

South East

Revised proposals 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 new rules laid down by Parliament. These rules involve a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 501), resulting in the number of constituencies in the South East reducing by one, to 83. The rules also require that every constituency – apart from two specified exceptions¹ – must have an electorate that is no smaller than 71,031 and no larger than 78,507.

How did we conduct the 2018 Review?

We published our initial proposals for new boundaries in September 2016 and consulted on them. We received written comments and oral submissions at public hearings held in each region. We published all the comments we received and we held a second consultation exercise in relation to them in March 2017. We are very grateful for all the comments that these two consultation exercises have generated. We have now completed the next stage of the review process and we are now publishing our revised proposals. For each region, the revised proposals report sets out our analysis of all the responses to our initial proposals in the first and second consultations, and the conclusions we have reached as to how those proposals should be revised as a result. The annex to each report contains details of the composition

¹ The specified exemptions in England to the rules on constituency size are the two constituencies in the Isle of Wight. However, with this important qualification, in all other aspects of the 2018 Review, the Isle of Wight is treated in the same way as other parts of England.

of each constituency in our revised proposals for the relevant region; maps to illustrate these constituencies can be viewed on our website or in hard copy at a local place of deposit near you.

What are the revised proposals for the South East?

We have revised the composition of 41 of the 83 constituencies we proposed in September 2016. After careful consideration, we have decided not to make any revisions to the composition of the remaining 42. In some instances, however, we have revised our proposed names for these constituencies.

Under our revised proposals, 20 constituencies in the South East would be the same as they are under the existing arrangements.

As it was not always possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual counties, our initial proposals grouped some local authority areas into sub-regions. It was also necessary to propose some constituencies that cross county or unitary authority boundaries. Following consideration of the representations made on our initial proposals, our revised proposals are based on new sub-regions, as shown in the table below.

Sub-region	Existing allocation	Revised allocations
Berkshire and Surrey	19	19
Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Kent, and Medway	25	24
West Sussex	8	8
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes	7	7
Hampshire, Portsmouth, and Southampton	18	17
Isle of Wight	1	2
Oxfordshire	6	6

We are proposing three cross-county constituencies. In Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Kent, and Medway. We are proposing that Mid Kent and Ticehurst, and Tunbridge Wells and Crowborough cross the East Sussex/Kent boundary, to allow us to create a whole number of constituencies within 5% of the electoral quota. In Berkshire and Surrey, we are proposing a Windsor constituency which includes the Windlesham ward from the County of Surrey, to avoid removing part of the urban centre of Slough.

In the Berkshire and Surrey sub-region, we are changing 12 of our initial proposals, increasing the number of existing constituencies we are able to retain to 11, adding Mole Valley, Slough, Woking, and Wokingham.

In Brighton and Hove, East Sussex, Kent, and Medway, we are changing 17 of our initial proposals, right across the sub-region.

In West Sussex, we are making no changes to our initial proposals.

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In Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, we are changing two of our initial proposals, altering which Milton Keynes wards are allocated to Buckingham.

In Hampshire, Portsmouth, and Southampton, we are changing four of our initial proposals, in Portsmouth and around Romsey.

In the Isle of Wight sub-region, we are changing our initial proposals for both constituencies around Wootton.

In Oxfordshire, we are changing four of our initial proposals, around Oxford and Wallingford.

How to have your say

We are consulting on our revised proposals for an eight-week period, from 17 October 2017 to 11 December 2017. We encourage everyone to use this final opportunity to contribute to the design of the new constituencies – the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when we make recommendations to the Government in September 2018.

We ask everyone wishing to contribute to the design of the new constituencies to first look at the revised proposals report, and accompanying maps, before responding to us. The best way to respond to our revised proposals is through our consultation website: www.bce2018.org.uk