

# Initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in the North East



# Contents

	<b>Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>What is the Boundary Commission for England?</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Background to the 2018 Review</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Initial proposals for the North East</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>How to have your say</b>	<b>17</b>
	<b>Annex A: Initial proposals for constituencies, including wards and electorates</b>	<b>21</b>
	<b>Glossary</b>	<b>28</b>

# Summary

## Who we are and what we do

The Boundary Commission for England is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body which is responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.

## The 2018 Review

We have the task of periodically reviewing the boundaries of all the Parliamentary constituencies in England. We are currently conducting a review on the basis of rules set by Parliament in 2011. The rules tell us that we must make recommendations for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in September 2018. They also result in a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 501), and require that every constituency – apart from two specified exceptions – must have an electorate that is no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507.

## Initial proposals

We published our initial proposals for the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England on 13 September 2016. Information about the proposed constituencies is now available on our website.

## What is changing in the North East?

The North East has been allocated 25 constituencies – a reduction of four from the current number.

Our proposals leave three of the 29 existing constituencies unchanged. More substantial change is required, however, in other parts of the region.

We are proposing one constituency within Tyne and Wear that crosses the River Tyne. We have also proposed one constituency that crosses the River Tees.

We are proposing one constituency that crosses the boundary between Northumberland and Tyne and Wear, which combines the town of Stannington with wards from the northern part of Newcastle. In addition we are proposing one constituency that includes wards from County Durham and the Borough of Gateshead, combining the town of Rowlands Gill and the town of Consett.

The Borough of Middlesbrough is divided between three constituencies, and the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees is divided between three constituencies. The Borough of Darlington is wholly contained in one constituency.

## How to have your say

We are consulting on our initial proposals for a 12-week period, from 13 September 2016 to 5 December 2016. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to help us shape the new constituencies – the more views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when considering whether to revise our proposals.

Our website at [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk) has more information about how to respond as well as details of where and when we will be holding public hearings in your area. You can also follow us on Twitter @BCE2018 or using #2018boundaryreview.

# 1 What is the Boundary Commission for England?

**1** The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body which is required to review Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. We conduct a review of all the constituencies in England every five years. Our role is to make recommendations to Parliament for new constituency boundaries.

**2** The Chair of the Commission is the Speaker of the House of Commons, but by convention he does not participate in the review. The current Deputy Chair, Mrs Justice Patterson, and two further Commissioners, take decisions on proposals and recommendations for new constituency boundaries. Further information about the Commissioners can be found on our website.<sup>1</sup>

You can find further information on our website, at [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk). You can also contact us with any general enquiries by emailing [information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk](mailto:information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk), or by calling 020 7276 1102.

<sup>1</sup> At [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk)

## 2 Background to the 2018 Review

**3** We are currently conducting a review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries on the basis of rules set by Parliament in 2011.<sup>2</sup> These rules require us to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK and make more equal the number of electors in each constituency. This report covers only the work of the Boundary Commission for England (there are separate Commissions for Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales) and, in particular, introduces our initial proposals for the North East.

**4** The rules set out in the legislation state that there will be 600 Parliamentary constituencies covering the UK – a reduction of 50 from the current number. This means that the number of constituencies in England must be reduced from 533 to 501. There are also other rules that the Commission has regard to when conducting the review – a full set of the rules can be found in our *Guide to the 2018 Review*<sup>3</sup> published in summer 2016, but they are also summarised later in this chapter. Most significantly, the rules require every constituency we recommend (with the exception of two covering the Isle of Wight) to contain no fewer than 71,031 electors and no more than 78,507.

**5** This is a significant change to the old rules under which Parliamentary boundary reviews took place, in which achieving as close to the average number of electors in each constituency was an aim, but there was no statutory fixed permissible range. For example, in England, existing constituencies (drawn under the previous rules) currently range from 54,232 to 105,448 electors. Furthermore, the current constituencies were constructed under the last completed review, which relied on the data contained in the electoral registers for 2000 and applied the earlier version of the rules. Achieving a more even distribution of electors in every constituency across England, together with the reduction in the total number of constituencies, means that a significant amount of change to the existing map of constituencies is inevitable.

**6** Our *Guide to the 2018 Review* contains further detailed background information, and explains all the policies and procedures that we are following in conducting the review. We encourage anyone wishing to be involved in the review to read this document, which will give them a greater understanding of the rules and constraints placed on the Commission, especially if they are intending to comment on our initial proposals.

<sup>2</sup> The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011, available at [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/1/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/1/contents)

<sup>3</sup> Available at [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk) and at all places of deposit

## The rules in the legislation

**7** As well as the primary rule that constituencies must have no fewer than 71,031 electors and no more than 78,507, the legislation also states that, when deciding on boundaries, the Commission may also take into account:

- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
- local government boundaries as they existed on 7 May 2015;
- boundaries of existing constituencies; and
- any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies.

**8** In addition, in relation to local government boundaries in particular, it should be noted that we are obliged to take into account local government boundaries as they existed in May 2015, rather than any subsequent changes that may have been made (or are due to be made). Our initial proposals for the North East (and the accompanying maps) are therefore based on local government boundaries as they existed in May 2015. Our *Guide to the 2018 Review* outlines further our policy on how, and to what extent, we take into account local government boundaries. We have used the wards as at May 2015 of unitary authorities, and borough and district councils (in areas where there is also a county council) as the basic building blocks for our proposals.

**9** Although the first review under the new rules will unavoidably result in significant change, we have also taken into account the boundaries of existing constituencies so far as we can. We have tried to retain existing constituencies as part of our initial proposals wherever possible, as long as the other factors can also be satisfied. This, however, has proved difficult. Our initial proposals retain just over 10% of the existing constituencies in the North East – the remainder are new constituencies (although in a number of cases we have been able to limit the changes to existing constituencies, making only minor changes as necessary to enable us to comply with the rules).

