

South 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 exceptions¹ – 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 South East?

The South East region has been allocated 83 constituencies – a reduction of one from the current arrangement.

Our proposals leave 18 of the 84 existing constituencies unchanged. We propose only minor changes to a further 23 constituencies, with two wards or fewer altered from the existing constituencies.

The rules that we work to state that we must allocate two constituencies to the Isle of Wight. Neither of these constituencies is required to have an electorate that is within the requirements on electoral size set out in the rules.

Where it has not been feasible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual counties, we have grouped local authority areas into sub-regions. The number of constituencies allocated to each sub-region is determined by the electorate of the combined local authorities.

Sub-region	Existing allocation	Proposed allocation
Berkshire	8	8
Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Kent, and Medway	25	24
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes	7	7
Hampshire, Portsmouth, and Southampton	18	17
Isle of Wight	1	2
Oxfordshire	6	6
Surrey	11	11
West Sussex	8	8

In Berkshire, six of the eight existing constituencies are unchanged, while the remaining two are changed only by the transfer of one ward. In Oxfordshire, Surrey, and West Sussex seven out of 25 of the existing constituencies are unchanged. In addition, for a number of other constituencies

¹ The specified exceptions in England to the rules on constituency size are the two constituencies on the Isle of Wight. However, in all other aspects of the 2013 Review, the Isle of Wight is treated in the same way as other parts of England.

in these counties we have been able to identify constituencies which comply with the new rules by making only minor changes.

In other cases, more substantial changes have proved to be necessary.

We propose one constituency that contains electors from East Sussex and Kent, which combines the towns of Battle, Crowborough, and Cranbrook. We also propose one constituency that contains electors from the Borough of Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire, two constituencies that contain electors from the City of Portsmouth and Hampshire, and three constituencies that contain electors from the City of Southampton and Hampshire.

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 South East 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 southeast@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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