



BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

SPECIAL BRIEFING ON IMPLICATIONS FOR LONDON CONSTITUENCIES

SEPTEMBER 2011

- London set to lose five seats – down from 73 to 68
- All Parliamentary constituencies proposed electorate to be between 72k and 80k
- Only four London seats completely unaffected
- Notional calculation suggests: Labour -5, Conservatives +1; Liberal Democrats -1
- Many seats could overlap borough boundaries

Big changes loom over the capital after the completion of the first stage of the 2013 boundary review saw initial proposals published and opened up for consultation.

In February 2011 UK Parliament passed legislation stating that all four boundary commissions covering the UK (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) must conduct a review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries to make recommendations to the Government by October 2013.

The Government ordered the review to even out the number of voters in each constituency. It requires that every constituency must have an electorate that is no smaller than 72,810 and no larger than 80,473.

These proposals signal a marked change from the Parliamentary boundary changes made ahead of the 2010 General Election. Then, the plans were introduced with the main ambition of aligning Parliamentary constituencies within local authority boundaries. This previous aim has been surrendered to ensure that all MP seats across the country reflect a similar size of electorate.

The table below gives an overview of a reduction in seats nationally broken down by region:

<i>Party</i>	<i>National Seats 2010</i>	<i>Proposed Seats 2013</i>	<i>+/-</i>
<i>England</i>	533	502	-31
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	18	16	-2
<i>Scotland</i>	59	52	-7
<i>Wales</i>	40	30	-10
<i>Total seats</i>	650	600	-50

Subject to approval, the proposals, which were published on 13 September, will have a huge impact on London with the 73 current constituencies becoming just 68. The previous boundary realignment took the number from 74 to 73 London constituencies.

Currently only 20 of the London's constituencies have electorates within 5% of an electoral quota of 76,641 voters. The electorates of 44 constituencies currently fall below that lower 5% limit and nine fall above the upper limit.

In order to "respect natural boundaries" and "achieve obvious practical groupings", the Boundary Commission for England has split London into three sub-regions – North East London; North, West and Central London; and South London.

The constituencies in each region are determined by the electorate of the combined boroughs. Richmond Park will become the only existing constituency divided between two of the newly formed sub-regions.



In London, four of the 73 existing constituencies are to remain unchanged. These are Bethnal Green and Bow and Poplar and Limehouse in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets; and Chipping Barnet and Hendon in the London Borough of Barnet.

Under the plans 38 constituencies will cross London borough boundaries with 37 containing parts of two London boroughs and one containing parts of two London boroughs and the whole of the City of London. The rest of the constituencies (30) are each to be contained within one London borough.

The first notional calculations have been made by electoral blogger Anthony Wells, who has published results for the proposed seats in London as follows:

Party	London Seats 2010	Notional after boundary changes	+/-
Conservative	28	29	+1
Labour	38	33	-5
Liberal Democrat	7	6	-1
Total seats	73	68	-5

It shows that Labour could notionally fare worse in the capital with a loss of five seats while the Liberal Democrats could lose one seat and the Conservatives could gain one seat.

The national consultation period started on 13 September and will run for 12 weeks until 5 December with the results set to be published in spring 2012. This consultation period in London will include five public hearings across the capital split into sub-regions of Central London (17-18 October), North West London (20-21 October), South East London (24-25 October), North East London (27-28 October) and South West London (31 October – 1 November). Towards the end of 2012 the revised proposals will be published and will again be consulted upon – this time with no public hearings.

Final recommendations will then be made by October 2013 and any recommendations made by the Boundary Commission for England are likely to be used for the first time at the General Election in 2015.



Fascinating analysis of boundary changes - and dangers of rushing to conclusions - by @polhomepulse <http://bit.ly/obB8dF> paulwaugh Paul Waugh

Round-up of the London sub-regions:

North East London sub-region

This region currently contains 20 constituencies of which seven have electorates within 5% of the electoral quota (Barking, Bethnal Green and Bow, Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Hackney South and Shoreditch, Hornchurch and Upminster, Hornsey and Wood Green, and Poplar and Limehouse). The proposed changes will see the number of constituencies reduced to 19 with all constituencies being changed except for Bethnal Green and Bow, and Poplar and Limehouse.

North, West and Central London sub-region

There are currently 25 whole constituencies and part of one other constituency (Richmond Park) in this region. Seven have electorates within 5% of the electoral quota (Brent Central, Chipping Barnet, Ealing North, Feltham and Heston, Hampstead and Kilburn, Hendon, and Twickenham). The proposals will see the number of constituencies fall to 24 with all constituencies being changed except Chipping Barnet and Hendon.

South London sub-region

This region currently contains 27 whole constituencies and part of one other constituency (Richmond Park). Five have electorates within 5% of the electoral quota (Battersea, Bermondsey and Old Southwark, Camberwell and Peckham, Croydon Central, and Vauxhall). The proposed changes will see a reduction to 25 constituencies with all being changed in some way.

If you would like details of specific Parliamentary constituencies within London, then please contact your account or research team at London Communications Agency.