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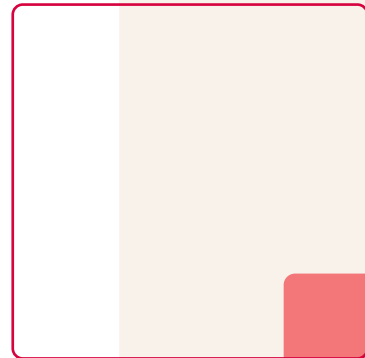


Comisiwn Ffiniau
i Gymru

Boundary Commission
for Wales

Constituencies in Wales

Making changes to constituencies in Wales for voting in UK Parliament elections



This document was written by the **Boundary Commission for Wales**. It is an easy read version of ‘**2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies: Guide to the 2023 Review**’.

March 2021

How to use this document



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what they mean on **page 23**.



Where the document says **we**, this means **Boundary Commission for Wales**. If you have any questions, or if you need more information, contact:

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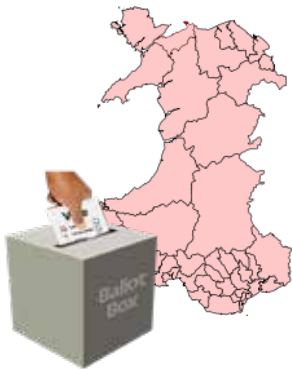
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Introduction



We are the **Boundary Commission for Wales**.



Our job is to check and make changes to the **constituencies** in Wales.

A **constituency** is an area where people who vote in an election live.

About constituencies



Areas are organised into **constituencies** to make sure all parts of the UK are represented properly in **UK Parliament**.



This is important because life is different for different groups of people, in different parts of the UK.



They have different problems, worries and needs. All this needs to be thought about in **UK Parliament**.



So, people need to vote for the person they think can best stand up for them and their area.

About UK Parliament



UK Parliament make and change laws for the whole of the UK. It makes sure the country is run properly.



It is important that everyone's voice is heard in **UK Parliament**.



We are changing the **constituencies** for the UK Parliament elections only.



UK Parliament elections are called **general elections**.



This is when everyone in the UK gets the chance to choose who stands up for them in the **House of Commons**. This is where MPs work in **UK Parliament**, London.

Why the constituencies are changing



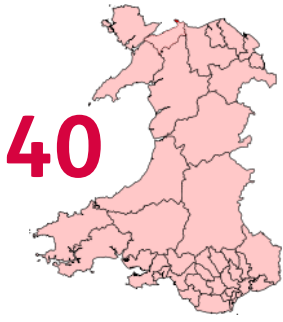
UK Parliament sets the rules for how **constituencies** should be organised.



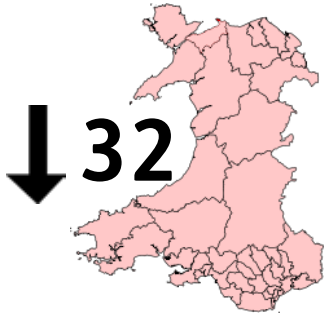
They have changed the rules, which are written in a law called **Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986**.



The rules in this law were changed in 2020.



Wales used to have 40 **constituencies**. But the new rules say that must change to 32.



So we now need to look at the best way to split Wales into 32 **constituencies**.



We need to think about areas carefully. And group together people and places with similar challenges and worries.



We want people in Wales to be involved in this.



We want to make sure we hear from people who can tell us what life is like where they live. And listen to their ideas for how best to split Wales into 32 **constituencies**.



This is a very important part of our work over the next 2 years.



It is important to understand that we are only changing the **constituencies** for the UK Parliament elections.



The changes we make will **not** affect the **constituencies** we have for the **Senedd elections**. This is when you vote for the people you want to stand up for you in Welsh Parliament, in Cardiff.



There are still 40 **constituencies** for the **Senedd elections**.



The changes we make will **not** affect local councils in Wales. They will **not** affect any services or taxes or any other voting areas.

About the Boundary Commission for Wales



We are a group of 4 people in charge of deciding on where the **constituencies** should be in Wales.



There is a Boundary Commission in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland too. They will decide on the **constituencies** in those places.



Each Boundary Commission has a High Court Judge, who oversees the work. In Wales, our High Court Judge is **Mrs Justice Jefford DBE**.



It is our job to write a report that says where we think the 32 **constituencies** in Wales should be.



We must write this report by **1 July 2023**.



All our work on deciding where the **constituencies** will be over the next 2 years is called the **2023 Review**.

The rules

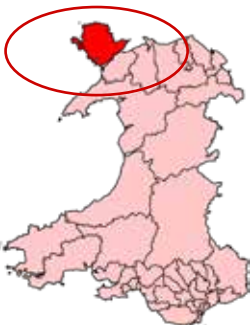


There are certain rules we need to follow when deciding where the **constituencies** should be in Wales.



The most important rule is:

Every **constituency** in Wales should have between **69,724 people** and **77,062 people** who are **registered to vote**.



There is only 1 **constituency** that can break this rule. That is **Ynys Mon** on the Isle of Anglesey. This is because it has been set out in law.

Other things we must think about:



- **Geography.** For example, the size and shape of a place. And how easy it is to travel and get around an area.



