

GENERAL REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

1. Prior to the commencement of the fifth general review, the Commission met with the representatives of the three Parliamentary political parties to discuss broad issues of policy relating to the general review. At that meeting, the representatives requested, inter alia, that in the event of a general election being called the Commission should observe a period either side of it during which they would not publish recommendations for review areas. The Commission agreed to this request, as they had done at the previous general review.

2. On Tuesday 8 May, the Government announced that a general election will be held on 7 June 2001. The work of the Commission will continue throughout the period of the general election campaign but, to take account of the agreement with the representatives of the three Parliamentary political parties, it has been necessary to make some alterations to previously announced publication dates.

Group 1 – Assistant Commissioners' reports

3. Having considered the Assistant Commissioners' reports, the Commission published revised recommendations for Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, and Northamptonshire on 3 May 2001. In anticipation of a general election being held in June, the Commission extended the normal period for representations to be made until 29 June 2001.

Group 2 and Group 3 – Assistant Commissioners' reports

4. The Commission will announce recommendations, resulting from their consideration of the Assistant Commissioners' reports for the following review areas, on 20 June 2001:-

Group 2 Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, Cumbria, Somerset,
South Gloucestershire

Group 3 Northumberland, Surrey

Group 4 – local inquiries and final recommendations

5. On Thursday 26 April 2001, the Commission published notification of those South London boroughs, or pairs of boroughs, for which they will be holding local inquiries. They also announced their final recommendations for constituencies in those boroughs where they were not required to hold a local inquiry and where they decided not to use their discretion to hold a local inquiry.

6. Final recommendations were announced for Croydon, Kingston upon Thames and Richmond upon Thames, Merton, and Sutton. Local inquiries have been arranged for:-

Bexley and Greenwich – the inquiry will open at 10.00 am on Tuesday 10 July 2001 in the Council Chamber, Woolwich Town Hall, Wellington Street, Woolwich.

Bromley and Lewisham – the inquiry will open at 09.30 am on Thursday 26 July 2001 in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley.

Lambeth and Southwark – the inquiry will open at 10.00 am on Wednesday 4 July in the Council Chamber, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton.

Wandsworth – the inquiry will open at 10.00 am on Tuesday 3 July 2001 in the Civic Suite, Wandsworth Town Hall, Wandsworth High Street, Wandsworth.

Group 5 – provisional recommendations

7. The provisional recommendations for constituencies in the North London boroughs were published on 22 March and it was announced that the representation period would close on 29 April. Where local inquiries are required, it is expected they will be held in the second half of October and throughout November 2001.

Group 6 – provisional recommendations

8. The Commission published provisional recommendations for Warwickshire, Swindon, and Wiltshire on 3 May 2001. In anticipation of a general election being held in June, the Commission extended the normal period for representations to be made until 29 June 2001.

Future groups of review areas

9. The Commission use wards as the basic building block for constructing Parliamentary constituencies. The composition of future groups of review areas, and the timing of the publication of the provisional recommendations for those review areas, will depend upon the progress made by the Local Government Commission for England (LGCE), who are presently conducting Periodic Electoral Reviews of electoral arrangements (including ward boundaries), and upon the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions who has responsibility for making the Orders which give effect to the new wards recommended by the LGCE. Information about later groups of review areas will be published in future Newsletters.

Enquiries

10. Enquiries about timetable matters should be made to Terry Bergin (020 7533 5170) or Glenn Reed (020 7533 5163). Any enquiries about the review areas listed below should be made to:-

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Sutton
Swindon
Wiltshire

Bexley
Brent
Camden
Greenwich
Hammersmith and Fulham
Islington
Kensington and Chelsea
London (City of)
Merton
Northamptonshire
Somerset
Surrey
Wandsworth
Westminster

Barking and Dagenham
Bath and North East Somerset
Bristol
Havering
Kingston upon Thames
Lambeth
Lincolnshire
Newham
North Somerset
Northumberland
Redbridge
Richmond upon Thames
South Gloucestershire
Southwark
Tower Hamlets
Waltham Forest
Warwickshire