

CONSIDERATION OF AC REPORTS

1. This paper outlines arrangements for your consideration of AC Reports during the week commencing 23 July. During the week, all nine regional teams of Assistant Commissioners will in turn be attending to discuss their Reports with you.

Reports and supporting information

2. You have been provided with all nine regional AC Reports separately. Nine “Key Data” sheets have also been prepared and are attached to this note in order to provide in easily accessible form regional data relating to, for example, the number of constituencies from the Initial Proposals that would be changed on adoption of the Revised Proposals. Maps have been provided separately to each Member for each of the three regions on which they will be leading discussion. Attached to this note are the corresponding supporting spreadsheets, each of which lists the recommended constituencies for a region, broken down by ward name and electorate, in a manner which cross-refers to the mapping.

3. All representations received during the consultations – whether oral or written – are in the Secretariat’s offices and are available for reference as and when required, either in advance of the meeting or during your discussions.

Commentary on Reports

4. As you know, the Secretariat has worked closely with the Assistant Commissioner Teams at all stages of the production of their Reports. Whilst we have advised the Assistant Commissioners and acted as “critical friends” to both their conclusions and their supporting arguments, all of the recommendations are theirs alone.

5. The Secretariat can confirm that, with the exception of the two constituencies for the Isle of Wight, all recommended constituencies have electorates that are within the permitted statutory range. We can also confirm that Assistant Commissioners have worked in a manner consistent with the legislation and with the Commission’s policy guidance contained within *A Guide to the 2013 Review*.

6. The Secretariat are therefore able to endorse all of the recommended constituencies. However, as will become clear from the Reports, in many instances Assistant Commissioners have had to take finely balanced judgements between competing schemes each supported by strong evidence. Whilst the Secretariat can confirm that evidence has been presented during the consultations that can justify each of the conclusions reached, whether that evidence has been given the right weight in relation to evidence supporting alternative conclusions is for you to determine during your discussions with Assistant Commissioners.

7. The question of “split” wards and the Commission’s policy on them (see the *Guide*, paragraph 31) has aroused much interest during the consultation and, at least in a number of regions, during the subsequent consideration by Assistant Commissioners. The level of discussion in the Reports of ward splitting varies from region to region, depending largely on

the extent to which a viable proposal to split wards emerged during the consultation and subsequent analysis. Of the nine Reports presented to you only one, the South West, contains a recommendation to split wards (see South West Report, paragraphs 193 to 234). Of the remaining eight reports those with specific and non-trivial consideration of split-ward solutions are Yorkshire & the Humber (paragraphs 161 to 178 of the relevant report), the North West (paragraphs 15 to 19, and 34 et seq.) and the South East (paragraphs 220 to 238).

Key Data

8. As noted above, key data sheets for each of the nine regions are attached. Members will want to note the following “national” picture which emerges when all the data are considered together:

- a) The level of change to the constituencies in the Initial Proposals proposed by the AC Reports is 61.8%. That is, of the 502 constituencies outlined in the Initial Proposals only 192, or 38.2%, of these remain as recommended constituencies in the AC Reports;
- b) this level of change varies considerably from region to region. In the East Midlands, 80% of the Initial Proposals constituencies remain as recommended constituencies in the AC Report. The next highest figure is in the West Midlands, where 52% of the Initial Proposals constituencies remain. In all other regions, the figure is 50% or less, down to the North East where only 15% of the Initial Proposals constituencies remain as recommended constituencies in the AC Report;
- c) under the Revised Proposals in the AC Reports, 104 proposed constituencies are the same as existing Parliamentary constituencies. By comparison, under the Initial Proposals, 77 proposed constituencies were the same as existing constituencies.

9. It should be noted that in the above discussion (and on the Key Data sheets) a “changed” constituency is one in which the boundary has been altered; in this particular analysis no account has been taken of constituencies where a change of name has been recommended but the boundary has not changed.

Use of resources by Assistant Commissioners

10. The Secretariat has been monitoring closely the fees claimed by AC Teams for their work on the Reports and you have been provided with regular updates as work has progressed. On the completion of the Reports the total number of days claimed by all 27 Assistant Commissioners is [675*], an average of [25*] per Assistant Commissioner. This includes all time taken for reading and analysis of the representations; discussions and meetings with the Secretariat; and writing of the Report itself (though not attendance at Public Hearings). It compares well to our expected time commitment of up to 30 days previously communicated to Assistant Commissioners, and is within our agreed budget.

