



House of Commons

Tuesday 23 June 2020

PUBLIC BILL COMMITTEE

New Amendments handed in are marked thus ★

☆ *Amendments which will comply with the required notice period at their next appearance*

Amendments tabled since the last publication: 6 to 13, NC3(a) and NC5 to NC9

[R] = Relevant registered interested declared

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES BILL

NOTE

This document includes all amendments tabled to date and includes any withdrawn amendments at the end. The amendments have been arranged in accordance with the Order of the Committee [18 June 2020].

Chloe Smith

That, the Order of the Committee of 18 June be varied so as to omit the tenth, eleventh and twelfth rows in the table and substitute the following—

Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 9.55 am	Dr Alan Renwick, The Constitution Unit, University College London Professor Robert Hazell, The Constitution Unit, University College London
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 10.20 am	The Green Party

 Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, *continued*

Cat Smith
Christian Matheson

2

- ☆ Clause 1, page 1, line 5, leave out subsection (2)

Member's explanatory statement

This is a paving amendment for Amendment 5, with the aim of maintaining the status quo of parliamentary oversight within the boundary review process.

Cat Smith
Christian Matheson

3

- ☆ Clause 1, page 1, line 14, leave out subsection (4)

Member's explanatory statement

This is a paving amendment for Amendment 5, with the aim of maintaining the status quo of parliamentary oversight within the boundary review process.

Cat Smith
Christian Matheson

4

- ☆ Clause 1, page 2, line 16, leave out subsection (7)

Member's explanatory statement

This is a paving amendment for Amendment 5, with the aim of maintaining the status quo of parliamentary oversight within the boundary review process.

Cat Smith
Christian Matheson

5

- ☆ Page 2, line 17, leave out Clause 2

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment aims to maintain the status quo of parliamentary oversight within the boundary review process.

David Linden
Ben Lake

8

- ★ Clause 6, page 4, line 35, before “for” insert “(a)”

Member's explanatory statement

This is linked to amendment 6.

David Linden
Ben Lake

6

- ★ Clause 6, page 4, line 36, leave out “which exist, or are prospective, on the review date”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment removes the restriction on the local government boundaries the Boundary Commissions may take into account, rather than fixing them at a technical level as at the start of the review.

 Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, *continued*

Ben Lake

1

Clause 6, page 4, line 37, at end insert—

“(2A) In rule 5(1)(d) (list of factors), after “local” insert “and linguistic”.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment would enable a Boundary Commission to take into account, if and to the extent that they think fit, the effect of boundary change on linguistic ties as well as local ties.

David Linden

Ben Lake

9

★ Clause 6, page 4, line 37, at end insert “, and

(b) after paragraph (c), insert—

“(ca) boundaries of polling districts, where useable data is available;”

Member’s explanatory statement

Polling District mapping is available in standard GIS formats in many areas. This allows the data to be used by the Boundary Commissions if they think fit.

David Linden

Ben Lake

7

★ Clause 6, page 4, line 38, leave out subsections (3) and (4)

Member’s explanatory statement

This is linked to amendment 6 and removes the detailed definition of a “prospective” local government boundary.

Ben Lake

David Linden

11

★ Schedule, page 7, line 17, leave out “646” and insert “645”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential to NC6, which would add an additional protected constituency.

Mrs Maria Miller

Alun Cairns

Robin Millar

Simon Baynes

Rob Roberts

Alec Shelbrooke

Chris Clarkson

Mr Gagan Mohindra

12

★ Schedule, page 7, line 17, leave out “646” and insert “645”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment is consequential on amendment 13.

 Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, *continued*

Mrs Maria Miller
 Alun Cairns
 Robin Millar
 Simon Baynes
 Rob Roberts
 Alec Shelbrooke

Chris Clarkson

Mr Gagan Mohindra

13

★ Schedule, page 7, line 27, at end insert—

“(5) In rule 6(2), after paragraph (b) insert “;

(c) a constituency named Ynys Môn, comprising the area of the Isle of Anglesey County Council”.

(6) In rule 8(5)—

(a) in paragraph (b), for “6(2)” substitute “6(2)(a) and (b)”, and

(b) after paragraph (b) insert “;

“(c) 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)”.

(7) In rule 9(7)—

(a) after “6” insert “(2)(a) or (b)”, and

(b) after “2011” insert “, 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”.

