

2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies

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 Boundary Commission for England (BCE) 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.

The boundary changes only relate to Parliamentary constituencies (the area an MP is elected to represent in Parliament).

The review is a redistribution of the population bracket for each division to cover. Where there has been a population shift and increase, the BCE will redraw the boundaries to ensure each constituency has (as far as possible) equal amounts of population within them, giving an extra 10 parliamentary seats in England.

Essentially, the greater impact is on MPs and not on parish and town councils. Some MPs may see their constituency split which may make them at risk at the next election. When building the parliamentary boundaries, the BCE use ward boundaries where possible, to avoid splitting up wards and affecting service provision. However, there may be cases where residents in parishes/ wards will vote for a different MP in the next election under a different area.

To see if your area may move across parliamentary boundaries, please visit the interactive map [here](#).

The review does not change local authority boundaries and will not affect the services received in or covered by the district.

As part of the review, a consultation is now running to get feedback on proposed new boundary lines and constituency names. **The consultation is currently open until Monday 2nd August 2021.** You can make comments by [visiting the map](#) and clicking “make a comment”.

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.

You can read more about the review at <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/>

There is also a very comprehensive guide on the review which can be found at <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/guide-to-the-2023-review-of-parliamentary-constituencies/>

Further information:

The distribution of constituencies

The Act requires there to be a fixed number of 650 constituencies for the whole of the UK. Having stated that no single constituency may be split between different parts of the UK, the Act ‘protects’ five specified island constituencies (two on the Isle of Wight for England, two for Scotland, and one for Wales), then provides a



mathematical formula to determine how many constituencies each of the four parts of the UK should be allocated from the remaining 645, based on the electorate figures as at 2 March 2020.

The number of constituencies allocated to England for the 2023 Review is 543 (including the two for the Isle of Wight).

The BCE has subsequently distributed the 541 constituencies (i.e. the total English allocation less the two reserved for the Isle of Wight) between the nine 'English regions' defined in the Act. In order to do so, the BCE used the same mathematical formula (commonly known as the Sainte-Laguë method) as that provided in the Act for the initial allocation between the four parts of the UK.

This results in the following allocation of constituencies between the regions:

	Existing constituencies	Proposed constituencies
Eastern	58	61
East Midlands	46	47
London	73	75
North East	29	27
North West	75	73
South East	84	91*
South West	55	58
West Midlands	59	57
Yorkshire and the Humber	54	54

*Includes the two constituencies for the Isle of Wight

In developing its proposals, the BCE allocates the specified number of constituencies within the relevant region and aims to produce initial proposals in which each constituency is wholly contained within a single region.

This approach does not prevent anyone from putting forward counterproposals that include one or more constituencies being split between regions, but it is likely that very compelling reasons would need to be given to persuade the BCE to depart from the region-based approach it adopts in formulating its initial proposals.

