

**To the Chair and Members of the
ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES COMMITTEE**

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. On the 24th February 2016 the independent Boundary Commission for England began redrawing the map of parliamentary constituency boundaries in England taking information from the published register of electors on 1st December 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Committee is asked to note the report for information.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

3. The move follows a decision by Parliament to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK to 600, and to ensure that there are roughly the same number of electors in each constituency. This could mean a reduction in MPs for Doncaster.

BACKGROUND

4. The Boundary Commission for England is tasked with making independent recommendations about where the boundaries of English constituencies should be. The total UK electorate has been announced by the Office for National Statistics as 44,722,004, which means the number of electors in each mainland English constituency must be no less than 71,031 and no more than 78,507. England will therefore have 501 constituencies, 32 fewer than there are currently. The Commission has also decided how those constituencies will be distributed among the English regions.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR DONCASTER

5. On 1st December Doncaster's Electorate was 216,798. However the Boundary Commission did not include the EU Nationals therefore the Parliamentary Constituency was split as follows:

Don Valley	70,730
Central	70,200
North	70,337

This meant that they all fell under the 71,031 minimum requirement. However, this is not to say we will lose an MP, it could mean that our boundaries are extended out of Doncaster to increase the number of electors within the constituency to meet the requirements or vice versa to make up another constituency to another borough.

6. The Boundary Commission for England are currently working on its initial proposals for new boundaries, which are expected to be published in September 2016. The publication of those proposals will begin a 12-week consultation period, during which the Boundary Commission for England will invite comments on the proposals to capture the views and knowledge of local residents.
7. The Boundary Commission will also be travelling across England in the autumn to hear from people in person. All comments will help the Commission further refine the boundary proposals before views are sought on any revisions later in 2017. The Commission must make its final recommendations to Parliament in 2018.
8. The Commission has decided to use the same method of allocating constituencies among the regions in England as is used in the Act to allocate constituencies to each part of the UK. The number allocated to each region is as follows:

Region	Electorate	Existing Constituencies	Proposed Constituencies
Eastern	4,242,266	58	57
East Midlands	3,275,046	46	44
London	5,118,884	73	68
North East	1,874,396	29	25
North West	5,074,302	75	68
South East	6,067,475*	83*	81*
South West	3,930,770	55	53
West Midlands	3,989,320	59	53
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,722,035	54	50
Total	37,294,494*	532*	499*

* figures exclude one current Isle of Wight constituency and its electorate, and two proposed Isle of Wight constituencies.

9. The last review of constituencies reported in 2006. The Boundary Commission began a review under the new legislation in 2011 that Parliament cancelled in 2013. The proposals from that review have no status for the current review and the Boundary Commission have confirmed they will not be taking any account of them.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

10. This report is primarily for information only.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY PRIORITIES

11. The impact on the Council's Key Priorities is unknown at present.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

12. The risks and assumptions are unknown at present.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. The arrangements detailed in this report are designed to ensure compliance with a range of statutory duties including:

- Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006
- Representation of the People Acts 1983, 1985 and 2000
- Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. It is currently unknown what costs may be associated with a Parliamentary Boundary Review.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Boundary Commission for England Press Release

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