

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

**BCE FOI/2023/07**

Thank you for your email request for information to the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) on 19 July 2023, which has been considered under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. In your request for information you asked:

*I would like to request any documentation you hold on the methods used to calculate and draw new boundary lines, including software used in this task, both procured from external parties and written in-house.*

The conduct of the reviews of Parliamentary constituencies is laid down in the Parliamentary Constituencies Act (as amended 2020), link here

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/25/contents/enacted>

In May 2021 we published our Guide to the 2023 Review. It explains the process of the 2023 Review. The Guide also aimed to clarify the statutory framework within which the Commission conducted the Review, and the policies followed by the Commission in developing proposals and final recommendations. It also set out how and when the public were able to contribute their views. You can read the guide here

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/guide-to-the-2023-review-of-parliamentary-constituencies/>

We used a Geographic Information System called QGIS. This is an open-source application that is available freely to members of the public, although our use of it has been modified to allow us to create possible configurations of constituencies. It includes ward and polling district electorates as provided by every local authority in England, and boundary information provided by Ordnance Survey and local authorities, which allowed us to construct schemes of constituencies which comply with the permitted electorate range.

Under the provisions of the FOI Act if you are dissatisfied with the response provided you may wish to ask for an internal review. If this situation arises you should write to:

The Secretary to the Boundary Commission for England  
35 Great Smith Street  
Westminster  
London  
SW1P 3BQ

Email: [information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk](mailto:information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk)

If it transpires you are not content with our response or the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information

Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the BCE. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

The Office of the Information Commissioner,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF

Kind Regards,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the Information Commissioner.