* The Secretariat is awaiting a number of claims from ACs at the time of writing; these figure will be therefore revised upwards and circulated by Monday 23 July at the latest.

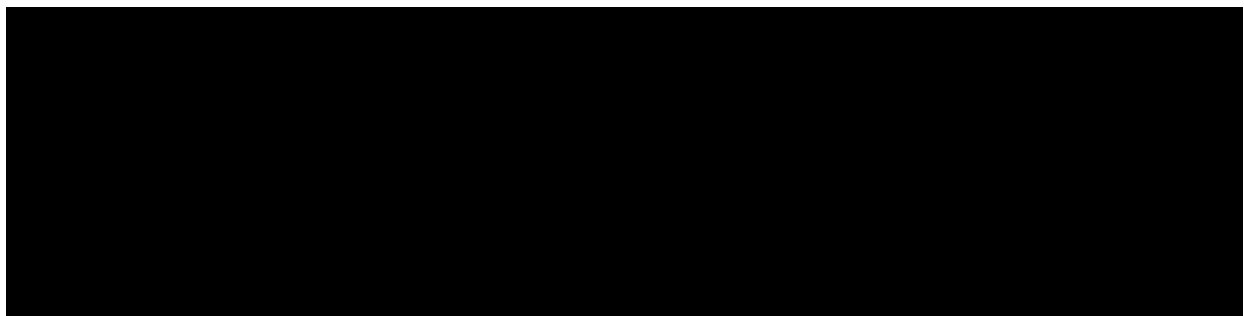
EASTERN REGION KEY DATA

56	Constituencies allocated
25	Number of IP constituencies retained under RPs
45%	As a % of total constituencies allocated to the region
9	Number of existing constituencies retained by IPs
11	Number of existing constituencies retained under RPs

2	Region "Complexity" rank (of 9) (9 = most complex)
---	--

102	Oral representations at hearings
1,486	Written representations, initial consultation
353	Written representations, secondary consultation
1,941	Total representations

18,849	Report length (words, excluding Introduction)
337	Relative length (words per constituency)
2	Relative report length rank (of 9) (9 = longest)



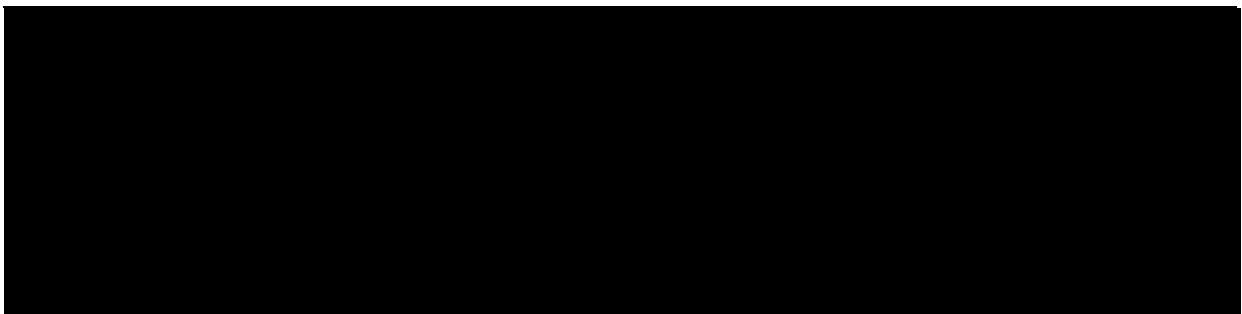
EAST MIDLANDS KEY DATA

44	Constituencies allocated
35	Number of IP constituencies retained under RPs
80%	As a % of total constituencies allocated to the region
10	Number of existing constituencies retained by IPs
11	Number of existing constituencies retained under RPs

3	Region "Complexity" rank (of 9) (9 = most complex)
---	--

94	Oral representations at hearings
910	Written representations, initial consultation
172	Written representations, secondary consultation
1,176	Total representations

