



**Comisiwn Ffiniau
i Gymru**

**Boundary Commission
for Wales**

Boundary Commission
for Wales 2023 Review of
Parliamentary Constituencies

Guide to the 2023 Review

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This document is available in Welsh
The Commission welcomes correspondence
and telephone calls in Welsh or English.

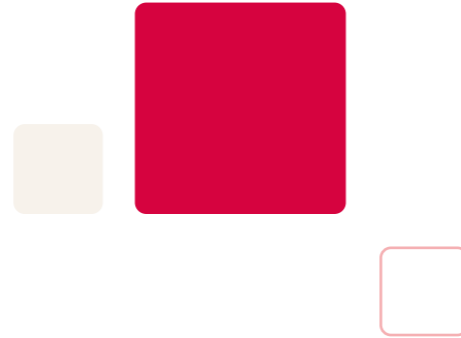
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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at bcw@boundaries.wales

This document is also available from our website at www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk

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Chapter 1: Introduction



Who we are and what we do

1.1 The Boundary Commission for Wales ('the Commission') is an independent and impartial non-departmental public body. Our constitution is set out in Appendix A, and our current membership is:

Chair	The Speaker of the House of Commons
Deputy Chair	Mrs Justice Jefford DBE
Commissioners	Sam A Hartley Huw Vaughan Thomas CBE
Secretary	Shereen Williams MBE OSTJ

1.2 We are responsible for reviewing parliamentary constituency boundaries in Wales on the basis of rules laid down by Parliament. We are currently required to submit a formal report by 1 July 2023 on the basis of rules set out in the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020). This will involve a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in Wales from the current 40 to 32.

1.3 In order to prepare our report we will carry out a review process. We refer to this process as 'the 2023 Review'.

1.4 Public consultation will play an important part in the 2023 Review. We will develop and publish initial proposals setting out the changes we believe to be appropriate to the distribution, size, shape, name or designation of constituencies across Wales. We will then take into account written and oral representations from the public about our proposals, in a structured process designed to help us prepare recommendations for inclusion in the final report we will prepare for Parliament. The recommendations included in our report will be implemented by a subsequent process in Parliament.

1.5 We have produced this guide to help explain in more detail how the process for the 2023 Review will work. This guide is not intended to be a full statement of the law about the review. Instead, it covers what legislation says the Commission must do and the policies the Commission has decided to adopt in developing its proposals and final recommendations.

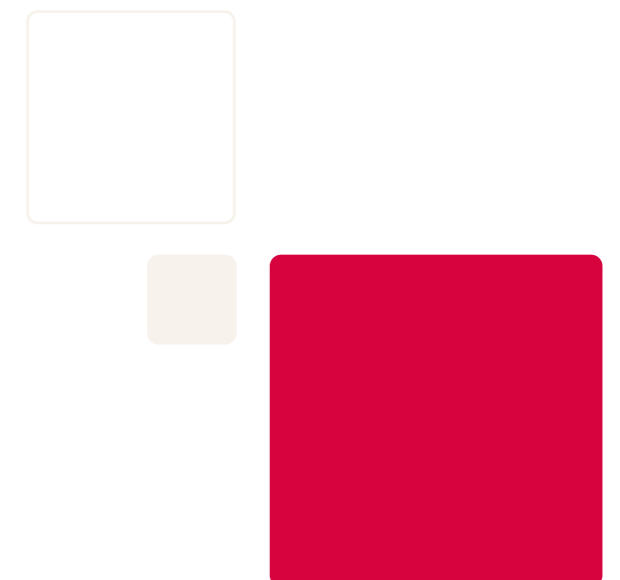
1.6 We hope this guide will clarify our processes and policies. We also hope that it will encourage those who may be thinking of making their views known to do so in a well-informed and effective manner. However, we recognise that individuals may wish to ask questions and we would ask that these be addressed to us at:

The Boundary Commission for Wales	Telephone:	029 2046 4819
Hastings House	Fax:	029 2046 4823
Fitzalan Court	Email:	bcw@boundaries.wales
Cardiff	Website:	www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk
CF24 0BL		

We will be updating information on our website throughout our review process and key documents will be available through the website.

1.7 Please note that there are separate Parliamentary Boundary Commissions for England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. There are also separate bodies with responsibility for the review of local government boundaries, including the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission in Wales and similar bodies in other parts of the UK. This guide is not intended to address the functions of these other boundary commissions and bodies.

1.8 We wish to stress that this review relates solely to the parliamentary constituencies and does not affect Senedd constituencies; principal council, electoral ward or community boundaries; taxes; or services. There is no requirement that the 40 Senedd constituencies be reviewed following any review of Westminster constituencies.