**10** Our proposals are based on the nine regions used for European elections (though it should be clear that our work has no effect on European electoral matters, nor is it affected by the recent referendum result). This report relates to the North East. There are eight other separate reports containing our initial proposals for the other regions. You can find more details on our website. While this approach does not prevent anyone from making proposals to us that cross regional boundaries (for example, between the North East and the North West regions), very compelling reasons would need to be given to persuade the Commission to depart from the region-based approach. The Commission has previously consulted on the use of the regions as building blocks, and this was supported.

## Timetable for our review

### Stage one – development of initial proposals

**11** We began this review in February 2016. We published electorate data from December 2015 for each ward, local government authority, and existing constituency. The electorate data were provided by local authorities and the Office for National Statistics. These are available on our website<sup>4</sup> and are the data that must be used throughout the remainder of the review process. The Commission has since then considered the factors outlined above and drawn up the initial proposals. We published our initial proposals for consultation for each of England's nine regions on 13 September 2016.

**12** We ask people to be aware that, in publishing our initial proposals, we do so without suggesting that they are in some way definitive or that they provide the 'right answer' – they are our starting point for consulting on the changes. We have taken into account the existing constituencies, local government boundaries, and geographical features to produce a set of constituencies that are within the statutory electorate range and that we consider to be the best balance between those factors at this point. What we do not yet have is evidence and intelligence of how our proposals reflect or break local community ties. One of the most important purposes of the consultation period is to seek evidence that will enable us to review our initial proposals.

### Stage two – consultation on initial proposals

**13** We are consulting on our initial proposals for 12 weeks, until 5 December 2016. Chapter 4 outlines how you can contribute during the consultation period. We are also hosting two public hearings in the North East, at which people can give their views direct to one of our Assistant Commissioners. Once the consultation has closed, the Commission will collate all the responses received, including records of the public hearings.

### Stage three – consultation on representations received

**14** We are required to publish all the responses we receive on our initial proposals. This publication will mark the start of a four-week 'secondary consultation' period, likely to take place in spring 2017. The purpose of the secondary consultation is for people to see what others have said in response to our initial proposals, and to make comments on their views, for example by countering an argument, or by supporting and reinforcing what others have said. You will be able to see all the comments on our website, and use the site to give us your views on what others have said.

<sup>4</sup> At [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk)



#### Stage four – development and publication of revised proposals

**15** Once we have all the representations and comments from both the initial and secondary consultation periods, the Commission will analyse those representations and decide whether changes should be made to the initial proposals. If we decide that the evidence presented to us persuades us to change our initial proposals, then we must publish our revised proposals for the areas concerned, and consult on them for a further period of eight weeks. This is likely to be towards the end of 2017. When we consult on our revised proposals, there will be no further public hearings, nor will there be a repeat of the four-week period for commenting on the representations of others. You will be able to see all our revised proposals, and give us your views on them, on our website.

#### Stage five – development and publication of the final report and recommendations

**16** Finally, following the consultation on revised proposals, we will consider all the evidence received at this stage, and throughout the review, before determining our final recommendations. The recommendations will be set out in a published report to the Government, who will present it, without amendment, to Parliament on our behalf. The legislation states that we must report to the Government in September 2018. Further details about what the Government and Parliament then do with our recommendations are contained in our *Guide to the 2018 Review*.

**17** Throughout each consultation we will be taking all reasonable steps to publicise our proposals, so that as many people as possible are aware of the consultation and can take the opportunity to contribute to our review of constituencies.

### 3 Initial proposals for the North East

**18** The North East consists of the unitary authorities of Durham and Northumberland, the five boroughs of Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, and Sunderland, and the five unitary authorities of Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton-on-Tees.

**19** The region currently has 29 constituencies, of which four have electorates within 5% of the electoral quota: North Tyneside, Stockton South, Sunderland Central, and Tynemouth. The electorates of the remaining 25 constituencies fall well below the 5% limit, with electorates ranging between 55,407 and 68,201. Our initial proposals for the North East are for 25 constituencies, a reduction of four.

**20** In seeking to produce initial proposals for the region in which 25 constituencies, each with an electorate within 5% of the electoral quota, could be proposed, we first considered whether, and how, local government authorities could be usefully grouped into sub-regions. We were mindful of seeking to respect, where we could, the external boundaries of local authorities and of the natural boundaries, such as the River Tyne and the River Tees. Where possible we have sought to retain constituencies within unitary authority and county boundaries. However, where this was not possible we sought to group local authorities together. Therefore, we have decided to review the whole of the North East as one region and not divide it into sub-regions. We considered that this provided the greatest flexibility in formulating a pattern of constituencies across the whole region that were within 5% of the electoral quota.

**21** We have sought to reach practical solutions applying the rules to produce our initial proposals. We welcome counter-proposals from respondents to our consultation, based on other groupings of counties and unitary authorities, if the statutory factors can be better reflected in those counter-proposals.

**22** In developing our initial proposals for the North East, we noted that Northumberland, with an electorate of 232,448, could be allocated three constituencies within 5% of the electoral quota that would be wholly contained within its boundary. Tyne and Wear, with an electorate of 792,738, could be allocated 11 constituencies within 5% of the electoral quota that would be wholly contained within its boundary. County Durham, with an electorate of 377,715, could be allocated six constituencies that would be wholly contained within its boundary. Cleveland, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar, and Stockton-on-Tees could be allocated five constituencies within 5% of the electoral quota, and one constituency could be wholly contained within the unitary authority of Darlington.

