

North East

Initial proposals summary

Who we are and what we do

The Boundary Commission for England is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body which is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.

2013 Review

We have the task of periodically reviewing the boundaries of all the Parliamentary constituencies in England. We are currently conducting a review on the basis of new rules laid down by Parliament. These rules involve a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 502), and require that every constituency – apart from two specified exceptions – must have an electorate that is no smaller than 72,810 and no larger than 80,473 (please refer to *A guide to the 2013 Review* for details of how this has been calculated).

Initial proposals

We have now completed the first stage of the review process and have published our initial proposals for the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. Information about the proposed constituencies is now available on our website or in hard copy at a local 'place of deposit' near you.

What is changing in the North East?

The North East region has been allocated 26 constituencies – a reduction of three from the current arrangement.

Our proposals leave none of the existing constituencies unchanged; however, there are a number of constituencies where we have made only minor changes, as necessary, to enable us to comply with the new rules.

We are not proposing any constituencies within Tyne and Wear that cross the River Tyne. As a result it has not always been possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual counties.

Three constituencies cross the boundary between Northumberland and Tyne and Wear. One of these creates a constituency that includes the town of Cramlington with wards from Tyne and Wear; another creates a constituency that includes three Borough of Gateshead wards in a constituency that is largely made up of wards from the County of Northumberland. The third constituency comprises areas of Whitley Bay and Holywell.

In addition, one constituency crosses the county boundary between Northumberland and Durham, the Borough of Middlesbrough is divided between three constituencies, and the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees is divided between four constituencies.

How to have your say

We are consulting on our initial proposals for a 12-week period, from 13 September 2011 to 5 December 2011. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to contribute to the design of the new constituencies – the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when analysing all the views we receive.

We ask everyone wishing to contribute to the design of the new constituencies to first read the *Initial proposals* report and accompanying maps before responding to us.

In particular, we would like to know:

- if you agree in full, in part or not at all with our initial proposals for the North East region; and
- if you can propose alternatives for areas you disagree with that meet the statutory rules we set out in our report.

You can find more details of how to respond on our website, or you can write to us direct or email northeast@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk. You can also find details of where and when we will be holding public hearings in your area on our website.

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