Chapter 2:

Preparing for the review

Electorate data for the 2023 Review

- 2.1 The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended) (which we refer to in this guide as ‘the Act’) specifies which electorate figures are to be used by the Commission when carrying out a review. For the 2023 Review, the Commission is required to use the total number of persons whose names appeared on the published electoral register on 2 March 2020.
- 2.2 The Commission has obtained these electorate figures for the 2023 Review from the Office for National Statistics, and has published these figures on its website – www.bcomm-wales.gov.uk/reviews/01-21/2023-review.

The distribution of constituencies

- 2.3 The Act states that there is to be a fixed number of 650 constituencies for the whole of the UK. The Act also provides a mathematical formula to determine how many constituencies should be allocated to each of the 4 parts of the UK (Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland), based on the electorate figures referred to above.
- 2.4 In accordance with that formula, the number of constituencies allocated to Wales under the Act is 32. Welsh constituencies must be wholly within Wales, and cannot include areas of another part of the UK.

Relevant local government boundaries

- 2.5 The Act says that the Commission may take into account “local government boundaries” as it develops its proposals for parliamentary constituencies. The Act defines local government boundaries in Wales as the boundaries of counties, county boroughs, electoral wards, communities and community wards that existed or were “prospective” on the “review date”.
- 2.6 For the 2023 Review, this means the local government boundaries referred to are those that were in force on 1 December 2020 (since there were no prospective boundaries in Wales on that date). These local government boundaries can be found in the Ordnance Survey’s BoundaryLine mapping product (October 2020 version available at www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/business-government/products/boundaryline).

Chapter 3:

Developing proposals – requirements and policy

Statutory electorate range

- 3.1 Schedule 2 to the Act sets out a number of Rules (reproduced in Appendix B to this guide) that are relevant to the development of proposals for individual constituencies. Foremost among these is Rule 2, which provides that – apart from 5 specified exceptions in the UK – every constituency must have an electorate that is no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the ‘UK electoral quota’. The UK electoral quota for the 2023 Review is, to the nearest whole number, 73,393.
- 3.2 The only Welsh constituency that is not subject to the operation of the UK electoral quota is Ynys Môn.
- 3.3 Therefore, apart from the Ynys Môn, every constituency in Wales must have an electorate as at the review date that is no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062. We refer to these parameters as the ‘statutory electorate range’.

Other statutory factors

- 3.4 Rule 5 in Schedule 2 to the Act specifies a number of other factors that the Commission may take into account as it develops proposals and recommendations for parliamentary constituencies, specifically:
- special geographical considerations, including, in particular, the size, shape and
 - accessibility of a constituency
 - local government boundaries that existed or were prospective on 1 December 2020 (see 2.5 above)
 - boundaries of existing constituencies
 - any ‘local ties’ that would be broken by changes in constituencies
 - the inconveniences attendant on such changes.

Special geographical considerations

- 3.5 The Commission considers that special geographical considerations that may have an impact on the boundaries of constituencies will primarily relate to physical geography such as mountains, hills, lakes, rivers, estuaries and islands, rather than to human or social geography. Matters of culture, history, socio-economics and other possible aspects of non-physical geography are more likely to arise as issues when considering the separate factor of local ties.

Local government boundaries and local ties

- 3.6 The Commission may take into account local government boundaries in developing its proposals and recommendations for parliamentary constituencies. These include both the external boundaries of principal councils, and their internal electoral ward, community, or community ward boundaries. More information about the local government boundaries that are relevant for these purposes is provided in Chapter 2 of this guide.
- 3.7 While the Commission will seek to take account of principal council external boundaries as far as practicable, it may nevertheless frequently be necessary to cross these boundaries to form constituencies that comply with the statutory electorate range.

3.8 The Commission will use electoral wards as the basic building blocks for designing constituencies.

3.9 The Commission will seek to avoid dividing electoral wards between constituencies. Electoral wards are well-defined and well-understood units, which are generally indicative of areas that have a broad community of interest. However, there may be circumstances in which it will be desirable to divide electoral wards, particularly when considering all the factors identified in Rules 2 to 5.

3.10 The Commission considers that existing community boundaries are likely to have been created in recognition of local ties, and are therefore likely to reflect local ties. The Commission's policy is therefore not to divide existing communities when it develops proposals and recommendations for parliamentary constituencies, unless there is no other available solution that would enable compliance with the statutory electorate range.

Boundaries of existing constituencies

3.11 The Commission intends to respect existing constituencies where it is possible to do so. However, this does not mean that an existing constituency should be considered to be protected from change simply because its electorate falls within the statutory electorate range. Nor does it mean that a constituency that falls only slightly outside the statutory range can necessarily expect to be only slightly amended to bring it within the statutory range. One of the effects of reducing the overall number of constituencies in Wales will be that existing constituencies with electorates within the statutory range may well need to be altered as a result of the need to comply with the requirements of the Act across Wales.