26,656	Report length (words, excluding Introduction)
606	Relative length (words per constituency)
7	Relative report length rank (of 9) (9 = longest)



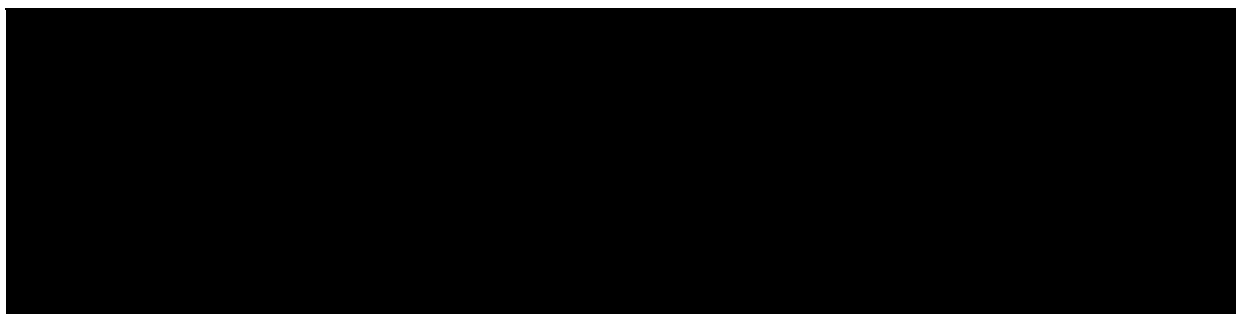
LONDON KEY DATA

68	Constituencies allocated
17	Number of IP constituencies retained under RPs
25%	As a % of total constituencies allocated to the region
4	Number of existing constituencies retained by IPs
3	Number of existing constituencies retained under RPs

8	Region "Complexity" rank (of 9) (9 = most complex)
---	--

165	Oral representations at hearings
5,151	Written representations, initial consultation
1,237	Written representations, secondary consultation
6,553	Total representations

21,495	Report length (words, excluding Introduction)
316	Relative length (words per constituency)
1	Relative report length rank (of 9) (9 = longest)



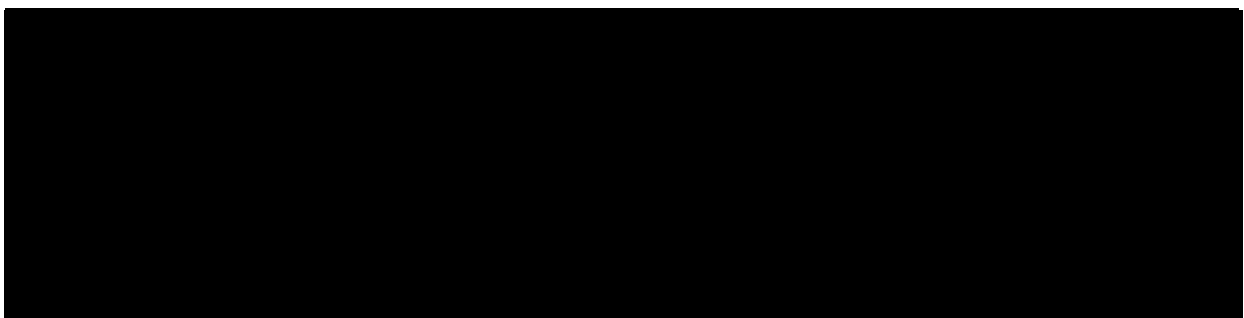
NORTH EAST KEY DATA

26	Constituencies allocated
4	Number of IP constituencies retained under RPs
15%	As a % of total constituencies allocated to the region
0	Number of existing constituencies retained by IPs
1	Number of existing constituencies retained under RPs

1	Region "Complexity" rank (of 9) (9 = most complex)
---	--

77	Oral representations at hearings
1,594	Written representations, initial consultation
181	Written representations, secondary consultation
1,852	Total representations

16,594	Report length (words, excluding Introduction)
638	Relative length (words per constituency)
8	Relative report length rank (of 9) (9 = longest)



