



Initial proposals for new constituency boundaries: England

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The Boundary Commission for England published its initial proposals for 502 new English constituencies on 13 September 2011. This note examines how the initial proposals would change the existing map of constituencies. It looks at the extent to which proposed constituencies can be identified with existing seats, including which seats remain unchanged, and which existing constituencies would be most affected by the proposals.

Library Standard Note [Constituency boundaries: the sixth general review](#) discusses the background to the current review of constituency boundaries and also includes information on the public consultation that the Boundary Commissions must undertake. Library Standard Note [Sizes of constituency electorates](#) contains statistics on the electorate of existing constituencies, including regional variations and the deviation in electorate sizes from the UK Electoral Quota of 76,641.

Maps showing the proposed constituency boundaries in each region and maps for individual proposed constituencies can be viewed on the [Boundary Commission for England's website](#). Factors considered by the Boundary Commission for England in developing its proposals are explained in [A Guide to the 2013 Review](#), also available on the Commission's website.

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Contents

- 1 Introduction 3**
 - 1.1 Reduction in seats 3
- 2 Extent of change 4**
 - 2.1 Changes to existing constituencies 4
 - 2.2 Constituencies remaining unchanged 6
 - Map: constituencies left unchanged 7
 - 2.3 Index of change 8
 - Map: Index of change of proposed constituencies 9
- 3 Local authority boundaries 10**
- 4 Electorate size 12**
 - 4.1 Deviation from electoral quota 12
 - 4.2 Largest and smallest electorates 13
- 5 Area of proposed constituencies 14**
- 6 Partisan effects of boundary changes 15**
- 7 List of proposed constituencies 16**

1 Introduction

The Boundary Commission for England published its initial proposals for 502 new English constituencies on 13 September 2011, as part of the Sixth Periodic Review of constituency boundaries. Generally the number of electors in any new constituency must be within 5% of the UK Electoral Quota of 76,641¹, based on the electorate at 1 December 2010, under the terms of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act. The constituencies proposed by the Boundary Commission for England are all wholly contained within regional boundaries and all contain a whole number of wards², but in some instances the proposed constituency crosses local authority boundaries or geographical features such as rivers.

The Boundary Commission is required to make its final recommendations to the Government by October 2013 and, subject to Parliamentary approval, the final recommendations will be implemented at the next General Election.

Provisional proposals for constituencies in Northern Ireland, where the number of constituencies is being reduced from 18 to 16, were also published on 13 September 2011. The initial proposals of the Boundary Commission for Scotland are due to be published on 13 October 2011 while the Boundary Commission for Wales intends to publish its initial proposals in January 2012.

1.1 Reduction in seats

Currently there are 533 constituencies in England. This will be reduced to 502 as a result of the boundary review. 77 constituencies are left geographically unchanged in the proposals, but the reduction in the number of seats and the electoral parity requirement mean that many others would essentially disappear. There are also a number of proposed new constituencies that cannot be identified with any single existing constituency.

The region with the largest percentage reduction in seats is the North East which loses 3 of its 29 constituencies.

Table 1: Allocation of seats per region in Boundary Review

	Number of existing constituencies	Allocated number of constituencies	Reduction in seats	% change
England	533	502	31	6%
Eastern	58	56	2	3%
East Midlands	46	44	2	4%
London	73	68	5	7%
North East	29	26	3	10%
North West	75	68	7	9%
South East	84	83	1	1%
South West	55	53	2	4%
West Midlands	59	54	5	8%
Yorkshire and the Humber	54	50	4	7%

¹ Two Isle of Wight constituencies and the two Scottish constituencies of Na h-Eileanan an Iar and Orkney and Shetland are excepted from this requirement.

² The Boundary Commission has taken into account ward boundaries as they existed on 6 May 2010, although in some areas local government boundary reviews mean that the 2010 wards are no longer in use.