The inconveniences attendant on such changes

3.12 The Commission may take into account the inconveniences attendant on such changes, as set out in Rule 5 of Schedule 2 of the Act. The Commission is aware that the inconvenience of changes in Wales will be great due to the significant reduction in the number of constituencies in Wales that will result from the 2023 Review. This will mean that all existing constituencies (except for Ynys Mon) are very likely to be subject to a degree of change to enable the Commission to create a set of constituencies across the whole of Wales. The Commission will therefore try to reduce the inconvenience by creating constituencies that take into account local government boundaries and by using whole communities and whole electoral wards where possible.

Interplay of the considerations

3.13 The policy of the Commission is to consider all the factors listed in Rule 5 as far as possible, subject to the primacy of the statutory electorate range under Rule 2.

3.14 Although Welsh constituencies (other than the Isle of Anglesey) must comply with the statutory electorate range (as described in paragraph 3.3 above), the Act does not require the Commission to seek to create constituencies with electorates that are as close as possible to the UK electoral quota. Nor does the Commission consider it appropriate to pursue a policy objective of minimising divergence from the UK electoral quota. Such an objective would undermine the ability of the Commission to take properly into account the factors listed in Rule 5.

Therefore, for example, the Commission would prefer to recommend a constituency that had, say, a 4% variance from the UK electoral quota, but that respected existing electoral wards, in preference to an alternative that produced a constituency with only a 1% variance, but that would split existing electoral wards.

3.15 As far as possible, the Commission will seek to recommend constituencies:

- made up of whole electoral wards that are adjacent to each other
- that do not contain 'detached parts', i.e. where the only physical connection between one part of the constituency and the remainder would require passage through a different constituency.

Factors the Commission will not consider

Impact on future election results

3.16 The Commission is an independent and impartial body. As such, existing voting patterns and the prospective fortunes of political parties do not enter its considerations during a review.

New local government boundaries

3.17 The local government boundaries that the Commission may take into account are – as explained in Chapter 2 – those that existed in Wales on 1 December 2020 (since there were no 'prospective' boundaries in Wales on that date). Consequently, the Commission will not consider new local government boundaries that did not exist and had not been provided for by legislation on that date.

Changes to electorates after 2 March 2020

3.18 The Commission is required to work on the basis of the numbers of electors on the electoral register as at 2 March 2020. It is unable to take account of any alleged under-registration or over-registration of electors that may be claimed to have existed in particular areas as at that date.

Naming and designating constituencies

3.19 In making its recommendations, the Commission is also required by the Act to specify a name and designation for each proposed constituency. The Act contains little guidance on these points.

Naming

3.20 The Commission's policy on the naming of constituencies is that, if constituencies remain largely unchanged, the existing constituency name should usually be kept. In such cases, constituency names are likely to be changed only where there is good reason for change.

3.21 For a new constituency, the name should normally reflect that of the principal council or principal councils wholly or mainly contained in the constituency. However, if there is an objection to the name proposed and there is a suitable alternative name that generally commands greater local support, the Commission will usually recommend that alternative.

3.22 The Commission adopts compass point names (North, South, East, West) when there is not a more suitable name. The compass point reference used will generally form a prefix in cases where a constituency name refers to the principal council area or former district council but a suffix where the rest of the name refers to a population centre. Examples of existing constituencies that demonstrate this principle are 'Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire' and 'Swansea West'.

3.23 The Commission considers that it is appropriate for each constituency in Wales to have alternative names in English and Welsh. This reflects the official status of the Welsh language in Wales. The Commission will therefore make recommendations that official alternatives should be provided in Welsh and English. Where a constituency name is acceptable in both Welsh and English there will be no alternative.

Designating

- 3.24 The Act also requires that each constituency be designated as either a ‘county constituency’ or a ‘borough constituency’. The Commission considers that, as a general principle, where constituencies contain more than a small rural element they should normally be designated as county constituencies. In other cases, they should be designated as borough constituencies. The designation is suffixed to the constituency name and is usually abbreviated: BC for borough constituency and CC for county constituency.

Welsh language

- 3.25 The Commission is committed to the use of the Welsh and English languages on a basis of equality and welcomes correspondence in either language.
- 3.26 Simultaneous translation facilities will be provided at the public hearings (See Chapter 4).
- 3.27 The Commission will publish all its guidance documents, reports and the representations it receives throughout the 2023 Review in both Welsh and English on its website.

The impact of the legislation

- 3.28 As has been described above, the Act will mean that the number of constituencies in Wales will be reduced from 40 to 32, and every constituency (other than the Isle of Anglesey, as noted in paragraph 3.2) must have an electorate that is no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the UK electoral quota. The result will be a fundamental change to the existing pattern of constituencies in Wales.
- 3.29 The Commission wishes to make clear from the outset that, given the relatively small number of electors in rural parts of Wales, it is inevitable that there will be some geographically large constituencies. Also, due to the limited numbers of electors in some of the South Wales Valleys areas, constituencies may be formed that encompass more than one valley. Furthermore, in some areas the division of principal councils may be unavoidable. Compromises will need to be made in order to create a pattern of constituencies across Wales that adheres to the Rules of the legislation. It is important to understand that even small changes to one constituency may impact on adjacent areas and possibly the whole of Wales.

