

North West

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 West?

The North West region has been allocated 68 constituencies – a reduction of seven from the current arrangement.

Due to the significant change required throughout the region, our proposals leave only seven of the 75 existing constituencies unchanged.

As it has not always been possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual counties, we have grouped some local authority areas into sub-regions. It has also been necessary to propose some constituencies that cross county or unitary authority boundaries.

Sub-region	Existing allocation	Proposed allocation
Cheshire and the Wirral	15	13
Merseyside (less the Wirral)	11	10
Greater Manchester*	27	26
Lancashire	16	14
Cumbria	6	5

* Includes constituencies with areas in both Lancashire and Cheshire.

We have included the boroughs to the north of the River Mersey in our Merseyside sub-region, and have included the Borough of Wirral with the unitary authorities of Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton, and Warrington in another sub-region.

We propose one constituency that contains electors from both Cheshire and Greater Manchester, which combines the Cheshire East town of Poynton with the Borough of Stockport town of Hazel Grove.

Additionally, as the electorate of the County of Lancashire is such that it is not possible to allocate a whole number of constituencies, we propose another constituency that contains electors from both Lancashire and Greater Manchester, which combines part of the Lancashire Borough of Rossendale with the north of the Greater Manchester Borough of Rochdale.

We propose five constituencies entirely contained in the County of Cumbria.

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 West region;
- which sub-regions you agree with and why;
- which sub-regions you disagree with and why; 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 northwest@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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