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment adds the Parliamentary constituency of Ynys Môn to the list of protected constituencies in the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 and makes other consequential changes to that Act.

David Linden
 Ben Lake

10

★ Schedule, page 7, line 29, at end insert—

“(1A) In paragraph 2(1) omit the words “and no more than five” in each of the subparagraphs.”

Member’s explanatory statement

These amendments remove the cap on the number of hearings the Boundary Commissions may hold in each of the nations and in each of the English regions, leaving it for the Boundary Commissions to decide the appropriate number of hearings to hold.

Chloe Smith

NC1

To move the following Clause—

“Registers used to determine the “electorate” in relation to the 2023 reports

(1) In rule 9(2) of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (definition of the “electorate”), for “The” substitute “Subject to sub-paragraph (2A), the”.

Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, continued

(2) After rule 9(2) of that Schedule insert—

“(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.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This new clause inserts a new clause (to be added after clause 6) which provides for the meaning of the “electorate” in Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act, in the case of the 2023 reports of the Boundary Commissions, to be determined by reference to the registers of parliamentary electors as they have effect on 2 March 2020 rather than by reference to the versions of those registers which are published under section 13(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 on or before 1 December 2020 (which is the “review date” provided for under clause 7), a prescribed later date, or 1 February 2021 (where section 13(1A) of that Act applies).

Cat Smith

NC2

To move the following Clause—

“Electorate per constituency

- (1) In rule 2(1)(a) of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (electorate per constituency) for “95%” substitute “92.5%”.
- (2) In rule 2(1)(b) of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (electorate per constituency) for “105%” substitute “107.5%”.

Member’s explanatory statement

This new clause seeks to widen the permissible range in a constituency’s electorate, which may be up to 7.5% above or below the electoral quota calculated in accordance with Schedule 2, paragraph 2(3) of the 1986 Act.

Cat Smith

NC3

To move the following Clause—

“Allocation of constituencies

- (1) Rule 8 of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (the allocation method) is amended as follows.
- (2) After rule 8(5) insert—

5

“(6) Notwithstanding the allocation of constituencies according to the allocation method set out in rule 8(2)-(5), there must be a minimum allocation of constituencies as follows—

- (a) Wales must be allocated at least 35 constituencies;

Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, *continued*

- 10 (b) Scotland must be allocated at least 59 constituencies (including the two protected constituencies); and
- (c) Northern Ireland must be allocated at least 18 constituencies; and the allocation of constituencies must be adjusted accordingly.”

Member’s explanatory statement

This new clause seeks to protect representation in the devolved nations by securing a minimum number of constituencies in each of the devolved nations.

As an Amendment to Cat Smith’s proposed New Clause (*Allocation of constituencies*) (NC3):—

David Linden
Ben Lake

(a)

★ Line 8, leave out “35” and insert “40”

Member’s explanatory statement

This amendment to proposed NC3, retains the number of parliamentary constituencies in Wales.

Cat Smith
Christian Matheson

NC4

☆ To move the following Clause—

Definition of “electorate”

- (1) The 1986 Act is amended as follows.
- (2) In rule 9(2) of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act, omit the words from “the version that is required” to the end and insert “the electoral register as on the date of the last General Election before the review date.”

Member’s explanatory statement

For the purposes of future reviews, this new clause would define the electorate as being those on the electoral register at the last General Election prior to the review.

Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, *continued*

David Linden
Ben Lake

NC5

- ★ To move the following Clause—

“Highland Constituencies

In Rule 4(2)(a) of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (Area of constituencies) for “12,000” substitute “9,000”.

Member’s explanatory statement

This new clause gives further flexibility to the Boundary Commissions to design workable constituencies in the Highlands of Scotland.

Ben Lake
David Linden

NC6

- ★ To move the following Clause—

“Ynys Môn to be a Protected Constituency

After Rule 6(2)(b) of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (protected constituencies) insert—

“a constituency named Ynys Môn, comprising the County of the Isle of Anglesey.””

Member’s explanatory statement

This new clause adds Ynys Môn to the four protected constituencies

David Linden
Ben Lake

NC7

- ★ To move the following Clause—

“Constituency Groupings

- (1) Rule 7 of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (Northern Ireland) is amended as below.
- (2) In the heading for “Northern Ireland” substitute “Constituency Groupings”.
- (3) In rule 7(1) for “Northern Ireland” substitute “any grouping of five or more constituencies being considered by a Boundary Commission”.
- (4) In rule 7(1)(a)(i) for “Northern Ireland” substitute “the area being considered”.
- (5) In rule 7(1)(a)(ii) and rule 7(2) for “in Northern Ireland (determined by rule 8)” substitute “being considered for the area”.
- (6) In rule 7(1)(b) for “Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland” substitute “relevant Boundary Commission”.
- (7) In rule 7(2) for “the electorate of Northern Ireland” substitute “the electorate of the area”.