**23** In our initial proposals we have firstly considered whether it would be possible to leave unchanged any of the four existing constituencies that had an electorate within the electoral quota. In developing our initial proposals it has been possible to retain three of the existing constituencies – North Tyneside, Sunderland Central, and Tynemouth.

**24** The County of Northumberland currently has four constituencies. We propose that the county has three constituencies wholly within the county

boundary and one that crosses the county boundary with Newcastle upon Tyne. We have needed to make substantial changes to the existing constituencies in the county. This has been due to the existing constituencies having electorates outside 5% of the electoral quota and to reflect changes to local government ward boundaries.

**25** Our proposed Berwick and Ashington constituency retains 13 wards from the existing constituency. We have added eight wards to this constituency, including the town of Ashington from the existing Wansbeck constituency. This reconfiguration results in a Berwick and Ashington constituency that extends down the North Sea coast to the north bank of the River Wansbeck and includes the Choppington ward to the south. We have investigated alternative configurations to this constituency but, due to the large geographical area of the county, the alternatives we considered would not be practical.

**26** Our proposed Hexham and Morpeth constituency has retained 15 wards of the existing Hexham constituency and has had five wards, including the town of Morpeth, from the existing Wansbeck constituency transferred to it. This change was necessary as these wards form a community around the town of Morpeth. We have also included the divided wards of Longhorsley and Pegswood in our Hexham and Morpeth constituency. Additionally, we have included four wards from the existing Berwick-upon-Tweed constituency in our Hexham and Morpeth constituency so it is within 5% of the electoral quota.

**27** Our proposed Blyth Valley constituency has retained 17 wards of the existing constituency and has had five wards from the existing Wansbeck constituency transferred to it. This has enabled the three Bedlington wards to be kept together in a constituency. We note that this constituency crosses the River Blyth and that there are several good crossing points over the river.

**28** Our proposed changes in Tyne and Wear are again quite widespread in formulating a pattern of constituencies that are within 5% of the electoral quota. However, we have been able to retain the existing constituencies of North Tyneside, Tynemouth and Sunderland Central completely unchanged. Though the electorates are low in the remaining constituencies we have been able to create constituencies that do not cross the River Tyne to the east of St. James Boulevard, where there are few accessible crossing points. However, the proposed constituency of Newcastle upon Tyne North West does cross the county boundary of Northumberland, with the inclusion of the Ponteland East and Stannington ward from the existing Wansbeck constituency. This is necessary to ensure that it is within 5% of the electoral quota. Additionally, this constituency further includes three wards from the existing Newcastle upon Tyne Central constituency.

**29** Our proposed Newcastle upon Tyne East constituency retains nine wards from the existing constituency and has the wards of Westgate and Wingrove added to it from the existing Newcastle upon Tyne Central constituency, and East Gosforth ward added to it from the existing

Newcastle upon Tyne North constituency. These changes result in our proposed Newcastle upon Tyne East constituency being within the boundaries of the local authority.

**30** Our proposed Blaydon constituency retains six wards from the existing constituency. Transferred to it are three wards from the existing Newcastle upon Tyne North constituency, and two wards from the existing Newcastle upon Tyne Central constituency. This reconfiguration sees the existing Newcastle upon Tyne Central constituency distributed between the two proposed Newcastle constituencies of Newcastle upon Tyne East and Newcastle upon Tyne North West. Our proposed Gateshead constituency retains nine wards of the existing constituency. Also included in it is the Washington West ward, from the existing Washington and Sunderland West constituency, and the Pelaw and Heworth ward from the existing Jarrow constituency.

**31** Our proposed Jarrow constituency retains seven wards of the existing constituency and has three wards from the existing Washington and Sunderland West constituency, and the Simonside and Rekendyke ward from the existing South Shields constituency, included in it. We consider that this reconfiguration enables the close ties of the Hebburn communities to be maintained.

**32** Our proposed South Shields constituency retains nine wards from the existing constituency and now also includes two wards from the existing Jarrow constituency – Cleadon and East Boldon, and Boldon Colliery – in order

to bring its electorate within 5% of the electoral quota. This means that the communities of East and West Boldon and Boldon Colliery are contained within this constituency.

**33** Our proposed Sunderland West constituency is very different to the existing constituency, but it retains four wards from the existing constituency. However, we propose including in this constituency four wards from the existing Houghton and Sunderland South constituency. The proposed constituency of Sunderland West also crosses the local government boundary of Gateshead, with the inclusion of the Birtley ward from the existing Blaydon constituency.

**34** In County Durham our proposed West Durham and Teesdale constituency retains nine wards from the existing North West Durham constituency. Included in this constituency is also the ward of Barnard Castle West from the existing Bishop Auckland constituency, and two wards from the existing Blaydon constituency.

**35** Our proposed constituency of North Durham and Chester-le-Street retains 12 wards from the existing constituency. To ensure that the constituency is within 5% of the electoral quota, we propose that the Lamesley ward from the existing Blaydon constituency, in the Borough of Gateshead, is included in it. Our proposed City of Durham constituency retains eight wards from the existing constituency. We propose to include in this constituency the divided wards of Esh and Witton Gilbert, Deerness, and the Tow Law ward from the existing North West Durham constituency. In order to have a pattern of constituencies that are within 5% of the electoral quota,

the proposed constituency of the City of Durham crosses the boundary of County Durham and the Borough of Sunderland to include the Hetton ward from the existing Sunderland constituency. We consider this is a suitable crossing as the communities of East and West Rainton are contained within this constituency.

