
Boundary Commission for England

News Release

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PROPOSALS FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY IN THE COUNTY OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

The Commission will publish provisional recommendations on 6 July 2000 proposing that the Isle of Wight should continue to form one constituency.

Provisional Recommendations

1. The county of the Isle of Wight forms one constituency with a parliamentary electorate in 2000 of 103,480. This number of electors, when divided by the 2000 electoral quota (69,932) produces a theoretical entitlement to 1.48 seats. With one seat, the electorate would be 33,548 above the electoral quota. With two seats, the average constituency electorate would be 18,192 below the electoral quota. The electoral quota is explained in "Background Note" below.

2. The Commission considered fully a number of options for the Isle of Wight before making their provisional recommendations. The Commission noted that historically the Isle of Wight has formed one seat and felt that the division of the island would disregard the historical and unique geographical situation that exists there. They also noted that during the last review, the Commission of the time were mindful of the provisions of Rule 1 of Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, which places a limit on the total number of constituencies, when deciding that the Isle of Wight should continue to form one seat. This Commission are also mindful of Rule 1 and consider that the situation has not changed such that two seats should now be allocated. The Commission noted that the continued allocation of one whole seat would result in the constituency continuing to have the largest electorate in England, but they also noted that the division of the island into two seats would create two constituencies with electorates which, in all likelihood, would be the smallest in England.

3. The Commission considered pairing the Isle of Wight with part of the mainland for the purpose of allocating constituencies. However, they concluded that to sever part of the constituency and place it in a constituency with an area of the mainland would be likely to create confusion and a feeling of loss of identity among the electorate. They also considered that it would create a constituency where communications would be difficult both for the electorate and the Member of Parliament.

4. The Commission felt that, on balance, the merits of continuing with one seat outweighed the justification for the allocation of two. They felt that one seat would complement the principle of one unitary authority for the island and therefore provisionally decided to continue to allocate one seat to the Isle of Wight.

5. The Isle of Wight became a unitary authority county in 1995, and the districts of Medina and South Wight, and their wards, were abolished. The Isle of Wight (Electoral Changes) Order 1999 creates forty-eight electoral divisions in the county of the Isle of Wight, and comes into effect on 3 May 2001.

6. The electoral divisions are illustrated in outline on the sketch map which can be found under the section called Outline Maps available on-line (please note the copyright warning). The electoral divisions on the map are numbered, and these numbers and the names of the electoral divisions are listed at the end of this document, together with the 2000 electorate figures on which the Commission are required by law to work.

7. Although the Commission have proposed that the Isle of Wight should continue to form one seat, they decided that, if the island were formed of more than one seat, its electoral divisions should be used as the building block for constituencies.

Publication of Provisional Recommendations

8. The provisional recommendations will be published formally in a notice appearing in a local newspaper in the Isle of Wight on 6 July 2000. The local authority, the MP, the Political Parties' Headquarters, and others will be sent a copy of the recommendations. The notice will also be published on the Commission's web site at:-

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/other_activities/psc.asp

Places of Inspection

9. The notice in the local newspaper will also give the addresses where a copy of the recommendations and a more detailed map illustrating them have been made available for inspection by the public (please note the copyright warning below concerning the map). Those addresses are:-

COWES	Cowes Library, Beckford Road, Cowes
FRESHWATER	Freshwater Library, School Green Road, Freshwater
NEWPORT	County Hall, Newport
RYDE	Ryde Library, George Street, Ryde
SHANKLIN	Shanklin Library, Victoria Avenue, Shanklin

Representation Period: 6 July 2000 to 6 August 2000

10. The Commission are required to consider representations about their provisional recommendations made within one month of local publication on 6 July 2000. Representations should be addressed to the Boundary Commission for England, PO Box 31060, London, SW1V 2FF, or faxed to 020 7533 5176, or emailed to chris.ault@ons.gov.uk. All representations received by the Commission will be acknowledged. The representation period will end on 6 August 2000.

