

2023 Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are you conducting a review of Parliamentary constituencies?

We are responsible for reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries in Northern Ireland on the basis of rules laid down by Parliament. Along with the Boundary Commissions for England, Scotland and Wales, we are required to submit a formal report by 1st July 2023 on the basis of rules set out in the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended).

What happened to the 2018 Parliamentary boundary review?

The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 was passed in December 2020, bringing the 2018 Review to a close without implementation.

What are the changes brought about by the 2020 legislation?

The key changes brought about by the 2020 legislation are:

* 650 seats across the UK, compared to 600 in the 2018 Review (meaning NI retains its 18 seats);
* There are three periods of public consultation, rather than two;
* Public hearings now take place during the secondary consultation period rather than the first;
* The interval between reviews will be 8 years once the 2023 Review is completed, meaning the next review is currently anticipated to finish in 2031;
* Other changes include reintroduction of the ‘inconvenience’ Rule 5 factor and a change to the Parliamentary process after submission.

You can read the legislation at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/>.

How many constituencies will Northern Ireland have after the 2023 Review?

The number of constituencies in each of the four parts of the UK is worked out using a formula in the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended). On the basis of this formula, Northern Ireland has been allocated 18 seats, which is the same number as it has currently.

How can I take part in the Review process?

There are three statutory periods of public consultation during the 2023 Review. You can find information about the statutory consultation process in the Guide to the 2023 Review, which is available at <https://www.boundarycommission.org.uk/publications/guide-2023-review>.

Information about how to participate in the 2023 Review consultation process is available at <https://www.boundarycommission.org.uk/2023-review-parliamentary-constituencies>.

Will the consultation materials and other publications be available in alternative formats or other languages?

The Commission is keen to make its consultation as accessible as possible. If you require materials in a language other than English, or in a different format, please contact us to discuss your needs – our contact details are available at <https://www.boundarycommission.org.uk/contact-us>, or you can call us on 028 90527821.

**What base data is used for the 2023 Review?**

The Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 specifies that, for the 2023 Review, the electorate is the total number of persons whose names appeared on the electoral register at 2nd March 2020. It also specifies that the local government boundaries to be used are wards as at 1st December 2020. You can find more information about the statutory requirements in the Guide to the 2023 Review which is available at <https://www.boundarycommission.org.uk/publications/guide-2023-review>.

What effect will this review have on Assembly constituencies?

Section 33 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 provides that the boundaries of the Northern Ireland Assembly constituencies follow the same boundaries as the Parliamentary constituencies.

What software was used to develop the proposals?

The GIS software used to develop the proposals is ESRI ArcGIS. This is an off-the-shelf GIS product - more information about the software can be found at ESRI’s website.