**36** Our proposed East Durham constituency retains eight wards from the existing Sedgefield constituency. We consider that this constituency should also include the divided Trimdon and Thornley, and Coxhoe wards from the existing constituency of the City of Durham, and the Shotton and South Hetton ward from the existing constituency of Easington. In order to ensure that the East Durham constituency is within 5% of the electoral quota, we propose a crossing of the boundary of County Durham and the Borough of Hartlepool, so that it includes the Hart, and De Bruce wards from the existing Hartlepool constituency.

**37** Our proposed Easington and Houghton constituency retains nine wards from the existing Easington constituency, which results in not dividing the Peterlee East, Peterlee West, and Passfield wards in the south of the constituency. To ensure that this constituency is within 5% of the electoral quota, we propose to include in it three wards from the existing Houghton and Sunderland South constituency including the town of Houghton-le-Spring which has been reflected in the proposed name.

**38** Our proposed Darlington constituency retains 17 wards of the existing constituency. We have been able to include in this constituency the remaining wards

of the Borough of Darlington. Therefore, our proposed Darlington constituency is coterminous with the borough boundaries.

**39** Our proposed Hartlepool and Billingham constituency retains eight wards from the existing Hartlepool constituency. We propose that four wards from the existing Stockton North constituency including the town of Billingham are included in the constituency. This reconfiguration ensures that this constituency does not cross the River Tees.

**40** Our proposals result in a Stockton West constituency that retains seven wards from the existing Stockton South constituency. Transferred to this constituency are eight wards from the existing Stockton North constituency, including the town of Stockton-on-Tees. To reflect these changes, we propose this constituency is named Stockton West.

**41** Our proposed Middlesbrough West and Stockton East constituency retains eight wards from the existing Middlesbrough constituency. We have included in it seven wards including Stockton Town Centre ward, from the existing Stockton South constituency. We did investigate whether alternative constituencies could be formulated that did not include parts of both Middlesbrough and Stockton in the same constituency. However, we consider that in order to have an electorate that is within 5% of the electoral quota, we have needed to propose a constituency of Middlesbrough West and Stockton East that crosses the boundaries of the unitary authorities of Middlesbrough and Stockton-on-Tees.

**42** We have created a Middlesbrough North East and Redcar constituency, which retains 11 wards from the existing Redcar constituency and now includes six wards from the existing Middlesbrough constituency. This reconfiguration has enabled the creation of a constituency that lies wholly to the south of the River Tees.

**43** Our proposed Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency retains 13 wards from the existing constituency, loses the Stainton & Thornton, and Hemlington wards to our proposed Middlesbrough West and Stockton East constituency, and the divided Ladgate ward to our proposed Middlesbrough North East and Redcar constituency. In addition three wards are added to the Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency from the existing Redcar constituency. In view of the location of this area in the extreme south-east of the North East region our options in formulating a pattern of constituencies are limited. However, we consider this reconfiguration causes the least disruption to the adjacent proposed constituencies.

## 4 How to have your say

**44** We are consulting on our initial proposals for a 12-week period, from 13 September 2016 to 5 December 2016. We encourage everyone to give us their views on our proposals for their area – the more public views we hear and the more local information that is provided, the more informed our decisions will be when analysing all the views we have received.

**45** On our interactive consultation website, at [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk), you can see what constituency you will be in under our proposals, and compare it with your existing constituency and local government boundaries. You can also easily submit your views on our proposals.

**46** When making comments on our initial proposals, we ask people to bear in mind the tight constraints placed on the Commission by the rules set by Parliament, discussed in chapter 2 and in our *Guide to the 2018 Review*. Most importantly, in the North East:

- we cannot recommend constituencies that have electorates that contain more than 78,507 or fewer than 71,031 electors;
- we are basing our initial proposals on local government ward boundaries (from May 2015) as the building blocks of constituencies – our view is that, in the absence of exceptional and compelling circumstances, it would not be appropriate to divide wards in cases where it is possible to construct constituencies that meet the electorate rules without doing so; and

- we have constructed constituencies within regions, so as not to cross regional boundaries – compelling reasons would need to be given to persuade us that we should depart from this approach.

**47** These issues mean that we encourage people who are making a comment about their local area to bear in mind any knock-on effects that might result from their suggestions. The Commission must look at the recommendations for new constituencies across the whole region (and, indeed, across England). What may be a better solution for one location may have undesirable consequences for others. We therefore ask everyone wishing to respond to our consultation to bear in mind the impact of their counter-proposals on neighbouring constituencies, and on those further afield across the region.

### How can you give us your views?

**48** Views can be given to the Commission either in writing or in person (oral representations). We encourage everyone who wishes to comment on our proposals in writing to do so through our interactive consultation website, at [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk) – you will find all the details you need and be able to comment directly through the website. We also welcome oral representations at one of a series of public hearings we are conducting during the consultation period. People are welcome to both attend a hearing and submit comments through our website if they choose to.

## Written representations

**49** As stated above, we strongly encourage everyone to make use of our consultation website, at [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk), when responding to our consultation. The website allows you to explore the map of our proposals and get further data, including the electorate sizes of every ward and polling district. You can also upload text or data files you may have previously prepared setting out your views.

**50** We encourage everyone, before submitting a representation, to read our approach to protecting and using your personal details (available at [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk)). In particular,

respondents should remember that we are obliged to publish all the comments we receive on our initial proposals. As this is a public consultation, we publish respondents' names and addresses, alongside their comments.

## Public hearings

**51** The Commission will be hosting public hearings across England. In the North East we will be hosting two public hearings during the consultation period. Our website ([www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk)) has more details of these hearings, and an opportunity to register to attend and give us your views in person. The table below shows the locations and dates of the hearings in the North East.

