

Boundary Commission for England announces publication date for revised constituency proposals and launch of final public consultation

A new map of proposed constituencies in England will be published on 8 November by the Boundary Commission for England (BCE), giving members of the public a final chance to have their say on proposals for new constituencies in their area.

From 8 November, members of the public will be able to view and comment on new suggested constituency boundaries. This third and final consultation will last four weeks, ending on 5 December, and will be the last opportunity for the public to have a say on the new map of constituencies in England. The Commission will also publish all comments received during the secondary consultation stage, including transcripts from the public hearings held around the country.

Following this upcoming final consultation, the BCE will form its final recommendations which will be submitted to Parliament by July 2023.

Notes to editors

- 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 most recently changed by the <u>Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020</u>.
- 3. The key changes made by this Act are summarised in <u>our news release</u>, published 16 December 2020. These include retaining a total of 650 constituencies across the UK; an additional 'protected' constituency of Ynys Môn (Anglesey); and the removal of Parliamentary debates from the process, meaning that future draft Orders will go directly to the Privy Council.
- 4. The Act also requires the Commission to base this review on electorate data from 2 March 2020. According to the UK's electorate figures published on 5 January 2021 by the <u>Office for National Statistics</u>, each constituency that we recommend must contain no less than 69,724 Parliamentary electors, and no more than 77,062 (except in England for two 'protected' constituencies for the Isle of Wight). England will be allocated 543 constituencies for the new review, which constitutes an increase of ten constituencies.

- 5. Our initial proposals for new constituencies were published on 8 June 2021, and an eight-week consultation period was held inviting comments on the proposals from the public. The Commission received 34,000 representations in response to that consultation and subsequently published all responses received during this stage on the consultation website.
- 6. A six-week secondary consultation was held between 22 February and 4 April 2022, including 32 public hearings across the country. After the conclusion of this stage, the Secretariat and Assistant Commissioners reflected on all written and oral representations received during the initial and secondary consultation periods, and submitted reports to the Commissioners recommending whether changes should be made to the initial proposals based on the feedback received. After these recommendations were considered by the Commissioners, written reports were produced summarising any revisions made to the proposals in each region.
- 7. On 8 November, the Commission will publish these reports and invite the public to participate in a final written consultation on revised proposals for new constituency boundaries. This consultation will be held over four weeks, concluding on 5 December. Representations received during the secondary consultation, including transcripts from the public hearings, will be published on the consultation website bcereviews.org.uk.
- 8. The Commission must then submit its final report and recommendations to the Speaker of the House of Commons by 1 July 2023.
- Our Guide to the Review, which explains the statutory framework and policies followed by the Commission in conducting the Review, is available to read on our website <u>here</u>.
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