

2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

Partner Guide

June 2021



Contents

Introduction

About the review

Key messages

How to get involved

Resources

FAQ

Introduction

Dear partner,

We'd like your help to promote a public consultation on new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.

On 8 June 2021 we published our initial proposals for new constituencies. These proposals will increase the overall number of constituencies in England and make them more equal in terms of the numbers of electors each contains. We have commenced an eight week consultation period, where we want people to tell us whether they agree with the proposed changes, ensuring those responses capture the views and knowledge of local residents.

We need your help to spread the message that it's easy for people to get involved and that all views genuinely count. Members of the public can view our proposals and share feedback on our online consultation portal, www.bcereviews.org.uk. We will consider every piece of feedback that we receive.

There will be a further two rounds of consultation in 2022, which will additionally include a number of public hearings. Following the conclusion of all three consultation periods, the Commission will look at all the evidence received and form its final recommendations. These will be presented to Parliament by July 2023 for approval, with the new constituencies taking effect at the next General Election.

Please get involved and help your local communities have their say!

You will find a number of resources outlined within this guide to help you with this.

About the review

The 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies was formally launched in January 2021. Due to population changes since the last review, the number of electors in some constituencies is much higher than in others. The Commission is required by legislation to ensure that the number of electors in each constituency is more equal; in doing so, the number of constituencies in England will increase from 533 to 543. We published the initial proposals – the first time people get a look at what the map of constituencies might look like – on 8 June 2021. This launched an initial eight week consultation, ending on 2 August 2021.

How people can get involved

We want to ensure the final recommendations reflect the views and knowledge of local residents and communities. It is easy for the public to have their say. By visiting our online consultation portal, www.bcereviews.org.uk, you can:

- View the map of proposed constituencies
- Provide feedback on the new boundary lines
- Share your views on proposed new constituency names

Any constituents who are unable to get online can view the initial proposals for new constituency boundaries at local places of deposit, and submit responses to us by letter or email.

Contact information for partners

If you wish to get in touch with us at any time, you can:

- Email information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk or call 020 7276 1102 for general enquiries
- Email press@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk or call 07821 637558 for press enquiries
- Write to us at: Boundary Commission for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BQ

Key messages

Fair and impartial

Boundary Commission for England is an independent and impartial public body.

We want to hear your views

The Boundary Commission for England want to hear from local residents and communities, to make sure their final recommendations to Parliament take account of local views and knowledge.

It's easy to have your say

View and comment on the proposed changes online at www.bcereviews.org.uk

Critical part of our democracy

Reviewing constituency boundaries is an essential process to make sure that individual votes are of broadly equal weight.

How to get involved

We want to raise awareness of the Review, and encourage as many people as possible to have their say on the proposed new boundaries. Feel free to use any or all of the tools and resources in this guide to help share the message.

- Follow us on social media and regularly update your organisation's social media platforms. We have provided some suggested copy and graphics for you to use on your channels.
- Link to the consultation website **www.bcereviews.org.uk** (where people can view and comment on the proposed changes) from your organisation's website or your internal and external bulletins/newsletters.
- Distribute the campaign materials at your venues and events. We also encourage you to share the message far and wide within your networks, including arm's-length management organisations, housing associations, community groups and your internal staff. We have provided graphics for a poster that you can use.
- Send a press notice to local media encouraging others to share their views.
- Blog about it. We have included a sample blog if you want to carry one from us, or you could write your own.

Resources: Social media

Follow us on social media to hear key updates about the 2023 Boundary Review. We encourage you to regularly share our posts to help raise awareness of the Review. We want to reach as many people as possible.

We have provided some suggested copy and graphics for you to create your own social media posts if you wish. Feel free to tweak our copy to come up with the best approach for your audience.



www.facebook.com/BCEReviews



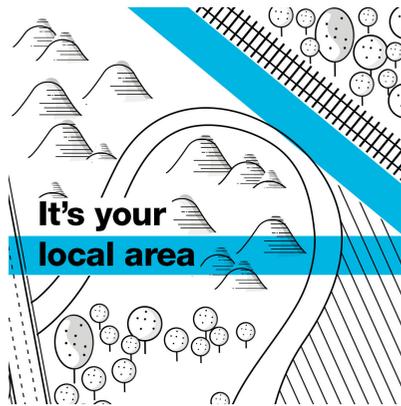
twitter.com/BCEReviews or [@BCEReviews](https://twitter.com/BCEReviews)

Use **#helpdrawtheline** and tag us **@BCEReviews** on Facebook or Twitter - we look forward to seeing your posts!

Resources: Social media

Download these campaign graphics from the link below to share as images on social media and make your posts more visually appealing. We have suggested some messaging to help you with this, but please feel free to come up with the best approach for your audience.

Download images for Facebook here  and for Twitter here. 