Town	Location	Dates
Newcastle	Royal Station Hotel, Neville Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 5DH	Monday 14 – Tuesday 15 November 2016
Darlington	Mercure Darlington Kings Hotel, 9–12 Priestgate, Darlington, DL1 1NW	Thursday 17 – Friday 18 November 2016



**52** The purpose of the hearings is for people to have an opportunity to put their views on our proposals directly to an Assistant Commissioner who will chair the hearings and subsequently assist the Commission in the analysis of all the evidence received in the region. The hearings differ from the way we used to conduct ‘local inquiries’ in past reviews – these were much more judicial in style, and people were allowed to cross-examine each other. The legislation that Parliament introduced specifically rules out such inquiries, specifying instead that we host ‘public hearings’, which are intended purely as a way for people to make representations orally, directly to representatives of the Commission, as well as to provide an opportunity for the Commission to explain its proposals.

**53** It is important to stress that all representations, whether they have been made through our website, in person at a hearing, or sent to us in writing, will be given equal consideration by the Commission. Therefore it does not matter if you are unable to attend or speak at a public hearing – even after the last public hearing in the North East has finished, you will still have until 5 December 2016 to submit your views to us.

**54** You can find more information about public hearings, and can register to attend, on our website at [www.bce2018.org.uk](http://www.bce2018.org.uk), or by phoning 020 7276 1102.

## What do we want views on?

**55** We would like particularly to ask two things of people responding to our consultation. First, if you support our proposals, please tell us so. Past experience suggests that too often people who are happy with our proposals do not respond in support, while those who object to them do respond to make their points. That can give a rather distorted view of the balance of public support or objection to proposals, and those who in fact support our initial proposals may then be disappointed if those proposals are subsequently revised in light of the consultation responses. Second, if you are considering objecting to our proposals, do please use the resources (such as maps and electorate figures) available on our website and at the places of deposit to put forward counter-proposals which are in accordance with the rules to which we are working.

**56** Above all, however, we encourage everyone to have their say on our initial proposals and, in doing so, to become involved in drawing the map of new Parliamentary constituencies. The more views and information we get as a result of our initial proposals and through the subsequent consultation phases, the more informed our consideration in developing those proposals will be, and the better we will be able to reflect the public’s views in the final recommendations we present in 2018.

# Annex A: Initial proposals for constituencies, including wards and electorates

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
<b>1. Berwick and Ashington CC</b>			<b>74,891</b>
	Alnwick	Northumberland	7,449
	Amble	Northumberland	3,408
	Amble West with Warkworth	Northumberland	3,318
	Ashington Central	Northumberland	3,181
	Bamburgh	Northumberland	3,450
	Berwick East	Northumberland	3,215
	Berwick North	Northumberland	3,146
	Berwick West with Ord	Northumberland	2,943
	Bothal	Northumberland	3,420
	Choppington	Northumberland	3,442
	College	Northumberland	3,368
	Druridge Bay	Northumberland	3,936
	Haydon	Northumberland	3,486
	Hirst	Northumberland	3,113
	Longhoughton	Northumberland	3,286
	Lynemouth	Northumberland	3,207
	Newbiggin Central and East	Northumberland	3,378
	Norham and Islandshires	Northumberland	3,440
	Seaton with Newbiggin West	Northumberland	3,425
	Shilbottle	Northumberland	3,962
	Wooler	Northumberland	3,318
<b>2. Bishop Auckland CC</b>			<b>72,967</b>
	Barnard Castle East	Durham	6,492
	Bishop Auckland Town	Durham	5,947
	Coundon	Durham	3,010
	Evenwood	Durham	6,231
	Ferryhill	Durham	8,151
	Shildon and Dene Valley	Durham	9,384
	Spennymoor	Durham	8,444
	Tudhoe	Durham	6,079
	West Auckland	Durham	6,375
	Willington and Hunwick	Durham	6,822
	Woodhouse Close	Durham	6,032
<b>3. Blaydon BC</b>			<b>75,601</b>
	Blaydon	Gateshead	6,953
	Crawcrook and Greenside	Gateshead	6,659
	Dunston Hill and Whickham East	Gateshead	6,586
	Ryton, Crookhill and Stella	Gateshead	6,818
	Whickham North	Gateshead	6,307
	Whickham South and Sunniside	Gateshead	6,483
	Benwell and Scotswood	Newcastle upon Tyne	8,020
	Denton	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,356
	Elswick	Newcastle upon Tyne	6,495
	Lemington	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,030
	Newburn	Newcastle upon Tyne	6,894
<b>4. Blyth Valley BC</b>			<b>76,694</b>
	Bedlington Central	Northumberland	3,483
	Bedlington East	Northumberland	3,130
	Bedlington West	Northumberland	3,577
	Cowpen	Northumberland	3,050
	Cramlington East	Northumberland	2,751
	Cramlington Eastfield	Northumberland	3,840

