

## **2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies Preparation for publication of Initial Proposals**

### **Action required**

1. The Commission is invited to note the preparations being made for publication of its Initial Proposals for constituencies scheduled on 14 October 2021 and comment on the draft materials.

### **Background**

2. The Initial Consultation is for an 8 week period. All of the consultation materials will be available online and will direct interested parties to the consultation site.
3. During previous reviews the Commission has aimed to consult simultaneously with the other Commissions to help publicise and gain interest in the reviews. For the 2023 Review the Commission will commence its consultation alone.
4. The Boundary Commission for England have completed their initial consultation, receiving approximately 35,000 responses. The Boundary Commission for Wales commenced the consultation on their initial proposals on 8 September 2021. The Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland expect to begin their consultation late October or early November 2021.

### **Consultation Portal**

5. Informed Solutions are currently developing the consultation site for the Commission. They have developed the same 2023 Review consultation site for Boundary Commission for England and Boundary Commission for Wales.

### **News Release**

6. A draft press release has been prepared. The news release includes a summary of each constituency. See Appendix A.
7. The Office for the Secretary of State for Scotland have provided a list of key media contacts for distributing the news release.

### **Publication Material - Booklet**

8. The Secretariat have developed a booklet summarising the Initial Proposals. There is some background information to the 2023 Review and maps of the proposed constituencies. See Appendix B.

### **Publication Material – Policy and Procedures Booklet**

9. The Policy and Procedures Booklet provides more detailed or technical information relating to the 2023 Review. The Secretariat have sought legal advice on this document. See Appendix C.

### **Publication Material - Display Posters and Display Points**

10. The Commission must display its proposals in each proposed constituency. 220 display points have been identified. Some locations will have limited opening times therefore the Commission's website will state "please check the building is open before visiting." Materials may have to be quarantined for a period after use. See Appendix D.
11. The policies and procedures booklet, initial proposals booklet and news release will be available at display points.

12. The Secretariat have developed a draft poster for use at display points. The poster directs users to the consultation site. See Appendix D.

#### **Other publication materials**

13. GIS shapefiles of the Initial Proposals and electorate data will be made available to download from the Commission's website.

#### **Advertising**

14. The Commission did not place any newspaper adverts during the 2018 Review.
15. The Secretariat plan to use social media advertising which has proven successful for reviews undertaken by Boundaries Scotland.
16. 2023 Review GIFs are currently being designed for our social media channels.

#### **Materials for MPs and Political Parties**

17. During previous reviews the Secretariat have hand-delivered proposals to MPs at Westminster, embargoed the day before.
18. Due to Covid restrictions the Secretariat will liaise with the House of Commons Vote Office to discuss distributing the materials to MPs.
19. MPs will be sent a map of existing constituencies, map(s) of proposed constituencies, policy and procedures booklet, news release and summary of the proposals.
20. Political parties, Councils and the House of Commons Library will receive all of the above and GIS data of the proposed boundaries and electorate data. The political parties have asked for 2 or 3 printed hard copies with large maps of the proposals.

#### **News conference**

21. During the 2018 UK Parliament Review the Commission held a news conference to explain its approach to the review and allow an opportunity for questions, as well as advance sight of the proposals under embargo.
22. The previous reviews, which were not implemented, recommended 52 and 53 constituencies respectively, a significant reduction from the existing number of constituencies, 59. The 2023 Review will recommend 57 constituencies. Therefore there may be less interest in the 2023 Review due to fewer changes.
23. The Boundary Commission for England and Boundary Commission for Wales both held a news conference but there was significant change in their respective areas.
24. The Commission is invited to consider the value in holding an online news conference.
25. The Commission could issue a news release and have a Commissioner or the Secretary available to answer any questions and provide a quote instead.

#### **Recommendations**

26. The Commission is invited to comment on the draft materials and proposed approach to the publication of the initial proposals:
  - Comment on the draft News Release and other materials.

- Agree whether to conduct a news conference on 13 October.

**Secretariat**  
**September 2021**