Chapter 4:

Developing proposals

- 4.1 The 2023 Review will follow a detailed process laid down by the Act. That process involves the development of proposals by the Commission, followed by opportunities for individuals and organisations to submit written representations and to make oral representations at public hearings.
- 4.2 At the conclusion of the process, the Commission will prepare a final report containing its recommendations for parliamentary constituencies in Wales. Those recommendations will then be implemented by a process in Parliament, and will take effect at the following UK general election.

The importance of participation

- 4.3 The Commission wishes to encourage individuals and organisations interested in its proposals for their area to make written or oral representations to the Commission, whether for or against the proposals.
- 4.4 Those who give their views – whether orally or in writing – are requested to say whether they approve of, or object to, the Commission’s proposals. Objectors are particularly advised to say what they propose in place of the Commission’s proposals. An objection accompanied by a viable counterproposal is likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection. In this respect – and particularly in light of the importance of the statutory electorate range – a counterproposal addressing the composition of each constituency in an area will generally be viewed as more persuasive than a proposal for the composition of only one constituency that does not address any knock-on effects on the electorate figures of other constituencies.
- 4.5 Individuals and organisations are particularly encouraged to make representations at the appropriate stage of the statutory process. For example, people who do not submit representations in support of the Commission’s initial proposals may find that the Commission subsequently publishes, in the light of objections received from others, revised proposals or final recommendations that they do not support. It is therefore important (by way of example) that people who support the Commission’s initial proposals should say so during the initial consultation period (which is described further below).
- 4.6 Full and timely participation in the 2023 Review will help the Commission to understand local opinion on its proposals more accurately and will increase the likelihood that the Commission’s final recommendations will be generally acceptable to the majority of those who will have to live and work with them.
- 4.7 If you would like to be informed when the Commission publishes documentation in relation to the 2023 Review, you can sign up for updates on our website.

Preparation of initial proposals

- 4.8 At the start of the statutory process, the Commission will prepare its initial proposals for parliamentary constituencies in Wales.
- 4.9 The Commission will develop its initial proposals in the light of the rules and factors referred to in Chapter 3 of this guide. The Commission will not use a single, predetermined geographic starting point for the development of its proposals. Instead, a wide range of options will be considered. Only after the consideration of a number of schemes of constituencies for the whole of Wales will the Commission decide on initial proposals.

Publication of initial proposals

- 4.10 When the Commission has decided on its initial proposals, it will publish the proposals and an accompanying report on its website, together with detailed information about how and when views on those proposals can be submitted. At the same time, it will send hard copies of the proposals to various local ‘places of deposit’, where the public may view the proposals.
- 4.11 The places of deposit where the public may inspect the proposals will usually be the offices of the relevant local authority, although other places such as public libraries may be used, particularly in the areas of geographically larger constituencies. A full list of places of deposit will be published on the Commission’s website at the same time as the proposals.
- 4.12 In addition to the initial proposals and its report on them, to help the public better understand the proposals, the Commission will provide at places of deposit and on its website detailed maps showing, among other information, the proposed name, designation and boundary of each proposed constituency.
- 4.13 To publicise the initial proposals, the Commission will embark on an advertising campaign focused on bringing the proposals and the opportunity to submit views on the proposals to the attention of the public. The Commission will also send copies of its proposals to interested parties (for example, principal councils and MPs). Principal councils and the House of Commons Library will also receive copies of the detailed maps.

Initial consultation period

- 4.14 Following publication of the Commission’s initial proposals, there will be an 8-week period during which written representations can be made to the Commission in relation to the initial proposals. This is known as the ‘initial consultation period’.
- 4.15 Details of how individuals and organisations can make written representations during the initial consultation period, including the last date for receipt of representations, will be published alongside the initial proposals themselves. It is crucial that representations are submitted in enough time to ensure that they are received within the initial consultation period.

Secondary consultation period

- 4.16 As soon as possible after the end of the initial consultation period, the Commission will publish all the representations it receives during that period on its website in both Welsh and English.
- 4.17 Once the representations have been published, there will be a further 6-week period during which people can submit written comments on the representations received by the Commission during the initial consultation period. This further 6-week period is known as the ‘secondary consultation period’.
- 4.18 Therefore, during the secondary consultation period comments can be submitted to the Commission challenging or supporting assertions made by others in previous written representations.

- 4.19 During this period the Commission must also hold public hearings.