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
	Cramlington North	Northumberland	4,015
	Cramlington South East	Northumberland	3,738
	Cramlington Village	Northumberland	3,445
	Cramlington West	Northumberland	3,737
	Croft	Northumberland	2,883
	Hartley	Northumberland	3,883
	Holywell	Northumberland	3,966
	Isabella	Northumberland	3,102
	Kitty Brewster	Northumberland	4,009
	Newsham	Northumberland	3,179
	Plessey	Northumberland	3,283
	Seghill with Seaton Delaval	Northumberland	4,146
	Sleekburn	Northumberland	3,180
	South Blyth	Northumberland	3,579
	Stakeford	Northumberland	3,505
	Wensleydale	Northumberland	3,213
<b>5. City of Durham CC</b>			<b>73,244</b>
	Belmont	Durham	10,115
	Brandon	Durham	7,146
	Deerness	Durham	9,018
	Durham South	Durham	1,619
	Elvet and Gilesgate	Durham	4,081
	Esh and Witton Gilbert	Durham	6,192
	Framwellgate and Newton Hall	Durham	10,175
	Neville's Cross	Durham	6,502
	Sherburn	Durham	6,531
	Tow Law	Durham	3,233
	Hetton	Sunderland	8,632
<b>6. Darlington BC</b>			<b>74,929</b>
	Bank Top & Lascelles	Darlington	4,550
	Brinkburn & Faverdale	Darlington	4,553
	Cockerton	Darlington	4,534
	College	Darlington	3,288
	Eastbourne	Darlington	4,571
	Harrowgate Hill	Darlington	4,809
	Haughton & Springfield	Darlington	4,733
	Heighington & Coniscliffe	Darlington	3,276
	Hummersknott	Darlington	3,168
	Hurworth	Darlington	2,867
	Mowden	Darlington	3,102
	North Road	Darlington	4,231
	Northgate	Darlington	2,453
	Park East	Darlington	4,488
	Park West	Darlington	3,282
	Pierremont	Darlington	4,233
	Red Hall & Lingfield	Darlington	2,548
	Sadberge & Middleton St. George	Darlington	4,598
	Stephenson	Darlington	2,474
	Whinfield	Darlington	3,171
<b>7. Easington and Houghton CC</b>			<b>74,094</b>
	Dawdon	Durham	5,868
	Deneside	Durham	5,280
	Easington	Durham	5,559
	Horde	Durham	5,809
	Murton	Durham	5,820
	Passfield	Durham	3,539
	Peterlee East	Durham	5,484
	Peterlee West	Durham	6,119
	Seaham	Durham	5,270
	Copt Hill	Sunderland	8,767
	Doxford	Sunderland	7,563
	Houghton	Sunderland	9,016

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
<b>8. East Durham CC</b>			<b>78,060</b>
	Aycliffe East	Durham	6,240
	Aycliffe North and Middridge	Durham	7,790
	Aycliffe West	Durham	5,403
	Bishop Middleham and Cornforth	Durham	2,937
	Blackhalls	Durham	6,101
	Chilton	Durham	2,970
	Coxhoe	Durham	9,280
	Sedgefield	Durham	6,274
	Shotton and South Hetton	Durham	6,413
	Trimdon and Thornley	Durham	9,411
	Wingate	Durham	2,913
	De Bruce	Hartlepool	5,597
	Hart	Hartlepool	6,731
<b>9. Gateshead BC</b>			<b>77,539</b>
	Bridges	Gateshead	5,316
	Chowdene	Gateshead	6,892
	Deckham	Gateshead	6,371
	Dunston and Teams	Gateshead	5,823
	Felling	Gateshead	5,586
	High Fell	Gateshead	5,895
	Lobley Hill and Bensham	Gateshead	6,860
	Low Fell	Gateshead	6,910
	Pelaw and Heworth	Gateshead	6,373
	Saltwell	Gateshead	5,470
	Windy Nook and Whitehills	Gateshead	7,065
	Washington West	Sunderland	8,978
<b>10. Hartlepool and Billingham BC</b>			<b>77,558</b>
	Burn Valley	Hartlepool	5,903
	Fens and Rossmere	Hartlepool	7,003
	Foggy Furze	Hartlepool	6,286
	Headland and Harbour	Hartlepool	5,358
	Jesmond	Hartlepool	6,179
	Manor House	Hartlepool	7,188
	Rural West	Hartlepool	5,815
	Seaton	Hartlepool	6,693
	Victoria	Hartlepool	5,448
	Billingham Central	Stockton-on-Tees	5,136
	Billingham East	Stockton-on-Tees	4,935
	Billingham North	Stockton-on-Tees	6,943
	Billingham South	Stockton-on-Tees	4,671
<b>11. Hexham and Morpeth CC</b>			<b>77,566</b>
	Bellingham	Northumberland	3,050
	Bywell	Northumberland	3,457
	Corbridge	Northumberland	3,353
	Haltwhistle	Northumberland	3,583
	Haydon and Hadrian	Northumberland	3,321
	Hexham Central with Acomb	Northumberland	3,235
	Hexham East	Northumberland	3,228
	Hexham West	Northumberland	3,177
	Humshaugh	Northumberland	3,244
	Longhorsley	Northumberland	3,201
	Morpeth Kirkhill	Northumberland	4,015
	Morpeth North	Northumberland	3,650
	Morpeth Stobhill	Northumberland	3,502
	Pegswood	Northumberland	3,833
	Ponteland North	Northumberland	3,644
	Ponteland South with Heddon	Northumberland	3,351
	Ponteland West	Northumberland	3,275
	Prudhoe North	Northumberland	4,112
	Prudhoe South	Northumberland	3,739
	Rothbury	Northumberland	3,957

