

West Midlands

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 West Midlands?

The West Midlands region has been allocated 54 constituencies – a reduction of five from the current arrangement.

Our proposals leave ten of the 59 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
Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin, and Worcestershire	13	12
Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent	12	11
Warwickshire and West Midlands	34	31

In Shropshire, and Telford and Wrekin, two of the five existing constituencies are unchanged and in Worcestershire two of the six existing constituencies are unaltered.

We have proposed one constituency which contains electors from both Shropshire and Herefordshire which includes the towns of Ludlow and Leominster. Another constituency contains electors from both Herefordshire and Worcestershire combining the towns of Ledbury and Great Malvern.

In Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, three of the existing 12 constituencies are unchanged, and in a number of other constituencies we have made only minor changes as necessary to enable us to comply with the new rules.

There are two county boundary crossings between Warwickshire and the metropolitan boroughs of the West Midlands. One of these creates a constituency where an area in the south of the Borough of Solihull, including the town of Dorridge, is combined with an area of Warwickshire which includes the town of Kenilworth. The other creates a constituency that combines electors from the Shard End

ward of the City of Birmingham, the east of the Borough of Solihull, and the Coleshill area of Warwickshire.

The three existing Coventry constituencies are unchanged.

Apart from Coventry, all of the metropolitan boroughs of the West Midlands contain at least parts of two constituencies that cross the boundary with another borough, and Sandwell contains five such 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 West Midlands 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 westmidlands@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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