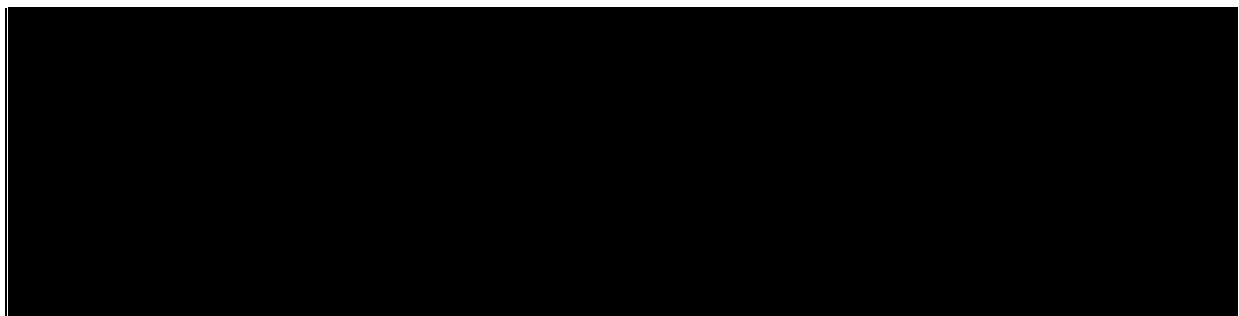
NORTH WEST KEY DATA

68	Constituencies allocated
22	Number of IP constituencies retained under RPs
32%	As a % of total constituencies allocated to the region
7	Number of existing constituencies retained by IPs
15	Number of existing constituencies retained under RPs

9	Region "Complexity" rank (of 9) (9 = most complex)
---	--

229	Oral representations at hearings
3,475	Written representations, initial consultation
691	Written representations, secondary consultation
4,395	Total representations

37,233	Report length (words, excluding Introduction)
548	Relative length (words per constituency)
6	Relative report length rank (of 9) (9 = longest)



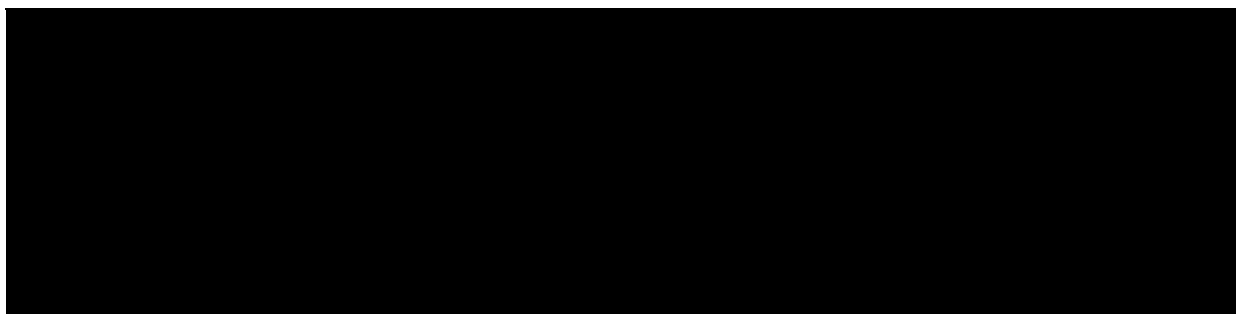
SOUTH EAST KEY DATA

83	Constituencies allocated
25	Number of IP constituencies retained under RPs
30%	As a % of total constituencies allocated to the region
18	Number of existing constituencies retained by IPs
25	Number of existing constituencies retained under RPs

6	Region "Complexity" rank (of 9) (9 = most complex)
---	--

163	Oral representations at hearings
3,132	Written representations, initial consultation
1,129	Written representations, secondary consultation
4,424	Total representations

35,785	Report length (words, excluding Introduction)
431	Relative length (words per constituency)
4	Relative report length rank (of 9) (9 = longest)



