

GENERAL REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

Groups 1 – 3 final recommendations

1. Final recommendations for the following counties have been announced and no further representations received in respect of these counties will be considered by the Commission.

Group 1

Hertfordshire	14 November 2001
Lincolnshire	14 November 2001
Northamptonshire	14 November 2001

Group 2

Bath and North East Somerset	20 June 2001
Bristol	20 June 2001
Cumbria	14 November 2001
North Somerset	8 November 2000
Somerset	14 November 2001
South Gloucestershire	14 November 2001

Group 3

Isle of Wight	8 November 2000
Northumberland	20 June 2001
Surrey	20 June 2001

Group 4 – local inquiries – the South London boroughs

2. The Assistant Commissioners who conducted the local inquiries have submitted their reports to the Commission. A news release announcing the Commission's conclusions on the Assistant Commissioners' recommendations will be issued on 12 December 2001. The local inquiries conducted were:-

Bexley and Greenwich – held on 10 July 2001;
Bromley and Lewisham – held on 26 July 2001;
Lambeth and Southwark – held on 4 and 5 July 2001; and
Wandsworth – held on 3 July 2001.

3. Final recommendations for Croydon, Kingston upon Thames and Richmond upon Thames, Merton, and Sutton, where local inquiries were not required, were announced on 25 April 2001. Any further representations received in respect of these boroughs will not be considered.

Group 5 – local inquiries – the North London boroughs

4. A series of local inquiries for the boroughs set out below is nearing completion:-

Barking and Dagenham, and Havering – held on 14 November 2001;

Brent, Camden, City of London, Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kensington and Chelsea, and Westminster – one inquiry held between 29 October and 9 November 2001;

Ealing – held on 12 November 2001;

Enfield – held on 7 November 2001;

Hackney, Islington, Newham, and Tower Hamlets – one inquiry held between 26 and 28 November 2001;

Haringey – to be held on 29 November 2001; and

Redbridge and Waltham Forest – held on 8 November 2001.

5. The reports on the local inquiries will be submitted to the Commission in due course by the Assistant Commissioners who conducted them. A news release announcing the Commission's conclusions on the Assistant Commissioners' recommendations will be issued in April or May 2002.

6. Final recommendations for Barnet, where a local inquiry was not required, were announced on 12 September 2001. Any further representations received in respect of this borough will not be considered.

Group 6 – local inquiries – Warwickshire, Swindon, and Wiltshire

7. On 7 November 2001, the Commission announced that they would be holding the following local inquiries:-

Warwickshire – the inquiry will open at 10.30 am on Tuesday 29 January 2002 in the Shire Hall, Warwick.

Wiltshire – the inquiry will open at 10.30 am on Tuesday 22 January 2002 in the Banqueting Hall, The Guildhall, Market Place, Salisbury.

8. The Commission noted that they were not required to hold a local inquiry for Swindon and decided not to use their discretion to hold one. Therefore, final recommendations for the county were announced on 7 November 2001. Any further representations received in respect of Swindon will not be considered.

Indicative timetable for future groups of review areas

9. Subject to the completion of the necessary Periodic Electoral Reviews, including ward boundaries, and the provision of the appropriate electoral information by the Electoral Registration Officers, it is anticipated that the next counties will be:-

Hampshire, Portsmouth, and Southampton
Nottinghamshire and Nottingham
Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent

10. It is expected that provisional recommendations for these counties will be published in February 2002.

Machinery of Government changes

11. Shortly after the general election, the Government announced that responsibility for electoral law would transfer from the Home Office to the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR). The Commission's sponsoring body is therefore now DTLR rather than the Home Office. This in no way affects the Commission's independence or the timetable for the fifth general review.

Difficulties with deliveries to the Commission's PO Box

12. During late June 2001, the Commission were informed that difficulty was being experienced in the delivery of petitions, sent by Special Delivery, to their PO Box and was being returned marked as "PO Box closed". Letters posted during this period by 1st or 2nd class post appeared to have been delivered without any difficulty.

13. The Commission have investigated why this difficulty was encountered and it has been confirmed that the PO Box was erroneously closed for a short period of time. This was due to the number of the Commission's PO Box being very similar to that of another for which the annual fee had not been paid. The Commission apologise for any inconvenience the error may have caused.

Enquiries

14. 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:-

Chris Ault
020 7533 5174
chris.ault@ons.gov.uk

Alan Bannister
020 7533 5147
alan.bannister@ons.gov.uk

Gerald Tessier
020 7533 5173
gerald.tessier@ons.gov.uk

Barnet
Bromley
Croydon
Cumbria
Ealing
Enfield
Hampshire
Haringey
Hertfordshire
Isle of Wight
Lewisham
Portsmouth
Southampton
Sutton
Swindon
Wiltshire

Bexley
Brent
Camden
Greenwich
Hammersmith and Fulham
Harrow
Hillingdon
Hounslow
Islington
Kensington and Chelsea
London (City of)
Merton
Northamptonshire
Somerset
Staffordshire
Stoke-on-Trent
Surrey
Wandsworth
Westminster

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