2 Extent of change

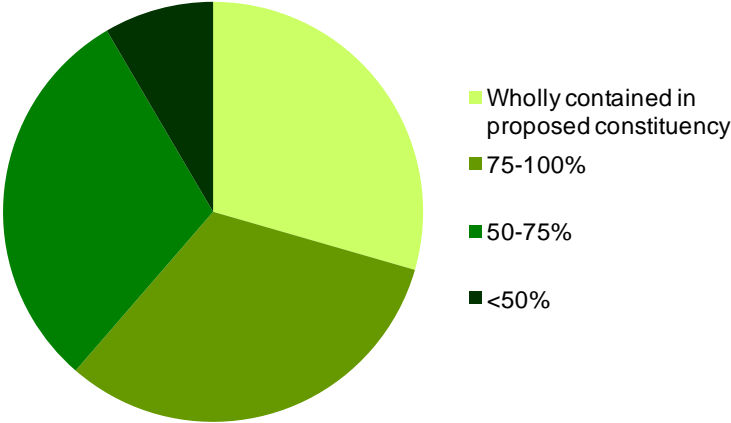
2.1 Changes to existing constituencies

Existing constituencies may be split up between several proposed new constituencies. 157 existing constituencies in England are wholly contained within a constituency that the Boundary Commission has proposed; another 170 would have over 75% of their electorate transferred to a single new constituency.

Table 2: Division of existing constituencies among proposed constituencies

Fraction of existing constituency contained within proposed constituency	Number of existing constituencies
Wholly contained in proposed constituency	157
75-100%	170
50-75%	161
<50%	45
Total	533

Chart 1: Division of existing seats into proposed seats
 Fraction of existing seat contained within a proposed seat



The proposals mean that for 45 existing seats, there is no proposed constituency to which a majority of the old seat’s electors have been transferred. These are listed in Table 3. For example, Wolverhampton South East constituency would see 30% of its electors transferred to the proposed Dudley West seat, 28% to the proposed Wolverhampton North seat, 27% to the proposed Wolverhampton South seat, with the remaining 15% transferred to Walsall West.

Table 3: Existing constituencies where less than half of electors are transferred to any proposed constituency

Existing constituency	Party	MP	Proposed constituency	Fraction of electorate going to proposed seat
Feltham and Heston	LAB	Alan Keen	Southall and Heston	50.0%
Birmingham, Selly Oak	LAB	Stephen McCabe	Birmingham Hall Green	49.9%
South West Wiltshire	CON	Andrew Murrison	Warmminster and Shaftesbury	49.9%
Leeds West	LAB	Rachel Reeves	Leeds West and Pudsey	49.8%
Dudley South	CON	Chris Kelly	Dudley West	49.7%
Truro and Falmouth	CON	Sarah Newton	Truro and St Austell	49.6%
Ellesmere Port and Neston	LAB	Andrew Miller	MerseyBanks	49.6%
Birmingham, Hodge Hill	LAB	Liam Byrne	Birmingham Ladywood	49.4%
Dagenham and Rainham	LAB	Jon Cruddas	Dagenham North	49.3%
Leeds North West	LD	Greg Mulholland	Leeds North	48.7%
Stockton South	CON	James Wharton	Sedgefield and Yarm	48.2%
Knowsley	LAB	George Howarth	Huyton and Halewood	48.2%
Leyton and Wanstead	LAB	John Cryer	Stratford	47.8%
North East Somerset	CON	Jacob Rees-Mogg	North East Somerset	47.8%
North Dorset	CON	Robert Walter	Warmminster and Shaftesbury	47.4%
Wealden	CON	Charles Hendry	Uckfield	47.3%
South West Norfolk	CON	Elizabeth Truss	Thetford and Swaffham	46.8%
Faversham and Mid Kent	CON	Hugh Robertson	Maidstone	46.6%
Beverley and Holderness	CON	Graham Stuart	Beverley	45.9%
Leeds Central	LAB	Hilary Benn	Leeds South and Outwood	45.6%
Sedgefield	LAB	Phil Wilson	Sedgefield and Yarm	45.5%
Rushcliffe	CON	Ken Clarke	Coalville and Keyworth	45.2%
Newcastle upon Tyne North	LAB	Catherine McKinnell	Newcastle upon Tyne North and Cramlington	44.8%
Stone	CON	Bill Cash	Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stone	44.4%
Lewisham West and Penge	LAB	Jim Dowd	Beckenham	44.1%
Newcastle upon Tyne East	LAB	Nicholas Brown	Newcastle upon Tyne East and Tynemouth	43.7%
Brigg and Goole	CON	Andrew Percy	Goole and Cottingham	43.6%
North Herefordshire	CON	Bill Wiggin	Malvern and Ledbury	43.4%
Oldham West and Royton	LAB	Michael Meacher	Ashton-under-Lyne	43.1%
Edmonton	LAB	Andy Love	Chingford and Edmonton	42.5%
Sheffield, Brightside and Hillsborough	LAB	David Blunkett	Sheffield Central	40.9%
South West Devon	CON	Gary Streeter	Tavistock and Plympton	40.8%
Wirral South	LAB	Alison McGovern	Hoylake and Neston	40.3%
Dulwich and West Norwood	LAB	Tessa Jowell	Brixton	40.1%
Mid Bedfordshire	CON	Nadine Dorries	North Bedfordshire	37.3%
Kenilworth and Southam	CON	Jeremy Wright	Kenilworth and Dorridge	36.8%
Streatham	LAB	Chuka Umunna	Clapham Common	36.5%
Ilford South	LAB	Mike Gapes	Ilford North	35.3%
Shipley	CON	Philip Davies	Bradford West	34.9%
Weaver Vale	CON	Graham Evans	Northwich	34.1%
Wyre and Preston North	CON	Ben Wallace	Lancaster	33.4%
Romsey and Southampton North	CON	Caroline Nokes	Eastleigh	32.9%
Mid Derbyshire	CON	Pauline Latham	Mid Derbyshire	32.9%
North Tyneside	LAB	Mary Glendon	Newcastle upon Tyne East and Tynemouth	30.5%
Wolverhampton South East	LAB	Pat McFadden	Dudley West	29.8%