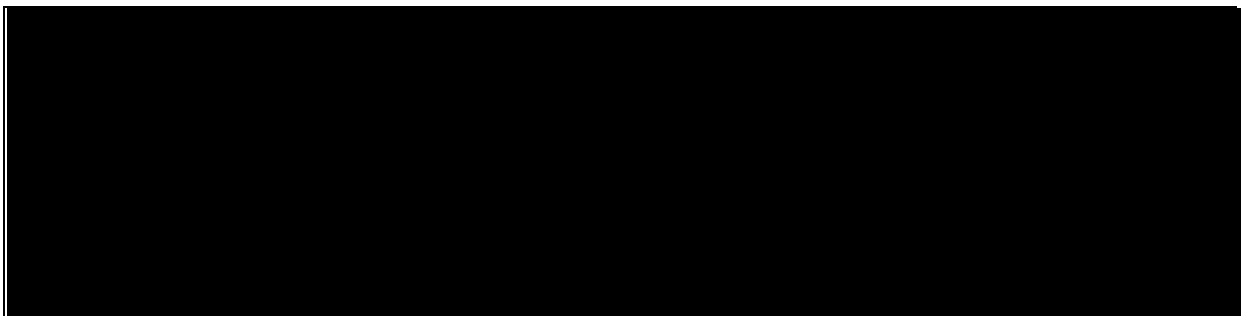
SOUTH WEST KEY DATA

53	Constituencies allocated
23	Number of IP constituencies retained under RPs
43%	As a % of total constituencies allocated to the region
14	Number of existing constituencies retained by IPs
13	Number of existing constituencies retained under RPs

5	Region "Complexity" rank (of 9) (9 = most complex)
---	--

117	Oral representations at hearings
2,357	Written representations, initial consultation
572	Written representations, secondary consultation
3,046	Total representations

47,516	Report length (words, excluding Introduction)
897	Relative length (words per constituency)
9	Relative report length rank (of 9) (9 = longest)



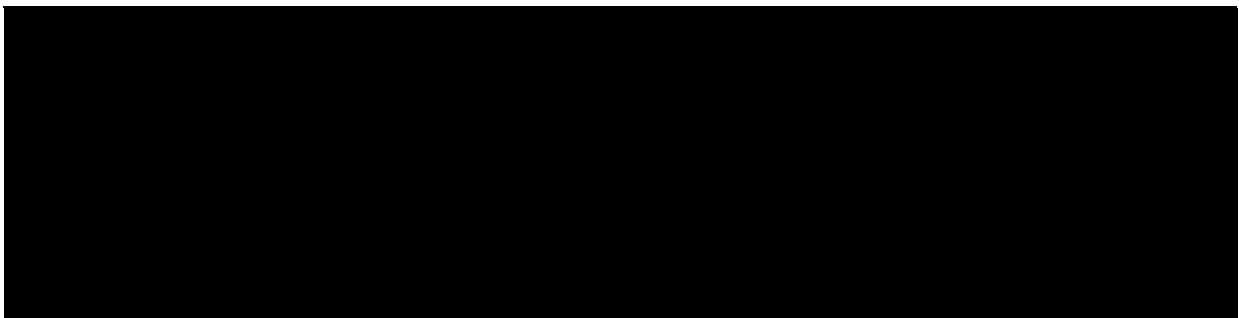
WEST MIDLANDS KEY DATA

54	Constituencies allocated
28	Number of IP constituencies retained under RPs
52%	As a % of total constituencies allocated to the region
10	Number of existing constituencies retained by IPs
10	Number of existing constituencies retained under RPs

7	Region "Complexity" rank (of 9) (9 = most complex)
---	--

255	Oral representations at hearings
4,652	Written representations, initial consultation
1,011	Written representations, secondary consultation
5,918	Total representations

26,893	Report length (words, excluding Introduction)
498	Relative length (words per constituency)
5	Relative report length rank (of 9) (9 = longest)



YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER KEY DATA

50	Constituencies allocated
13	Number of IP constituencies retained under RPs
26%	As a % of total constituencies allocated to the region
5	Number of existing constituencies retained by IPs
15	Number of existing constituencies retained under RPs

4	Region "Complexity" rank (of 9) (9 = most complex)
---	--

81	Oral representations at hearings
955	Written representations, initial consultation
149	Written representations, secondary consultation
1,185	Total representations

20,758	Report length (words, excluding Introduction)
415	Relative length (words per constituency)
3	Relative report length rank (of 9) (9 = longest)

