



2013 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN ENGLAND

PROGRESS REPORT

JANUARY 2013

Presented to Parliament pursuant to section 3(2C) of the
Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 as amended by the
Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011

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BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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The Speaker
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

23 January 2013

Dear Mr Chairman

1. We are required by section 3(2B)(a) of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, as amended, hereafter referred to as “the Act”, to submit a report to you setting out the progress we have made with the preparation of the “pending boundary report”. As you may recall, you are required by section 3(2C) of the Act to lay our report before Parliament. This is our second, and final, progress report to you on the 2013 Review.

2. Once again, it is my pleasure to inform you that we are firmly on course to deliver our report on the review and final recommendations to the Deputy Prime Minister within the statutory deadline of “before 1st October 2013”. We have set out below the key actions and stages that we have undertaken and completed since our first progress report was submitted to you on 24 January 2012.

Secondary consultation period

3. On 6 March 2012, we published on our website all the written representations received during the initial consultation period, together with the transcripts of the oral representations made at the public hearings. Those with an interest in the review had a statutory four-week period (the secondary consultation period) in which to submit further representations to us about those earlier representations we had received. By the close of the secondary consultation period on 3 April 2012, we had received in excess of 5,000 representations.

Reports from the regional teams of Assistant Commissioners (ACs)

4. Copies of all the representations (both written and oral) made during the initial and secondary consultation periods were provided to our regional teams of ACs, who were appointed to assist with the present review. The task we set each team was for them to consider the representations that had been received for their region, alongside the Initial Proposals, and to provide us with a written report that contained recommendations as to whether our Initial Proposals should be altered. They were advised that their consideration of the representations, and any revisions to the Initial Proposals they recommended, must be in accordance with the rules contained within the Act. The reports we received recommended that 310 of the 502 initially proposed constituencies should be revised.

Revised Proposals

5. We accepted all the recommendations made to us by the regional teams of Assistant Commissioners, without any form of modification being considered necessary, and on 16 October 2012 we published our Revised Proposals for the constituencies in each of the nine regions. As required by the Rules set out in Schedule 2 to the Act, every constituency - with the exception of the two allocated to the Isle of Wight - had an electorate within 5% of the electoral quota (76,641), i.e. falling within the range 72,810 - 80,473. The Revised Proposals retained in unchanged form 102 of the existing constituencies: this was an increase from the 77 existing constituencies contained in the Initial Proposals.

Representations

6. The Act provides an eight-week period during which representations can be made to us about our Revised Proposals. This period closed on 10 December 2012. During this period, we received in excess of 3,800 unique representations.

7. We are now commencing the process of considering those written representations. If we decide that the evidence submitted to us requires further revisions to be made to our proposals, we will include those changes in our final recommendations report to the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Hon. Mr Justice Sales
(Deputy Chairman)

Mr David Elvin QC

Mr Neil Pringle