

# South 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 South West?

The South West region has been allocated 53 constituencies – a reduction of two from the current arrangement.

Our proposals leave 14 of the 55 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. 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
Cornwall and Devon	18	17
Dorset and Wiltshire	15	14
Gloucestershire	6	6
City of Bristol	4	4
North Somerset	2	2
Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset, and South Gloucestershire	10	10

In North Somerset, the existing two constituencies are unchanged.

Additionally, we propose no change to the boundaries of the two existing constituencies in the Borough of Swindon.

In the City of Bristol, two of the four existing constituencies are unaltered, while the remaining two are changed only by the transfer of one ward. In the County of Gloucestershire, two of the six existing constituencies are unaltered, two are changed only by a small ward boundary change, while two are changed only by the transfer of one ward.

More substantial change is required, however, in other parts of the region in order to comply with the new rules.

We have proposed one constituency that contains electors from both Cornwall and Devon, which crosses the boundary in the north of the two counties combining the towns of Bude and Bideford.

Another proposed constituency contains electors from both Dorset and Wiltshire, which combines the towns of Shaftesbury and Warminster.

Additionally, we propose that electors from the north east of the County of Somerset are combined with some electors from Bath and North East Somerset in one constituency, while other electors from Bath and North East Somerset are combined with electors from South Gloucestershire.

### 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 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 [southwest@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:southwest@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk). You can also find details of where and when we will be in your area on our website.

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