11. Please note that the Commission are not statutorily required to consider any representations made after 6 August 2000, but will endeavour to take late representations into account. However, the later the representation is made, the more difficult this will be. The Commission therefore ask that all representations be made within the one month period. In the event that a local inquiry is held into the provisional recommendations, all representations will be made public beforehand so that interested persons may prepare for the local inquiry. Any representation received too late to be issued with the other representations before the local inquiry cannot be given the same weight as the other representations because other interested persons will not have had the same opportunity to consider it.

12. Where representations objecting to the provisional recommendations are made by the local authority or by a body of 100 or more electors, the Commission cannot proceed with their final recommendations to the Home Secretary until a local inquiry has been held. If the Commission decide to alter their recommendations as a result of the inquiry, the revised recommendations must also be published and representations invited, but a further local inquiry is not obligatory.

13. Those who make representations are requested to say whether they approve of, or object to, the Commission's proposals and to give their reasons for their approval or objection. In particular, objectors are advised to say what they propose in place of the Commission's recommendations and should note that an objection accompanied by a counter-proposal is likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection.

14. The Commission wish to stress that their provisional recommendations relate solely to the parliamentary constituency and do not affect county or parish boundaries, taxes or services. The Commission will therefore not take account of any representation made about those local issues.

Background Note

15. The Commission are constituted under Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. The ex officio Chairman is the Speaker of the House of Commons. The Deputy Chairman, who presides over Commission meetings, is a High Court Judge appointed by the Lord Chancellor. The other two Commissioners are appointed by the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions. The two Assessors to the Commission are the Registrar General of England and Wales and the Director General of Ordnance Survey. Assistant Commissioners are lawyers appointed by the Home Secretary to conduct local inquiries.

16. The Commission are required by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992 to conduct a general review of all the constituencies in England every eight to twelve years. The Commission completed their previous general review on 12 April 1995 and must therefore complete the current review after 11 April 2003 and before 12 April 2007. The Commission wish to complete the current review in sufficient time for new

constituency boundaries to be approved by Parliament and take effect at any general election held in 2006 or 2007.

17. The general review started formally with the publication of a notice in the London Gazette on 17 February 2000. The Commission's recommendations throughout the review must by law be based on the numbers of electors on the electoral registers on that date.

Rules

18. In recommending new constituencies, the Commission are required to give effect to the Rules for Redistribution of Seats which are contained in Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act.

19. Rule 1 places a limit on the total number of constituencies. Rule 2 requires single member constituencies. Rule 3 relates to the City of London. Rule 4 states that county and London borough boundaries are to be followed so far as is practicable. Rule 5 states that the electorates of constituencies are to be as nearly equal as practicable. Rule 6 allows the Commission to depart from rules 4 and 5 if special geographical considerations make a departure desirable. Rule 7 allows the Commission to depart from other rules; and requires them to take account of inconveniences caused or local ties broken by changes to constituencies. Rule 8 defines the electoral quota as the total number of parliamentary electors in England (36,994,211) divided by the existing number of seats (529), and requires the Commission to use the electorates as at the start of a review.

Procedures

20. In conducting a general review of constituencies, the Commission are required by the legislation to follow certain procedures, principally to provide for public consultation.

21. The Home Secretary must be given notice of a review and that notice must be published in the London Gazette. Provisional recommendations must be published in newspapers in the affected constituencies and, unless the proposals are for no changes to be made, they must also be deposited for public inspection in at least one place in each affected constituency. Representations may be made within one month of publication of the provisional recommendations and the Commission must take any representations into consideration. Where objections are received from a county or district council or a body of 100 or more electors, a local inquiry must be held. If the Commission revise their recommendations as a result of an inquiry, the revised representations must also be published and further representations invited and considered. The Commission is not obliged to hold a second local inquiry if there are further representations, but there is discretionary power to hold a second inquiry. Any further modifications, as a result of further representations or a second inquiry, must also be published and representations invited. When the Commission have decided their final recommendations for the whole country, they must submit a report to the Home Secretary.

