

Information

for County Councillors

Sheet Number:
2022-27/25



From:	Scott Wooldridge – Monitoring Officer, Clare Rendell – Governance Specialist
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Relevant SLT Director and sign-off date:	Jason Vaughan Scott Wooldridge
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Date:	17 November 2022
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To:	e.g. All County Councillors
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Boundary Review 2023

Following the passing of the [Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020](#) in December 2020, and the publication of the relevant [Parliamentary electorate data](#) in January 2021, the Boundary Commission England (BCE) began a new review of all Parliamentary constituencies in England. The BCE refer to this as the ‘2023 Review’, as they are required to report with their final recommendations by 1 July 2023.

Applying the statutory formula to the electorate figures means the total 650 constituencies is distributed during the review to the four parts of the UK as follows:
England = 543 (includes two ‘protected’ constituencies on the Isle of Wight);
Scotland = 57 (includes two ‘protected’ constituencies for specified Scottish islands);
Wales = 32 (includes one ‘protected’ constituency on the Isle of Anglesey); and
Northern Ireland = 18

Application of further statutory rules to the published electorate also means that all recommended constituencies must have no less than 69,724 Parliamentary electors and no more than 77,062 (except those ‘protected’ constituencies mentioned above). By law, these electorate figures relate to the electorates as they were on 2 March 2020.

The final consultation phase – on the revised proposed constituency boundaries – started on 8 November 2022 and will close on 5 December 2022. The Commission will then analyse all the responses submitted during this final consultation stages, to decide whether to make any final adjustments to the revised proposals. The outcome

of these deliberations will be their final report and recommendations, which should be provided to Parliament (and published) by 1 July 2023.

The BCE part in the process then ends: it will then be for the Government to prepare a consolidate statutory instrument to implement the new constituencies for the whole UK – which should be provided to the Privy Council for approval within four months of the Government receiving the last report of the four Parliamentary Boundary Commissions for the UK.

What will be your process and policies for the 2023 Review?

The BCE are following this timetable for the review:

- 5 Jan 2021: Publication of headline electorate figures by ONS, BCE begin development of initial proposals;
- 24 March 2021: Publish complete ward-level electorate figures (i.e. including 'prospective' wards);
- 10 May 2021: Publish 'Guide to the 2023 Review';
- 8 June 2021: Publish initial proposals and conduct eight-week written consultation;
- 22 February 2022: Publish responses to initial proposals and conduct six-week 'secondary consultation', including between two and five public hearings in each region;
- 8 November 2022: Publish revised proposals and conduct four-week written consultation;
- June 2023: Submit and publish final report and recommendations.

You can read more about the process, law and policies the BCE work to in the review on their website at [Guide to the 2023 Review](#).

Advance notification of the final stage proposals was included in a presentation to Constitution and Governance Committee on 20 October 2022.

The final stage proposals will be considered at the Constitution and Governance Committee meeting on 21 November 2022, presentation attached.

Just like previous stages of the consultation, the Council has a choice on whether to submit a response to the final stage proposals and Constitution & Governance Committee will be considering that option. In addition to this individual political groups or members could choose to separately submit their own responses.

For more information please contact:	Name: Democratic Services Team Email: democraticservicesteam@somerset.gov.uk
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