

GENERAL REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

The Electoral Quota

Paragraph 8(a) of Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 defines the expression electoral quota as meaning “..... a number obtained by dividing the electorate for that part of the United Kingdom by the number of constituencies in it existing on the enumeration date.”. The enumeration date is the date on which the general review formally commences.

In paragraph 6 on page 11 of their information booklet “The Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in England (2000)”, the Commission confirmed the electoral quota for the fifth general review, which formally commenced on 17 February 2000, as 69,932. This figure was obtained by dividing the then electorate of England (36,994,211) by the existing number of constituencies (529).

It has recently come to the attention of the Commission, that an electoral return from one London Borough contained an error resulting in an undercount of 997 electors. Also, two minor corrections have been necessary because of errors (a net overcount of 51 electors) in other returns supplied by Electoral Registration Officers. The net effect of these three corrections is an increase of 946 in the total Parliamentary electorate of England.

The Commission now consider the total electorate of England for the purposes of their general review to be **36,995,157**. The upward revision of the total electorate also results in an increase to the electoral quota for the review from 69,932 to **69,934**.

The upward revision of the electoral quota does not affect the theoretical entitlement to constituencies of those areas already considered by the Commission and it does not affect the provisional recommendations they have already published (see Newsletter No.3/2000). The new electoral quota will be taken into account by the Commission when they formulate all future proposals.

The Commission regret that it has been necessary to revise the electorate and the electoral quota for the reasons stated. Unfortunately, it is not possible to say whether there will be any further revisions to either of these figures, but experience from the last general review, where there was a similar revision of both figures within a year of the start of the review, suggests that further revisions may not be necessary.

Web Site address

Please note the Commission's new Web Site address:-