Public hearings

- 4.20 Legislation requires the Commission to hold at least 2 and no more than 5 public hearings in Wales. The public hearings in Wales will concern the Commission’s initial proposals for Wales and will between them cover the whole of Wales.
- 4.21 The details of locations and dates for the hearings will be announced on the Commission’s website .
- 4.22 A public hearing is intended to provide an opportunity for people to make oral representations about any of the Commission’s initial proposals (including the naming of constituencies) and to present any counterproposals.
- 4.23 Representations at each public hearing are likely to focus on proposals for the area closest to the location of the hearing, but representations may be made that relate to any part of Wales.
- 4.24 Each hearing will be chaired by an independent Assistant Commissioner, who controls proceedings. The chair may decide on the order in which participants are invited to speak, the time allotted to individual speakers, and (if necessary due to shortage of time) on who is permitted to speak. The chair will also control questioning of individuals making representations and others at the hearing.
- 4.25 Once details of the dates and locations of the public hearings have been published, individuals wishing to make oral representations at one of the hearings are encouraged to give advance notice to the Commission. Details of how to request a speaking slot at a public hearing will be published following the initial consultation period. The Commission will try to accommodate individual requests for a particular time or date but it cannot guarantee that this will be possible.
- 4.26 The duration of speaking slots may be limited, so representations should ideally be clear, concise, and focused. Those intending to speak at a public hearing may also need to be reasonably flexible about when exactly they are asked to start and finish their representations.
- 4.27 To aid the Assistant Commissioner in managing the hearing, it is likely to be helpful if a synopsis or outline of the points each speaker wishes to make is provided in advance. For practical reasons, the Commission will also need advance notice and supply of any visual aids to be used during the making of oral representations at public hearings.
- 4.28 As far as possible, details of the procedures to be followed at public hearings will be published in advance of the hearings.

4.29 The public hearings will be live-streamed on the Commission’s website with closed caption and simultaneous translation options available.

4.30 The Commission is considering the alternative arrangements that it will need to put in place should the current COVID-19 restrictions still be in place at the time of its public hearings. More information will be given on any alternative arrangements in due course.

Consideration of representations and revised proposals

4.31 Following the Commission’s public hearings, Assistant Commissioners will consider all the written representations received during the initial consultation period and the secondary consultation period, as well as all oral representations made at public hearings during the secondary consultation period. A ‘lead’ Assistant Commissioner will then write a report for the Commission, summarising and considering the representations and recommending whether – and, if so, how – the Commission’s initial proposals should be revised in the light of those representations.

4.32 The Commission will consider the report and determine whether and to what extent revisions should be made to its initial proposals.

Third consultation period

4.33 After the end of the secondary consultation period, the Commission will publish on its website all the written representations received during the secondary consultation period, together with transcripts of its public hearings in both Welsh and English.

4.34 Once these representations and transcripts have been published there will be a further 4-week period during which individuals and organisations can submit written comments in relation to representations made at the Commission’s public hearings. Comments may be made challenging or supporting assertions and arguments made at the hearings.

4.35 This further 4-week period is known as the ‘third consultation period’.

4.36 If, following the secondary consultation period, the Commission decides to revise its initial proposals, it will also publish its revised proposals, together with an accompanying report, before the start of the third consultation period. Any revised proposals and accompanying materials will be published on the Commission’s website and sent to local places of deposit in the same manner described in paragraphs 4.10 to 4.12 above.

4.37 Representations in relation to any revised proposals can be made during the 4 weeks of the third consultation period. However, there are no public hearings in relation to revised proposals, nor does the Act provide for a subsequent opportunity to make representations in response to the representations of others.

4.38 The Commission will publish all the written representations received during the third consultation period in relation to any revised proposals in both Welsh and English on the Commission’s website at the same time as it publishes its final recommendations.

Final recommendations and report

4.39 After the end of the third consultation period the Commission will consider what final recommendations to make for parliamentary constituencies in Wales. The Commission will take into account all written representations received during the initial consultation period, the secondary consultation period and the third consultation period (including in relation to any revised proposals published by the Commission prior to the third consultation period) and all representations made at the Commission’s public hearings. The manner in which a representation was made (whether orally or in writing) will not influence the weight that the Commission gives to that representation when considering its final recommendations.

4.40 Once the Commission has decided on its final recommendations for Wales, it will then prepare and submit a formal written report to the Speaker of the House of Commons by 1 July 2023. The report, which will be published by the Commission once the Speaker has laid it before Parliament, will contain a description of the Commission’s review, a description of the Commission’s final recommendations, and a set of maps to illustrate the existing constituencies and those recommended by the Commission.

4.41 The submission of the formal final report will conclude the Commission’s role in the review process. The procedure for implementing recommended constituencies is the responsibility of the United Kingdom Government and Parliament and is set out in the next chapter.