2.2 Constituencies remaining unchanged

77 constituencies in England have been left unchanged under the Boundary Commission's proposals. 51 of these were won by the Conservatives at the 2010 General Election, 19 by Labour and 7 by the Liberal Democrats. Additionally, Basingstoke constituency (held by Conservative MP Maria Miller) would see a slight realignment of its boundaries but its electorate would be unaffected.

Table 4: Constituencies left unchanged in the Boundary Commission for England's initial proposals

North West			Yorkshire and the Humber		
Bury South	LAB	Ivan Lewis	Don Valley	LAB	Caroline Flint
Congleton	CON	Fiona Bruce	Doncaster Central	LAB	Rosie Winterton
Crew e and Nantwich	CON	Edw ard Timpson	Doncaster North	LAB	Edw ard Miliband
St Helens North	LAB	Dave Watts	Rother Valley	LAB	Kevin Barron
St Helens South and Whiston	LAB	Shaun Woodw ard	Scarborough and Whitby	CON	Robert Goodw ill
West Lancashire	LAB	Rosie Cooper			
Wigan	LAB	Lisa Nandy			
West Midlands			East Midlands		
Burton	CON	Andrew Griffiths	Ashfield	LAB	Gloria De Ptero
Cannock Chase	CON	Aidan Burley	Corby	CON	Louise Bagshawe
Coventry North East	LAB	Bob Ainsw orth	Gainsborough	CON	Edw ard Leigh
Coventry North West	LAB	Geoffrey Robinson	Grantham and Stamford	CON	Nick Boles
Coventry South	LAB	Jim Cunningham	Harborough	CON	Edw ard Garnier
North Shropshire	CON	Ow en Paterson	Leicester East	LAB	Keith Vaz
Shrew sbury	CON	Daniel Kaw czynski	Leicester South	LAB	Jon Ashw orth
South Staffordshire	CON	Gavin Williamson	Loughborough	CON	Nicky Morgan
Worcester	CON	Robin Walker	Rutland and Melton	CON	Alan Duncan
Wyre Forest	CON	Mark Garnier	South Holland and The Deepings	CON	John Hayes
London			East of England		
Bethnal Green and Bow	LAB	Rushanara Ali	Cambridge	LD	Julian Huppert
Chipping Barnet	CON	Theresa Villiers	Central Suffolk and North Ipsw ich	CON	Daniel Poulter
Hendon	CON	Matthew Offord	Colchester	LD	Bob Russell
Poplar and Limehouse	LAB	Jim Fitzpatrick	Ipsw ich	CON	Benedict Gummer
			Norw ich South	LD	Simon Wright
			South Suffolk	CON	Tim Yeo
			Suffolk Coastal	CON	Therese Coffey
			Thurrock	CON	Jackie Doyle-Price
			Waveney	CON	Peter Aldous
South West			South East		
Bristol North West	CON	Charlotte Leslie	Beaconsfield	CON	Dominic Grieve
Bristol South	LAB	Daw n Primarolo	Bracknell	CON	Philip Lee
Cheltenham	LD	Martin Horw ood	Eastbourne	LD	Stephen Lloyd
Exeter	LAB	Ben Bradshaw	Epsom and Ew ell	CON	Chris Grayling
North Devon	LD	Nick Harvey	Esher and Walton	CON	Dominic Raab
North Somerset	CON	Liam Fox	Gosport	CON	Caroline Dinenage
South Dorset	CON	Richard Drax	Hastings and Rye	CON	Amber Rudd
Sw indon North	CON	Justin Tomlinson	Maidenhead	CON	Theresa May
Sw indon South	CON	Robert Buckland	New bury	CON	Richard Benyon
Tew kesbury	CON	Laurence Robertson	Reading East	CON	Rob Wilson
Tiverton and Honiton	CON	Neil Parish	Reading West	CON	Alok Sharma
Torbay	LD	Adrian Sanders	Sittingbourne and Sheppey	CON	Gordon Henderson
West Dorset	CON	Oliver Letw in	South West Surrey	CON	Jeremy Hunt
Weston-Super-Mare	CON	John Penrose	Wantage	CON	Edw ard Vaizey
			Witney	CON	David Cameron
			Wokingham	CON	John Redw ood
			Worthing East and Shoreham	CON	Tim Loughton
			Worthing West	CON	Peter Bottomley