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
	South Tynedale	Northumberland	3,831
	Stocksfield and Broomhaugh	Northumberland	3,808
<b>12. Jarrow BC</b>			<b>74,473</b>
	Wardley and Leam Lane	Gateshead	5,972
	Bede	South Tyneside	5,956
	Fellgate and Hedworth	South Tyneside	5,835
	Hebburn North	South Tyneside	6,930
	Hebburn South	South Tyneside	6,234
	Monkton	South Tyneside	6,307
	Primrose	South Tyneside	6,293
	Simonside and Rekendyke	South Tyneside	6,324
	Castle	Sunderland	8,332
	Redhill	Sunderland	8,107
	Washington North	Sunderland	8,183
<b>13. Middlesbrough North East and Redcar BC</b>			<b>78,214</b>
	Berwick Hills & Pallister	Middlesbrough	5,879
	Brambles & Thorntree	Middlesbrough	5,418
	Ladgate	Middlesbrough	3,860
	Longlands & Beechwood	Middlesbrough	6,171
	North Ormesby	Middlesbrough	1,570
	Park	Middlesbrough	6,383
	Coatham	Redcar and Cleveland	3,598
	Dormanstown	Redcar and Cleveland	4,951
	Grangetown	Redcar and Cleveland	2,879
	Kirkleatham	Redcar and Cleveland	5,397
	Longbeck	Redcar and Cleveland	5,355
	Newcomen	Redcar and Cleveland	3,124
	South Bank	Redcar and Cleveland	4,604
	St. Germain's	Redcar and Cleveland	4,835
	Teesville	Redcar and Cleveland	4,839
	West Dyke	Redcar and Cleveland	5,943
	Zetland	Redcar and Cleveland	3,408
<b>14. Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland CC</b>			<b>75,590</b>
	Coulby Newham	Middlesbrough	6,366
	Marton East	Middlesbrough	4,066
	Marton West	Middlesbrough	4,210
	Nunthorpe	Middlesbrough	3,891
	Park End & Beckfield	Middlesbrough	5,625
	Brotton	Redcar and Cleveland	5,151
	Eston	Redcar and Cleveland	4,928
	Guisborough	Redcar and Cleveland	5,512
	Hutton	Redcar and Cleveland	5,841
	Lockwood	Redcar and Cleveland	1,509
	Loftus	Redcar and Cleveland	4,586
	Normanby	Redcar and Cleveland	5,589
	Ormesby	Redcar and Cleveland	4,575
	Saltburn	Redcar and Cleveland	4,664
	Skelton	Redcar and Cleveland	5,641
	Westworth	Redcar and Cleveland	3,436
<b>15. Middlesbrough West and Stockton East BC</b>			<b>78,071</b>
	Acklam	Middlesbrough	4,288
	Ayresome	Middlesbrough	3,988
	Central	Middlesbrough	4,953
	Hemlington	Middlesbrough	4,386
	Kader	Middlesbrough	4,413
	Linthorpe	Middlesbrough	4,266
	Newport	Middlesbrough	5,012
	Stainton & Thornton	Middlesbrough	1,844
	Trimdon	Middlesbrough	3,573
	Ingleby Barwick East	Stockton-on-Tees	7,467

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
	Ingleby Barwick West	Stockton-on-Tees	8,184
	Mandale and Victoria	Stockton-on-Tees	7,267
	Norton South	Stockton-on-Tees	4,517
	Stainsby Hill	Stockton-on-Tees	4,740
	Stockton Town Centre	Stockton-on-Tees	3,971
	Village	Stockton-on-Tees	5,202
<b>16. Newcastle upon Tyne East BC</b>			<b>76,406</b>
	Byker	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,074
	Dene	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,083
	East Gosforth	Newcastle upon Tyne	6,874
	North Heaton	Newcastle upon Tyne	6,746
	North Jesmond	Newcastle upon Tyne	5,945
	Ouseburn	Newcastle upon Tyne	6,283
	South Heaton	Newcastle upon Tyne	5,636
	South Jesmond	Newcastle upon Tyne	5,561
	Walker	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,297
	Walkergate	Newcastle upon Tyne	6,782
	Westgate	Newcastle upon Tyne	5,039
	Wingrove	Newcastle upon Tyne	6,086
<b>17. Newcastle upon Tyne North West BC</b>			<b>71,279</b>
	Blakelaw	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,696
	Castle	Newcastle upon Tyne	8,578
	Fawdon	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,035
	Fenham	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,521
	Kenton	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,498
	Parklands	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,562
	West Gosforth	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,128
	Westerhope	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,443
	Woolsington	Newcastle upon Tyne	7,521
	Ponteland East and Stannington	Northumberland	3,297
<b>18. North Durham and Chester-le-Street CC</b>			<b>71,773</b>
	Anfield Plain	Durham	5,670
	Chester-le-Street East	Durham	2,919
	Chester-le-Street North	Durham	2,999
	Chester-le-Street South	Durham	5,937
	Chester-le-Street West Central	Durham	5,825
	Craghead and South Moor	Durham	5,177
	Lumley	Durham	5,527
	North Lodge	Durham	2,828
	Pelton	Durham	9,889
	Sacriston	Durham	5,357
	Stanley	Durham	6,187
	Tanfield	Durham	6,495
	Lamesley	Gateshead	6,963
<b>19. North Tyneside BC</b>			<b>76,427</b>
	Battle Hill	North Tyneside	7,985
	Benton	North Tyneside	7,622
	Camperdown	North Tyneside	7,711
	Howdon	North Tyneside	7,717
	Killingworth	North Tyneside	8,087
	Longbenton	North Tyneside	7,845
	Northumberland	North Tyneside	6,580
	Riverside	North Tyneside	7,805
	Wallsend	North Tyneside	7,425
	Weetslade	North Tyneside	7,650
<b>20. South Shields BC</b>			<b>71,143</b>
	Beacon and Bents	South Tyneside	6,735
	Biddick and All Saints	South Tyneside	6,429
	Boldon Colliery	South Tyneside	7,358
	Cleadon and East Boldon	South Tyneside	6,954

