructing a constituency that contains the moors, inland from Plymouth, in the same constituency as the historic port. The Secretariat considers that this is likely to divide a continuous community and is therefore proposing that the Peverell ward be split in the centre of Plymouth, close to Home Park, home of Plymouth Argyle Football Club.

Cornwall

With a mathematical entitlement to six constituencies, Cornwall has been considered as its own sub-region and there is no need to cross the county boundary with Devon. There are relatively minor changes in Cornwall. One constituency is wholly unchanged, and two are changed only due to rewording. In the whole of Cornwall, only four wards are exchanged between constituencies.

Alternative Scheme 1

Table 4B: Alternative Scheme 1 - sub-region/county breakdown

Sub-region/ county	Constituencies - ward changes				Districts in constituencies incl. Unitary Authorities			Constituencies crossing more than one ceremonial county	Split wards	Orphan wards	Const. names retained
	Number wholly unchanged	Number changed by rewording only	Minor substantive changes (1-2 wards)	Major substantive changes (3+ wards)	One	Two	Three or more				
Gloucestersh ire and Wiltshire*	1	1	2	10	9	4	1	1	0	0	9
Dorset	0	4	1	3	6	2	0	0	0		8
Avon Somerset, and Devon**	3	1	10	16	19	7	4	3	0		16
Cornwall	1	0	3	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Totals	5	6	16	31	40	13	5	4	0	1	39

*The proposed Cirencester and North Wiltshire constituency will cross the county boundary between Gloucestershire and Wiltshire

**The proposed Tiverton and Minehead constituency will cross the country boundary between Somerset and Devon; The proposed Wells and Mendip Hills constituency will cross the county boundary between Somerset and Avon; The proposed Frome constituency will cross the county boundary between Somerset and Avon

Gloucestershire and Wiltshire

The only difference from the preferred scheme in this sub-region is that three City of Gloucester wards containing the community of Quedgeley are included in The Cotswold constituency, with the two City of Gloucester wards of Elmbridge and Barnwood therefore

remaining in the Gloucester constituency, and the Longlevens City of Gloucester ward also being included in the Gloucester constituency instead of the Tewkesbury constituency.

Dorset

This is the same as in our preferred scheme.

Avon Somerset, and Devon

In the alternative scheme, Bristol would be expanded northwards into the existing Filton and Bradley Stoke constituency instead of eastwards into the existing Kingswood constituency (both areas being located within the South Gloucestershire unitary authority).

The alternative scheme demonstrates the inclusion of the Devonport ward in the Plymouth Moor View constituency. As discussed previously, it is not necessary to split a ward in Plymouth, but the Secretariat considers that this alternative whole ward approach results in a significantly inferior resulting constituency in terms of local ties.

Cornwall

Cornwall remains the same as our preferred scheme as we have not been able to identify any suitable alternative

Names of constituencies (preferred scheme)

Table 5: Constituency names and designations

Constituency name and designation	Name unchanged?	Designation unchanged?
Bath BC	✓	✓
Bournemouth East BC	✓	✓
Bournemouth West BC	✓	✓
Bridgwater CC		
Bristol Central BC		
Bristol East BC	✓	✓

Bristol North East BC		
Bristol North West BC	✓	✓
Bristol South BC	✓	✓
Camborne and Redruth CC	✓	✓
Central Devon CC	✓	✓
Cheltenham BC	✓	✓
Chippenham CC	✓	
Christchurch BC	✓	✓
Cirencester and North Wiltshire CC		

East Wiltshire CC		
Exeter BC	✓	✓
Exmouth and Cranbrook CC		
Forest of Dean CC	✓	✓
Filton and Bradley Stoke CC	✓	✓
Frome CC		
Glastonbury and Somerton CC		
Gloucester BC	✓	✓
Honiton CC		

Keynsham and North East Somerset CC		
Melksham and Devizes CC		
Mid Dorset and Poole North CC	✓	✓
Newton Abbot CC	✓	✓
North Cornwall CC	✓	✓
North Devon CC	✓	✓
North Dorset CC	✓	✓
North Somerset CC	✓	
North Swindon CC	✓	✓

Plymouth Moor View BC	✓	✓
Plymouth Sutton and Devonport BC	✓	✓
Poole BC	✓	✓
Salisbury CC	✓	✓
South Dorset CC	✓	✓
South East Cornwall CC	✓	✓
South Swindon CC	✓	✓
South West Devon CC	✓	✓
St Austell and Newquay CC	✓	✓

St Ives CC	✓	✓
Stroud CC	✓	✓
Taunton CC		
Tewkesbury CC	✓	✓
The Cotswolds CC	✓	✓
Thornbury and Yate CC	✓	✓
Tiverton and Minehead CC		
Torbay BC	✓	✓
Torrige and Tavistock CC		

Totnes CC	✓	✓
Trowbridge and Warminster CC		
Truro and Falmouth CC	✓	✓
Wells and Mendip Hills CC		
West Dorset CC	✓	✓
Weston-Super-Mare BC	✓	✓
Yeovil CC	✓	✓