2.3 Index of change

The extent to which boundaries are changed can be quantified by calculating an 'index of change'. The index of change for a new constituency is equal to the number of electors being added to or removed from an existing 'base' constituency, as a proportion of the base constituency's total electorate.

Table 1 uses the index of change to provide a summary of changes in each region. The existing constituency which contributes most electors to the proposed constituency is designated as the base. In over 40% of proposed constituencies is the number of electors being added to or removed from the base constituency greater than half of the base electorate (i.e. the index of change is over 50%).

In 37 proposed constituencies the index of change exceeds 100%, meaning the number of electors leaving or joining the base is greater than the base electorate. In such cases the term 'base' is not very meaningful.

Table 5: Extent of change in constituency boundaries: index of change

Index of change	None	0-10	10-25	25-50	50-100	100+	Total
England	78	51	72	91	173	37	502
East Midlands	10	8	5	8	11	2	44
Eastern	9	9	10	9	17	2	56
London	4	0	10	14	33	7	68
North East	0	2	5	4	10	5	26
North West	7	2	9	16	29	5	68
South East	19	22	11	12	17	2	83
South West	14	6	9	8	12	4	53
West Midlands	10	1	5	12	21	5	54
Yorkshire and the Humber	5	1	8	8	23	5	50

These proposals represent a much more extensive revision of constituency boundaries than the boundary changes that came into force at the 2010 General Election. More than half of the constituencies proposed in the previous boundary review (those contested in May 2010) had an index of change of 10% or less. The index of change exceeded 50% in just 75 English constituencies.³

Index of change – Peterborough North, example

The proposed constituency of Peterborough North has the current Peterborough constituency as its base. 68,036 of Peterborough's 72,787 electors are transferred to Peterborough North, with the remaining 4,751 electors in Peterborough transferred to another new constituency. Peterborough North takes a further 9,660 electors from the old North West Cambridgeshire seat.

The index of change for the proposed constituency is 19.8%:

- Electorate of base = 72,787
- Electors added to base = 9,660
- Electors removed from base = 4,751
- Index of change = $(4,751+9,660)/72,787 = 19.8\%$

³ House of Commons Library, Research Paper10/02

3 Local authority boundaries

A list of proposed constituencies that would cross county boundaries is provided in Table 6. The list omits some constituencies that cross unitary authority boundaries (for example, none of the four unitary authorities comprising the former county of Cleveland contain a whole number of constituencies). 38 out of 68 proposed London constituencies cross the boundaries of London boroughs and are listed in Table 7.