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
	Cleadon Park	South Tyneside	5,695
	Harton	South Tyneside	6,775
	Horsley Hill	South Tyneside	7,114
	West Park	South Tyneside	6,205
	Westoe	South Tyneside	5,568
	Whitburn and Marsden	South Tyneside	5,781
	Whiteleas	South Tyneside	6,529
<b>21. Stockton West CC</b>			<b>74,805</b>
	Billingham West	Stockton-on-Tees	4,521
	Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree	Stockton-on-Tees	5,023
	Eaglescliffe	Stockton-on-Tees	7,912
	Fairfield	Stockton-on-Tees	4,535
	Grangefield	Stockton-on-Tees	5,133
	Hardwick and Salters Lane	Stockton-on-Tees	4,813
	Hartburn	Stockton-on-Tees	5,256
	Newtown	Stockton-on-Tees	4,771
	Northern Parishes	Stockton-on-Tees	2,954
	Norton North	Stockton-on-Tees	4,767
	Norton West	Stockton-on-Tees	5,062
	Parkfield and Oxbridge	Stockton-on-Tees	5,117
	Roseworth	Stockton-on-Tees	4,922
	Western Parishes	Stockton-on-Tees	2,634
	Yarm	Stockton-on-Tees	7,385
<b>22. Sunderland Central BC</b>			<b>71,232</b>
	Barnes	Sunderland	8,501
	Fulwell	Sunderland	8,984
	Hendon	Sunderland	7,538
	Millfield	Sunderland	6,920
	Pallion	Sunderland	7,202
	Ryhope	Sunderland	7,964
	Southwick	Sunderland	7,885
	St. Michael's	Sunderland	8,157
	St. Peter's	Sunderland	8,081
<b>23. Sunderland West BC</b>			<b>72,720</b>
	Birtley	Gateshead	5,984
	Sandhill	Sunderland	7,976
	Shiney Row	Sunderland	9,719
	Silksworth	Sunderland	8,109
	St. Anne's	Sunderland	8,084
	St. Chad's	Sunderland	7,547
	Washington Central	Sunderland	8,654
	Washington East	Sunderland	8,801
	Washington South	Sunderland	7,846
<b>24. Tynemouth BC</b>			<b>74,618</b>
	Chirton	North Tyneside	7,771
	Collingwood	North Tyneside	8,096
	Cullercoats	North Tyneside	7,424
	Monkseaton North	North Tyneside	6,869
	Monkseaton South	North Tyneside	7,427
	Preston	North Tyneside	6,587
	St. Mary's	North Tyneside	6,844
	Tynemouth	North Tyneside	8,201
	Valley	North Tyneside	8,301
	Whitley Bay	North Tyneside	7,098

Constituency	Ward	District/borough/city/county	Electorate
25. West Durham and Teesdale CC			74,502
	Barnard Castle West	Durham	6,319
	Benfieldside	Durham	6,180
	Burnopfield and Dipton	Durham	5,962
	Consett North	Durham	5,761
	Consett South	Durham	2,886
	Crook	Durham	8,995
	Delves Lane	Durham	6,026
	Lanchester	Durham	5,871
	Leadgate and Medomsley	Durham	6,440
	Weardale	Durham	6,406
	Chopwell and Rowlands Gill	Gateshead	6,954
	Winlaton and High Spennithwaite	Gateshead	6,702



# Glossary

<b>Assessor</b>	Statutorily appointed technical adviser to the BCE, being either the Registrar General for England and Wales or the Director General of Ordnance Survey.	<b>Public hearing</b>	Formal opportunity in a given area for people to make oral representations, chaired by an Assistant Commissioner. In each region of England there may be no fewer than two and no more than five hearings, and each may last a maximum of two days.
<b>Assistant Commissioner</b>	Independent person appointed at the request of the BCE to assist it with the discharge of its functions.	<b>Representations</b>	The views provided by an individual, group or organisation to the BCE on its initial or revised proposals, either for or against, including counter-proposals and petitions.
<b>Borough constituency (abbreviated to BC)</b>	Parliamentary constituency containing a predominantly urban area.	<b>Review date</b>	Proposals must be based on the numbers of electors on the electoral registers on this date. Defined in the 2011 Act as the date two years and ten months before the final report is to be submitted (i.e. 1 December 2015 for the review that is to conclude with a final report by 1 October 2018).
<b>County constituency (abbreviated to CC)</b>	Parliamentary constituency containing more than a small rural element.	<b>Revised proposals</b>	The initial proposals as subsequently revised.
<b>Designation</b>	Classification as either a borough constituency or as a county constituency.	<b>Rules</b>	The statutory criteria for Parliamentary constituencies under Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended).
<b>Electorate</b>	The number of registered Parliamentary electors in a given area.	<b>UK electoral quota</b>	The average number of electors in a constituency, found by dividing the total electorate of the UK (less that of the four specific 'protected' constituencies) by 596.
<b>(Statutory) Electorate range</b>	The statutory rule that requires the electorate of every constituency (as at the review date) to be within 5% of the UK electoral quota.	<b>Unitary authority</b>	An area where there is only one tier of local council (above any parish or town council). Contrasted with those 'shire district' areas that have two tiers (i.e. both a non-metropolitan county council and a district/ borough/city council).
<b>Final recommendations</b>	The recommendations submitted in a formal final report to Parliament at the end of a review. They may – or may not – have been revised since the initial proposals in any given area.		
<b>Initial proposals</b>	First formal proposals published by the BCE during the review for public consultation.		
<b>Periodical report</b>	Report to Parliament following a general review of Parliamentary constituencies.		
<b>Places of deposit</b>	In each constituency the Commission will make available hard copies of its initial proposals (including report and maps). The places of deposit where the public may inspect the proposals are usually the offices of the relevant local authority, although other public places such as libraries may be used. The Commission will publish a full list of places of deposit on its website.		