Chapter 5:

After the final report

Parliamentary procedure

- 5.1 After the Speaker has received the Commission's final report, he or she must lay it before Parliament. Once reports from all 4 UK Boundary Commissions have been laid before Parliament, the Secretary of State or the Minister for the Cabinet Office must submit to Her Majesty in Council a draft of an Order in Council for giving effect to the recommendations in the reports.
- 5.2 In preparing that draft, the Government may not modify the recommendations of any of the Parliamentary Boundary Commissions, unless it has been expressly requested to do so (in writing and with reasons) by the relevant Parliamentary Boundary Commission.
- 5.3 After the Order in Council has been made, the new constituencies will take effect at the next general election. Any by-elections held in the meantime must be held on the basis of the old (existing) constituencies.

Appendix A:

Constitution of the commission

In accordance with Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended).

1. **Chair**
The Speaker of the House of Commons is the Chair of each of the 4 Boundary Commissions. This is an ex officio appointment and the Speaker generally plays no part in the substantive work of the Commission.
2. **Three other members**
 - i.) The Deputy Chair who presides over the Commission's meetings, is a judge of the High Court appointed by the Lord Chancellor.
 - ii.) Two other members are appointed by the UK Government.
Current membership of the Commission can be found on the website.
3. **Two assessors** (available to provide technical advice and support as necessary)
 - i.) The Statistics Board.
 - ii.) The Director General of the Ordnance Survey.
4. **Secretary**
The secretary is appointed by the UK Government.
5. **Assistant Commissioners**
The UK Government may, at the request of the Commission, appoint one or more Assistant Commissioners to assist the Commission in the discharge of their functions. Assistant Commissioners appointed may, for example, serve as Chairs at the public hearings.

Rules For Constituencies

(Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended))

- Number of constituencies**
- 1 The number of constituencies in the United Kingdom shall be 650.
- Electorate per constituency**
- 2 (1) The electorate of any constituency shall be –
- no less than 95% of the United Kingdom electoral quota, and
 - no more than 105% of that quota.
- (2) This rule is subject to rules 4(2), 6(3) and 7.
- (3) In this Schedule the ‘United Kingdom electoral quota’ means – $U/645$ where U is the electorate of the United Kingdom minus the electorate of the constituencies mentioned in rule 6.
- Allocation of constituencies to parts of the United Kingdom**
- 3 (1) Each constituency shall be wholly in one of the 4 parts of the United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland).
- (2) The number of constituencies in each part of the United Kingdom shall be determined in accordance with the allocation method set out in rule 8.
- Area of constituencies**
- 4 (1) A constituency shall not have an area of more than 13,000 square kilometres.
- (2) A constituency does not have to comply with rule 2(1) (a) if –
- it has an area of more than 12,000 square kilometres, and
 - the Boundary Commission concerned is satisfied that it is not reasonably possible for the constituency to comply with that rule.
- Factors**
- 5 (1) A Boundary Commission may take into account, if and to such extent as it thinks fit –
- special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency,
 - local government boundaries that exist, or are prospective, on the review date,
 - boundaries of existing constituencies,
 - any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies, and
 - the inconveniences attendant on such changes.
- (1A) In the case of a local government boundary that is prospective on the review date, it is that boundary rather than any existing boundary that it replaces, that may be taken into account under sub-paragraph (1)(b).
[...]
- (3) This rule has effect subject to rules 2 and 4.

- Protected constituencies**
- 6 (1) There shall be 2 constituencies in the Isle of Wight.
- (2) There shall continue to be –
- a constituency named Orkney and Shetland, comprising the areas of the Orkney Islands Council and the Shetland Islands Council,
 - a constituency named Na h-Eileanan an Iar, comprising the area of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. and
 - a constituency named Ynys Môn, comprising the area of the Isle of Anglesey County Council.
- (3) Rule 2 does not apply to these constituencies.
- [...]
- The allocation method**
- 8 (1) The allocation method referred to in rule 3(2) is as follows.
- (2) The first constituency shall be allocated to the part of the United Kingdom with the greatest electorate.
- (3) The second and subsequent constituencies shall be allocated in the same way, except that the electorate of a part of the United Kingdom to which one or more constituencies have already been allocated is to be divided by – $2C+1$ where C is the number of constituencies already allocated to that part.
- (4) Where the figure given by sub-paragraph (3) above is the same for 2 or more parts of the United Kingdom, the part to which a constituency is to be allocated shall be the one with the smaller or smallest actual electorate.
- (5) This rule does not apply to the constituencies mentioned in rule 6, and accordingly–
- the electorate of England shall be treated for the purposes of this rule as reduced by the electorate of the constituencies mentioned in rule 6(1),
 - the electorate of Scotland shall be treated for the purposes of this rule as reduced by the electorate of the constituencies mentioned in rule 6(2)(a) and (b), and
 - the electorate of Wales shall be treated for the purposes of this rule as reduced by the electorate of the constituency mentioned in rule 6(2)(c).
- Interpretation**
- 9 (1) This rule has effect for the purposes of this Schedule.
- (2) Subject to sub-paragraph (2A), the ‘electorate’ of the United Kingdom, or of a part of the United Kingdom or a constituency, is the total number of persons whose names appear on the relevant version of a register of parliamentary electors in respect of addresses in the United Kingdom, or in that part or that constituency.
- For this purpose the relevant version of a register is the version that is required by virtue of subsection (1) of section 13 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to be published no later than the review date, or would be so required but for –
- any power under that section to prescribe a later date, or
 - subsection (1A) of that section.
- (2A) In relation to a report under section 3(1) that a Boundary Commission is required (by section 3(2)) to submit before 1 July 2023, the ‘electorate’ of the United Kingdom, or of a part of the United Kingdom or a constituency, is the total number of persons whose names appear on a register of parliamentary electors (maintained under section 9 of the Representation of the People Act 1983) in respect of addresses in the United Kingdom, or in that part or that constituency, as that register has effect on 2 March 2020.