Additionally some proposed constituencies cross rivers or other geographical features. Richmond and Twickenham constituency crosses the River Thames and Chingford and Edmonton crosses the River Lee. In the proposed Mersey Banks constituency, 6,965 electors live on the opposite side of the River Mersey to the other 73,406 electors.

Table 6: Proposed constituencies that cross county boundaries

East Midlands

Coalville and Keyworth	<i>Leicestershire</i>	<i>Nottinghamshire</i>
Daventry	<i>Leicestershire</i>	<i>Northamptonshire</i>

Eastern

Hemel Hempstead	<i>Central Bedfordshire</i>	<i>Hertfordshire</i>
Hitchin and Harpenden	<i>Central Bedfordshire</i>	<i>Hertfordshire</i>
Letchworth	<i>Central Bedfordshire</i>	<i>Hertfordshire</i>
Newmarket and Ely	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Suffolk</i>
Wisbech and Downham Market	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Norfolk</i>

North East

Consett and Barnard Castle	<i>Durham</i>	<i>Northumberland</i>
Hexham	<i>Northumberland</i>	<i>Tyne and Wear</i>
Newcastle upon Tyne North and Cramlington	<i>Northumberland</i>	<i>Tyne and Wear</i>
Sedgefield and Yarm	<i>Durham</i>	<i>Stockton-on-Tees</i>
Whitley Bay	<i>Northumberland</i>	<i>Tyne and Wear</i>

North West

Hazel Grove and Poynton	<i>Cheshire</i>	<i>Greater Manchester</i>
Hoylake and Neston	<i>Cheshire</i>	<i>Merseyside</i>
Mersey Banks	<i>Cheshire</i>	<i>Merseyside</i>
Rochdale North and Rawtenstall	<i>Greater Manchester</i>	<i>Lancashire</i>

South East

Buckingham	<i>Buckinghamshire</i>	<i>Milton Keynes</i>
The Weald	<i>East Sussex</i>	<i>Kent</i>

South West

Bideford and Bude	<i>Cornwall</i>	<i>Devon</i>
Kingswood and Keynsham	<i>Bath and North East Somerset</i>	<i>South Gloucestershire</i>
North East Somerset	<i>Bath and North East Somerset</i>	<i>Somerset</i>
Warminster and Shaftesbury	<i>Dorset</i>	<i>Wiltshire</i>

West Midlands

Kenilworth and Dorridge	<i>Warwickshire</i>	<i>West Midlands</i>
Ludlow and Leominster	<i>Herefordshire</i>	<i>Shropshire</i>
Malvern and Ledbury	<i>Herefordshire</i>	<i>Worcestershire</i>
Meriden	<i>Warwickshire</i>	<i>West Midlands</i>

Yorkshire and the Humber

Leeds North West and Nidderdale	<i>North Yorkshire</i>	<i>West Yorkshire</i>
Selby and Castleford	<i>North Yorkshire</i>	<i>West Yorkshire</i>
Wakefield East and Pontefract	<i>North Yorkshire</i>	<i>West Yorkshire</i>

The requirement that constituencies be within 5% of the electoral quota means that it is impossible for the following counties to contain a whole number of constituencies:⁴

Bath and North East Somerset	Dorset	Northamptonshire	South Gloucestershire
Bedfordshire	Durham	Northumberland	Warwickshire
Cleveland	Herefordshire	Shropshire	Wiltshire
Cornwall	Norfolk	Somerset	Worcestershire

Under the Boundary Commission's proposals, 2 of the 32 London boroughs contain a whole number of constituencies (Barnet and Tower Hamlets boroughs). However there are five other London boroughs which could accommodate a whole number of constituencies: Bromley, Greenwich, Hackney, Haringey and Waltham Forest.

