

[REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Request for Information

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

BCE-FOI-2024-1

Thank you for your email request for information to the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) on 16 January 2024, 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 reports regarding why the city I live in has been divided by the boundary commission in the way that it has been as it seems completely nonsensical. Peterborough has been split in half with the cities southern residents in areas like the Ortons, Fletton, Woodston, Yaxley, Cardea, Stanground voting for an MP who isn't serving them as MP for North West Cambs lives in Stamford. His constituencies boundary is trying to serve separate councils so this is massively impractical. I want to know who has had input into the boundary creation and why it is so self serving to the conservative party as this is clearly drawn up for bias and skewing how people vote and the results it gives.

BCE Response:

The information you are seeking is already in the public domain. However, I have provided links to the reports of the Initial and Revised Proposals, and to the Commission's Final Recommendations, for ease of access.

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/eastern/initial-proposals-for-new-parliamentary-constituency-boundaries-in-the-eastern-region/>

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/eastern/revised-proposals-for-new-parliamentary-constituency-boundaries-in-the-eastern-region/page/5/>

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/2023-review-volume-one-report/the-2023-review-of-parliamentary-constituency-boundaries-in-england-volume-one-report-eastern/page/3/>

In summary, the existing Peterborough constituency was already within the permitted electorate range, and the Commission made no changes to the existing constituency other than to realign the constituency boundaries with new ward boundaries.

During the three periods of public consultation, the Commission considered the representations of over 1,000 individuals and organisations with regard to Peterborough, many of whom supported a counterproposal from the Conservative Party. The Conservative Party strongly objected to the Commission's proposals and suggested a more radical division, which included more of the city centre being located in a North West Cambridgeshire constituency (to be called Peterborough South). Details of this counterproposal, and other representations can be found in the Report of the Revised Proposals, and in particular, paragraphs 3.31 – 3.37. Despite support for the Conservative Party counterproposal, the Commission noted significant opposition to the counterproposal and support for its original proposals and made no further changes.

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 Acting Secretary to the Boundary Commission for England
2 Marsham Street

London
SW1P 4DF

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

[Redacted signature]

Boundary Commission for England
2 Marsham Street | London | SW1P 4DF

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