- (3) ‘Local government boundaries’ are –
- in England, the boundaries of counties and their electoral divisions, districts and their wards, London boroughs and their wards and the City of London,
 - in Wales, the boundaries of counties, county boroughs, electoral divisions, communities and community wards,
 - in Scotland, the boundaries of local government areas and the electoral wards into which they are divided under section 1 of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004, and
 - in Northern Ireland, the boundaries of wards.
- (3A) A local government boundary is ‘prospective’ on a particular date if, on that date –
- it is specified in a provision of primary or secondary legislation, but
 - that provision is not yet in force for all purposes.
- (3B) For that purpose –
- ‘primary legislation’ means –
 - an Act of Parliament,
 - an Act of the Scottish Parliament,
 - an Act of Senedd Cymru, or
 - Northern Ireland legislation, and
 - ‘secondary legislation’ means an instrument made under primary legislation.
- (4) ‘Ordinary council-election day’ is –
- in relation to England and Wales, the ordinary day of election of councillors for local government areas,
 - in relation to Scotland, the day on which the poll is held at ordinary elections of councillors for local government areas, and
 - in relation to Northern Ireland, the day of an election for any district council (other than an election to fill a casual vacancy).
- (5) The ‘review date’, in relation to a report under section 3(1) of this Act that a Boundary Commission is required (by section 3(2)) to submit before a particular date, is –
- 1 December 2020 in the case of a report required to be submitted before 1 July 2023, and
 - in the case of a report required to be submitted before any other particular date, the date which is 2 years and 10 months before that date.
- (For example, 1 December 2028 in the case of a report required to be submitted before 1 October 2031).
- (6) ‘The United Kingdom electoral quota’ has the meaning given by rule 2(3).
- (7) A reference in rule 6(2)(a) or (b) to an area is to the area as it existed on the coming into force of Part 2 of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011, and the reference in rule 6(2)(c) to the area of the Isle of Anglesey County Council is to the area as it existed on the coming into force of the Schedule to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020.

Appendix C:

Glossary and abbreviations

The Act	The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended).
Assessor	Statutorily appointed technical adviser to the Commission, being either the Statistics Board or the Director General of the Ordnance Survey.
Assistant Commissioner	Person appointed by the UK Government at the request of the Commission to assist the Commission in the discharge of its functions.
Borough constituency – Abbreviated to BC	Parliamentary constituency containing a predominantly urban area.
Community (areas and wards)	The whole of Wales is divided into community areas. Many community areas have community or town councils. Where a community area has a community or town council, then these areas may be divided into wards for electoral purposes. The electoral wards of Wales are created using these community areas (and wards) as their building blocks.
County constituency – Abbreviated to CC	Parliamentary constituency containing a significant rural element.
Designation	Classification as either a borough constituency or as a county constituency.
Electoral quota	The average number of electors per constituency in the United Kingdom, calculated by dividing the total electorate of the United Kingdom by 645 (the number of parliamentary constituencies for the United Kingdom minus those with specific exemptions).
Electoral ward	The areas into which principal council areas in Wales are divided for the purpose of electing members of the principal council; previously referred to as electoral divisions.
Electorate	The number of registered parliamentary electors in a given area.
Final recommendations	The recommendations contained in the Commission’s report to the Speaker of the House of Commons at the end of a review under the Act.
Initial consultation period	A designated period of 8 weeks within which individuals and organisations may make written representations to the Commission in relation to its initial proposals.
Initial proposals	The initial proposals for parliamentary constituencies in Wales that the Commission will publish during the 2023 Review.

Principal council

The single tier organ of local government responsible for all or almost all local government functions within its area, which in Wales replaced the two tier system of county councils and district councils: a county council, or a county borough council.