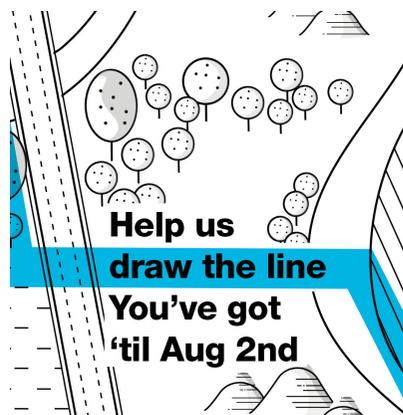
Constituencies are changing.
Help shape the boundaries for
your area at
www.bcereviews.org.uk and
follow @BCEReviews



@BCEReviews is redrawing
constituencies to make the
number of electors in them more
equal. Share your views here
www.bcereviews.org.uk



@BCEReviews needs
your local knowledge to
help shape new
constituency boundaries.
#helpdrawtheline at
www.bcereviews.org.uk



There's still time to have your say
on proposed boundary changes for
your area. Go to
www.bcereviews.org.uk to
#helpdrawtheline

Resources: Sample messages for websites, bulletins

Please link to our online consultation portal www.bcereviews.org.uk (where people can view and comment on the proposed changes) on your organisation's website and in any newsletters or bulletins.

Text for your website

Did you know that Parliamentary constituencies are set to change? The independent Boundary Commission for England (BCE) are drawing the map of constituencies in England and needs your help to shape their final recommendations, ensuring they take into consideration local knowledge and views.

From 8 June until 2 August 2021 the BCE are holding an eight week consultation, allowing you to share your knowledge about your local area. The Commission considers every piece of feedback that it receives, whether that is about where the constituency boundaries should be or the name of the constituency.

It is easy to get involved - To view interactive maps showing the proposed changes, and to submit your feedback, go to www.bcereviews.org.uk.