Implementation of the recommendations

22. The Home Secretary has a statutory duty to lay the Commission's report before Parliament together with a draft Order in Council giving effect to the Commission's recommendations with or without modifications. If modifications are proposed, the Home Secretary must also lay a statement of reasons for the modifications. The draft Order in Council is submitted to both Houses of

Parliament for approval and, after it is made by Her Majesty in Council, it cannot be called into question in any legal proceedings. The new constituencies take effect at the next following general election.

23. The above information is intended to be a general guide only. For a definitive statement of the law, please refer to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, as amended by the Boundary Commissions Act 1992, the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994, the Government of Wales Act 1998, and the Scotland Act 1998, together with the Court of Appeal ruling in R v Boundary Commission for England Ex parte Foot [1983] QB 600.

Crown Copyright

24. The outline map which forms part of this document and the maps deposited at the addresses listed above are based on Ordnance Survey data and are subject to ©crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction will infringe crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Any person wishing to reproduce the outline map or the maps placed on deposit should first contact the Copyright Office at Ordnance Survey, Romsey Road, Southampton SO16 4GU (telephone 023 8079 2929).

Enquiries

25. Should you require further information about these provisional recommendations or about other aspects of the Commission's work please write to:-

Boundary Commission for England
PO Box 31060
London
SW1V 2FF

or telephone:-

Isle of Wight enquiries	020 7533 5174 or 020 7533 5159
General enquiries	020 7533 5177
Fax	020 7533 5176

Email address for Isle of Wight enquiries:	chris.ault@ons.gov.uk
Email address for general enquires:	bcomm.england@ons.gov.uk

26. The Internet version of this news release, without the outline map, is now available on:-
http://www.statistics.gov.uk/other_activities/psc.asp

**ISLE OF WIGHT 2000 ELECTORATES BY ELECTORAL DIVISION
TO BE USED THROUGHOUT THE REVIEW**

Isle of Wight	103,480		
1. Ashe	2,298	40. Shalfleet and Yarmouth	2,269
2. Bembridge North	948	41. Shanklin Central	2,308
3. Bembridge South	2,362	42. Shanklin North	2,133
4. Binstead	2,676	43. Shanklin South	2,006
5. Brading and St Helens	2,729	44. Totland	2,338
6. Brighstone and Calbourne	2,157	45. Ventnor East	2,562
7. Carisbrooke East	1,977	46. Ventnor West	2,477
8. Carisbrooke West	2,209	47. Wootton	2,840
9. Central Rural	2,209	48. Wroxall and Godshell	2,641
10. Chale, Niton and Whitwell	2,305		
11. Cowes Castle East	1,837		
12. Cowes Castle West	1,887		
13. Cowes Central	1,850		
14. Cowes Medina	1,913		
15. East Cowes North	1,560		
16. East Cowes South	2,164		
17. Fairlee	2,231		
18. Freshwater Afton	2,299		
19. Freshwater Norton	2,174		
20. Gurnard	1,404		
21. Lake North	1,955		
22. Lake South	2,049		
23. Mount Joy	2,008		
24. Newchurch	2,185		
25. Newport North	1,695		
26. Newport South	2,113		
27. Northwood	1,776		
28. Osborne	1,707		
29. Pan	2,116		
30. Parkhurst	2,167		
31. Ryde North East	2,290		
32. Ryde North West	2,378		
33. Ryde South East	2,398		
34. Ryde South West	2,229		
35. St Johns East	2,413		
36. St Johns West	2,250		
37. Sandown North	2,681		
38. Sandown South	2,110		
39. Seaview and Nettlestone	2,197		

The above electoral divisions were created by the Isle of Wight (Electoral Changes) Order 1999. However, it is understood that the boundary between the Bembridge North (no. 2) and Bembridge South (no. 3) divisions may

be subject to an amending Order. Any amendment will be a re-apportionment only and have no effect on the total electorate of the county.