Table 7: Proposed London constituencies crossing London Borough boundaries

Barking and Dagenham	<i>Barking and Dagenham</i>	<i>Redbridge</i>	
Battersea and Vauxhall	<i>Lambeth</i>	<i>Wandsworth</i>	
Bermondsey and Waterloo	<i>Lambeth</i>	<i>Southwark</i>	
Camden and Regent's Park	<i>Camden</i>	<i>Westminster</i>	
Chelsea and Fulham	<i>Hammersmith and Fulham</i>	<i>Kensington and Chelsea</i>	
Chingford and Edmonton	<i>Enfield</i>	<i>Waltham Forest</i>	
Clapham Common	<i>Lambeth</i>	<i>Wandsworth</i>	
Croydon Central and St Helier	<i>Croydon</i>	<i>Sutton</i>	
Dagenham North	<i>Barking and Dagenham</i>	<i>Haringey</i>	
Deptford and Greenwich	<i>Greenwich</i>	<i>Lewisham</i>	
Dulwich and Sydenham	<i>Lewisham</i>	<i>Southwark</i>	
East Ham	<i>Newham</i>	<i>Redbridge</i>	
Eltham	<i>Bexley</i>	<i>Greenwich</i>	
Feltham and Hayes	<i>Hillingdon</i>	<i>Hounslow</i>	
Finchley and Golders Green	<i>Barnet</i>	<i>Camden</i>	
Greenford and Northolt	<i>Ealing</i>	<i>Hillingdon</i>	
Hackney North	<i>Hackney</i>	<i>Haringey</i>	
Hammersmith and Acton	<i>Ealing</i>	<i>Hammersmith and Fulham</i>	
Hampstead and Kilburn	<i>Brent</i>	<i>Camden</i>	
Harrow	<i>Brent</i>	<i>Harrow</i>	
Hornsey and Wood Green	<i>Enfield</i>	<i>Haringey</i>	
Mitcham	<i>Lambeth</i>	<i>Merton</i>	
Paddington	<i>Kensington and Chelsea</i>	<i>Westminster</i>	
Purley and Carshalton	<i>Croydon</i>	<i>Sutton</i>	
Putney	<i>Merton</i>	<i>Wandsworth</i>	
Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner	<i>Harrow</i>	<i>Hillingdon</i>	
Southall and Heston	<i>Ealing</i>	<i>Hounslow</i>	
Stanmore	<i>Brent</i>	<i>Harrow</i>	
Stratford	<i>Newham</i>	<i>Waltham Forest</i>	
Streatham and Tooting	<i>Lambeth</i>	<i>Wandsworth</i>	
Sutton and Cheam	<i>Merton</i>	<i>Sutton</i>	
Teddington and Hanworth	<i>Hounslow</i>	<i>Richmond upon Thames</i>	
The City of London and Islington South	<i>Camden</i>	<i>City of London</i>	<i>Islington</i>
Tottenham	<i>Enfield</i>	<i>Haringey</i>	
Wembley and Perivale	<i>Brent</i>	<i>Ealing</i>	
Westminster and Kensington	<i>Kensington and Chelsea</i>	<i>Westminster</i>	
Willesden	<i>Brent</i>	<i>Hammersmith and Fulham</i>	
Wimbledon and New Malden	<i>Kingston upon Thames</i>	<i>Merton</i>	

⁴ Bath and North East Somerset UA and South Gloucestershire UA comprised the former county of Avon together with Bristol and North Somerset. A whole number of constituencies could be accommodated within Avon.

4 Electorate size

4.1 Deviation from electoral quota

The Boundary Commission for England is required to propose constituencies that have an electorate within 5% of the UK Electoral Quota of 76,641. Therefore constituency electorates must be at least 72,810 and at most 80,473, with the exception of the two constituencies on the Isle of Wight.

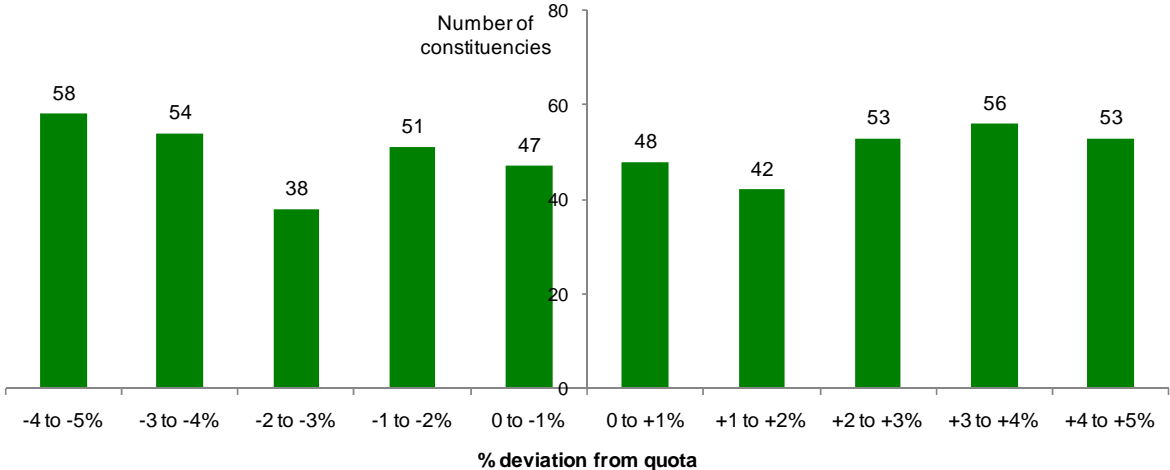
The electorates of proposed constituencies are distributed fairly uniformly across the permitted range – boundaries resulting in constituency electorates that are closer to the quota are not favoured over boundaries that result in electorates at the periphery of the permitted range.