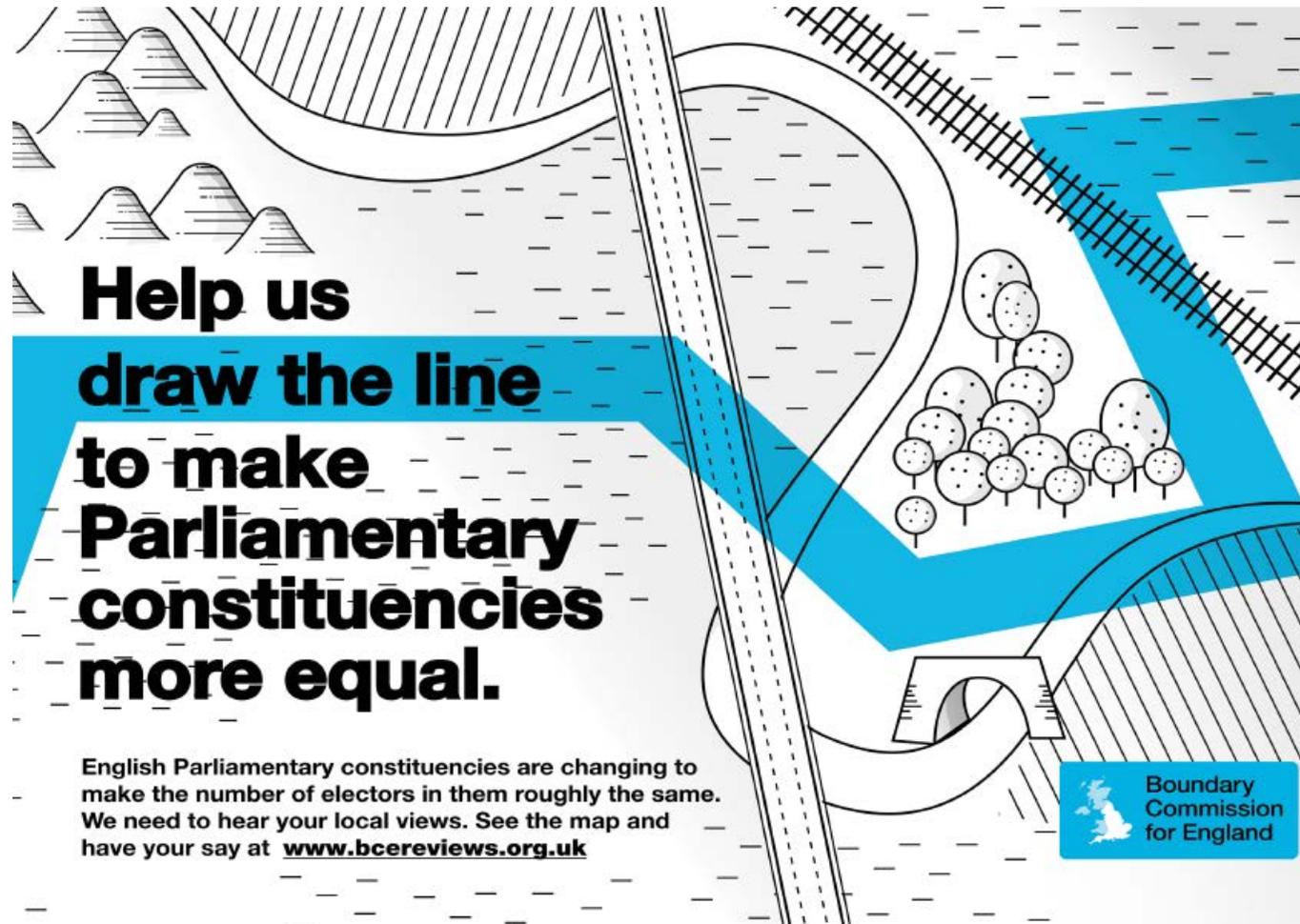
Text for your newsletter or bulletin

The independent Boundary Commission for England (BCE) are redrawing the map of Parliamentary constituency boundaries. The changes will make the number of electors in each constituency more equal, thus ensuring individual votes are of broadly equal weight, and in doing so increase the number of constituencies from 533 to 543. Go online at www.bcereviews.org.uk to view and comment on the proposals. Don't miss out – contribute your local knowledge and have your say on what the new constituencies should be by 2 August 2021.

Resources: Poster

Download an informative A4 poster to upload to your website or distribute through your channels.

Download here



Resources:

Press notice

You could consider sending a press notice to local media, encouraging others to share their views. You can find a template press notice on the BCE website or use the link below.

Download our press notice here: 



Blog post

The Secretary to the Boundary Commission for England, Tim Bowden, has written a blog which you can share through your channels. This blog must be published under his name.

Download our blog post here: 

Fact sheet

We have made a helpful fact sheet leaflet with essential information about the review. It can be easily printed - it fits on the back and front of a sheet of A4 paper - and given to anyone who is interested in learning more.

Download our fact sheet here: 



FAQ

Why are you reviewing constituency boundaries?

We have been asked by Parliament to review constituencies in England to ensure that there is a more even distribution of electors across them. Due to population changes since the last review, the number of electors in some constituencies is much higher than in others. The 2023 Boundary Review, which was launched in January this year, will make the number of electors in each constituency more equal, thus ensuring individual votes are of broadly equal weight. In making these required changes, the number of constituencies in England must increase from 533 to 543.

How do you work out the proposed changes to boundaries?

The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 requires the Commission to base this review on electorate data from 2 March 2020. According to the UK's electorate figures published on 5 January 2021 by the Office for National Statistics, each constituency that we recommend must contain no less than 69,724 Parliamentary electors, and no more than 77,062 (except two 'protected' constituencies for the Isle of Wight). This is essentially the mean average number of electors for each constituency. England will be allocated 543 constituencies for the new review, which constitutes an increase of ten constituencies.

Will my MP or constituency be affected by the boundary changes?

The number of constituencies in England will increase from 533 to 543, and each will need to have a similar number of electors. To implement these requirements, there will be wide scale change to the majority of constituencies. View the proposals online at www.bcereviews.org.uk for your particular area to find out more.

When would the proposed changes take effect?

The Boundary Commission will make its final recommendations to Parliament by 1 July 2023. The Government must turn the recommendations of the BCE (and those of the equivalent Commissions for the other three parts of the UK) into an 'Order in Council' that implements the recommendations. The constituencies set out in the Order will then be implemented for the next General Election after the date on which the legislation is approved.

Will this review favour one political party over another?

The Boundary Commission for England is independent and impartial and will not take into account patterns of voting or the results of elections when reviewing constituency boundaries. Nor do the political parties' views on where boundaries should be have any more weight than those of members of the public.

How long will the review last?

Initial proposals are published on 8 June 2021, with final recommendations submitted to Parliament in the summer of 2023.

Why do you need my views?

We want to make sure that the final recommendations have taken local views and knowledge into consideration.

How can I share my views?

You can visit www.bcereviews.org.uk to view the proposed map of constituencies and share your views.

Will the changes affect my local council services, bin collections or schools, for example?

No. The boundary changes only relate to Parliamentary constituencies (the area an MP is elected to represent in Parliament). Services and council tax in your local area are set by your local authority and this review does not change local authority boundaries.

When will the new constituencies take effect?

After the final report from all four Parliamentary Boundary Commissions has been laid by the Speaker, the Government is required to submit to the Privy Council an Order that gives effect to all four Commissions' recommendations. After the Privy Council approves the Order, the new constituencies take effect at the next General Election. Any by-elections held in the meantime have to be held on the basis of the old (existing) constituencies.

Will the name of my constituency change following the review?

Possibly. As well as looking at where the boundaries of constituencies should be, the BCE will recommend a specific name for each constituency. Generally, the more a constituency has changed, the more likely it is that the BCE will recommend a change of name. The Commission welcomes views on the naming of proposed constituencies during the consultation.