Public hearing

Formal opportunity in a given area for people to make oral representations in relation to the Commission’s proposals, chaired normally by an Assistant Commissioner. There must be at least 2 and no more than 5 public hearings in Wales, and each must be completed within 2 days.

Representations

Views and arguments provided by individuals or organisations to the Commission in relation to its proposals, either for or against them, including counterproposals and petitions.

Revised proposals

Revised proposals for parliamentary constituencies in Wales that may be published by the Commission after the end of the secondary consultation period.

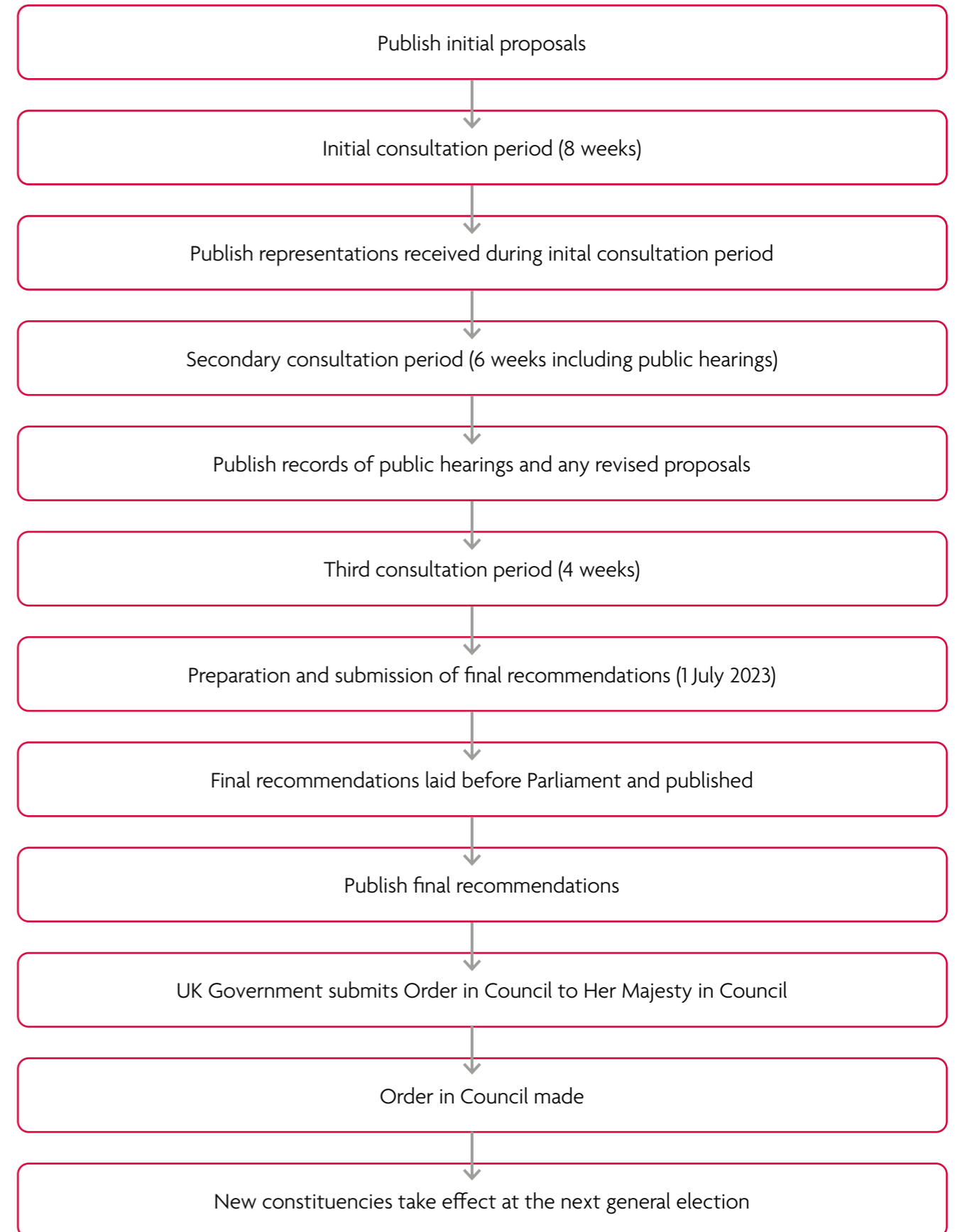
Secondary consultation period

A designated period of 6 weeks during which individuals and organisations may submit written representations to the Commission in relation to representations previously submitted during the initial consultation period, and during which public hearings will be held.

Third consultation period

A designated period of 4 weeks during which individuals and organisations may submit written representations to the Commission in relation to oral representations that were made during public hearings, and in relation to any revised proposals that the Commission may publish.

Appendix D: Process flow chart





**Comisiwn Ffniâu
i Gymru**

**Boundary Commission
for Wales**

The Commission welcomes correspondence, e-mails and telephone calls either in English or Welsh.

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