Table 8: Deviation of electorates of proposed constituencies from the Electoral Quota

Deviation from Electoral Quota (+/-)	Number of constituencies
0-1%	95
1-2%	93
2-3%	91
3-4%	110
4-5%	111
>5%	2*
Total	500

* The electorates of the proposed Isle of Wight North and Isle of Wight South constituencies deviate from the Electoral Quota by -26.6% and -28.7% respectively.

Chart 2: Deviation of electorates of proposed constituencies from electoral quota



Note: Chart excludes the proposed Isle of Wight North and Isle of Wight South constituencies

4.2 Largest and smallest electorates

Under the provisional proposals the largest constituency in England in terms of electorate would be Hackney North, with 80,473 electors at 1 December 2010. It comprises 67% of the existing Hackney North and Stoke Newington constituency, 30% of the existing Hackney South and Shoreditch constituency, and 11% of the existing Tottenham constituency.

Table 9: Proposed constituencies with largest electorates

	Proposed constituency	Region	Electorate
1	Hackney North	London	80,473
2	Colne Valley and Skelmanthorpe	Yorkshire and the Humber	80,466
3	New Forest West	South East	80,464
4	Croydon Central and St Helier	London	80,458
5	Rochdale North and Rawtenstall	North West	80,435

The constituencies with the smallest electorates are Isle of Wight South (54,671 electors) and Isle of Wight North (56,253 electors), which are excepted from the requirement to be within 5% of the electoral quota. The proposed Oldham and Saddleworth constituency has the minimum permissible electorate of 72,810.

Table 10: Proposed constituencies with smallest electorates

	Proposed constituency	Region	Electorate
1	Isle of Wight South	South East	54,671
2	Isle of Wight North	South East	56,253
3	Oldham and Saddleworth	North West	72,810
4	Wells	South West	72,822
5	Cheadle	North West	72,826

6 Partisan effects of boundary changes

There are no official figures for what the results of the 2010 General Election would have been if the proposed new constituency areas had been used. Some unofficial estimates have, however, already been made. Anthony Wells of [UK Polling Report](#) estimates that had the 2010 General Election been contested on the proposed boundaries, the Conservatives would have won 5 fewer seats, Labour 18 fewer seats, and the Liberal Democrats 7 fewer seats.⁶

One method of estimating notional results uses votes cast at local elections to estimate voting patterns at the General Election. The 2010 General Election result in an old base constituency is adjusted to take account of the votes in the local elections in the wards it is gaining or losing. To votes cast in the 2010 General Election in the old constituency is added or subtracted the estimated number of the votes that each of the three major parties received in those wards at the General election.

The number of votes in the relevant wards is estimated from the distribution of votes cast for each of the three main parties across all the wards making up the former constituency, at the 2010 or most recent local (district) elections. This is an attempt to reflect the relative party strength in gained or lost wards. Votes for other parties are assumed to be in proportion to the overall number of votes cast at the local election for the three main parties.

This is roughly the same method used by Michael Thrasher and Colin Rallings of the [Local Government Elections Centre](#) at the University of Plymouth,⁷ who have produced notional general election results for previous boundary reviews. Thrasher and Rallings are not producing notional results for the new constituencies until they are finalised.

⁶ <http://ukpollingreport.co.uk/blog/archives/4009>

⁷ <http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/pages/view.asp?page=16182>