We will think about things like mountains, hills, lakes and rivers that might split up an area.

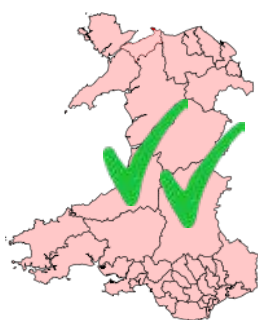


- **Local council boundaries.** And boundaries within those areas, like **Electoral Wards** and communities.

Electoral Wards are smaller groups of people in smaller areas who vote for local councillors.



We will try our best not to split up these types of areas.



We will try to make sure **constituencies** are made up of **electoral wards** that are next to each other.



However, we cannot think about any changes that might happen to local council boundaries **after 1 December 2020**.



- Where **constituencies** are now.



- **Communities and services** and how people and places all work together.

Things that we will **not** think about:



- How people usually vote in certain areas. And how this might affect the results of an election.



- Changes to how many people are registered to vote in an area **after 2 March 2020**.

Naming constituencies



If a new **constituency** is like an old constituency, we will keep the old name.



If we make a new **constituency**, its name will be based on the main council in that area.



We will use North, South, East and West if we use a council name, but lots of people within the **constituency** live outside of that council area. For example, Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire.



If the name is in English, we will make sure there is Welsh version. And if the name is in Welsh, we make sure there is an English version.

We will say whether a **constituency** is:



- a **borough constituency** – for areas with mostly towns



- or a **county constituency** – for areas with lots of countryside

The impact of these new rules



The **constituencies** as they are now will change.



The **constituencies** for Senedd Elections and UK Parliament elections, will be different.



Some **constituencies** will cover large areas, because there is a lot of countryside in Wales where few people live.



There are not many voters in some of the South Wales Valleys. So new **constituencies** may be made up of more than 1 valley.



We may not be able to avoid splitting up council areas to make new **constituencies**.



Even small changes to 1 **constituency** may have an impact on other areas.



We need to work together to make new **constituencies** that work in the best way for the most people.



About the 2023 Review

This section explains what will happen during the review. And how you can have a say.



It is very important to us that people are able to give their views.

We will:



- 1. Write a report with our ideas and suggestions for where we think the 32 constituencies should be.**



We will include maps to show where the **constituencies** will be.



We will make sure everyone can read this report. We will put it on our website. And send copies to places in local areas where people can get them. This will usually be local council offices.



We may use other places like libraries too, to help make sure more people can see the report.



We will write a list of all the places you can get the report on our website.



We will advertise the report and get it to as many people as possible.

Having your say



If you disagree with something, please try to suggest ways we can overcome the things you disagree with.



It is better if you suggest a way to solve the thing you disagree with. Not just say that you disagree.

It is important to think about how your idea for a **constituency** might affect plans for another **constituency**. And explain how you could make your idea work.

2. First consultation



We will give the public **8 weeks** to read the report. And to tell us what they think about our ideas. This must be done in writing.



We will send out information about how people can tell us what they think, and what date this must be done by, with the first report.

3. Second consultation



We will get together everything people said during the **First Consultation**. We will put it on our website for everyone to read.



We will do this once the first consultation is over, as soon as we can.

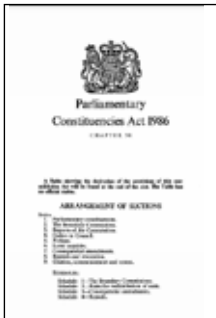


When all the responses to the first consultation are on our website, we will give everyone another **6 weeks** to read through them. And to tell us what they think of what was said.



This can be done in writing. We will also hold public hearings. This is a meeting where people will be able to talk about what has been said so far. And give their views.

Public hearings



The law says we must hold at least **2 public hearings**. We cannot hold more than **5 public hearings**.



We will put all the information about public hearings on our website, Including:

- When and where they will happen
- How you can book a slot to speak at the hearing
- What will happen and how they will be organised.



Public hearings will be live streamed on our website. This means people will be able to watch it as it happens.



We will think about other ways to do this, if we can still not meet in person because of coronavirus.

4. Second report



After the public hearings, we will write a report about what has been said.



The report will say whether we should change our ideas for the 32 [constituencies](#), based on what everyone has said.

5. Third Consultation



We will put everything that has been written and said so far on our website.



We will give people another **4 weeks** to read all this. And give their thoughts about what people said at the public hearings.



We will treat the English and Welsh languages equally. All our information and public hearings will be available in Welsh and English.

6. Final report



At the end of the **Third Consultation**, we will think about our final suggestions for where the **constituencies** should be.



We will think about everything we have learned and heard during the consultations and public hearings.



We will then write a final report. We will send this to the **Speaker of the House of Commons** by **1 July 2023**.



It will be taken to **UK Parliament**. And this is the end of our part of the work.

After the final report



After our final report has been given to **UK Parliament**, they will follow a set process to make our suggestions official.



They cannot change our suggestions, in the final report unless we tell them to.



The new **constituencies** will start at the next general election on **Thursday 2 May 2024**. Until then, we will use the old **constituencies** if needed.

Hard words

Constituency

A constituency is an area where people who vote in an election live.

Electoral Wards

Electoral Wards are smaller group of people in smaller areas who vote for local councillors.