Member’s explanatory statement

The current Rule 7 is a special rule for Northern Ireland which recognises that with the small number of constituencies allocated, there may be difficulties in using the UK Electoral Quota,

Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, continued

which may vary considerably from the “Northern Ireland Quota”, calculated by dividing the Northern Ireland electorate by the number of constituencies allocated. This problem exists when drawing constituencies in any grouping involving a small number of seats. It is an arithmetical issue, not one connected with any special Northern Ireland considerations. This amendment therefore extends the potential application of the rule to any constituency grouping of five or more constituencies, with the same conditions as currently apply to the design of constituencies in Northern Ireland.

David Linden [R]
Ben Lake

NC8

★ To move the following Clause—

“Boundary Re-alignment

- (1) Where—
- (a) existing parliamentary boundaries when originally recommended by the relevant Boundary Commission contained an element of alignment with a local authority area boundary; but
 - (b) as a consequence of a local authority area boundary review these boundaries have ceased to be aligned; and
 - (c) the number of registered electors affected by the local authority area boundary change was not more than 1,000;
- the relevant Boundary Commission may submit a report recommending the re-alignment of the parliamentary constituencies affected to the new local authority area boundary.
- (2) The procedure in Section 4 applies to orders following a recommendation under subsection (1), as it applies to orders following reports of the Boundary Commission under Section 3, with any necessary modifications.”

Member’s explanatory statement

Local authority area reviews typically happen when a new housing development is built on an existing local authority boundary. The review might mean that a whole development is moved in to one authority, or other aligning changes. Without a parliamentary boundary change, this can mean a small number of electors from one local authority being in a constituency otherwise wholly within another local authority. This amendment gives a power to re-align parliamentary boundaries with the new local authority boundary where no more than 1,000 electors are affected. If there are more than 1,000 electors, then the boundary would be for consideration at the next periodical review. As the local area boundary would itself have been subject to local consultation, a further statutory public consultation in relation to the parliamentary boundary is not proposed. The relevant Boundary Commission could carry out such informal consultation as it considered necessary.

Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, *continued*

Cat Smith

NC9

- ★ To move the following Clause—

“Completeness of the Electoral Register

- (1) The 1986 Act is amended as follows.
- (2) In rule 5(1) of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act, at end insert—
 - “(f) data from the Department for Work and Pensions about non-registered voters eligible to vote.””

ORDER OF THE HOUSE [2 JUNE 2020]

That the following provisions shall apply to the Parliamentary Constituencies Bill:

Committal

1. The Bill shall be committed to a Public Bill Committee.

Proceedings in Public Bill Committee

2. Proceedings in the Public Bill Committee shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion on Thursday 2 July 2020.
3. The Public Bill Committee shall have leave to sit twice on the first day on which it meets.

Proceedings on Consideration and up to and including Third Reading

4. Proceedings on Consideration and any proceedings in legislative grand committee shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion one hour before the moment of interruption on the day on which proceedings on Consideration are commenced.
5. Proceedings on Third Reading shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at the moment of interruption on that day
6. Standing Order No. 83B (Programming committees) shall not apply to proceedings on Consideration and up to and including Third Reading.

Other proceedings

7. Any other proceedings on the Bill may be programmed.

ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE [18 JUNE 2020]

That—

- (1) the Committee shall (in addition to its first meeting at 11.30am on Thursday 18 June) meet—
 - (a) at 2.00pm on Thursday 18 June;
 - (b) at 9.25am and 2.00pm on Tuesday 23 June;
 - (c) at 11.30am and 2.00pm on Thursday 25 June;
 - (d) at 9.25am and 2.00pm on Tuesday 30 June;
 - (e) at 11.30am and 2.00pm on Thursday 2 July;
- (2) the Committee shall hear oral evidence in accordance with the following Table:

Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, *continued*

TABLE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Witness</i>
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 12.20pm	Boundary Commission for England Boundary Commission for Scotland
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 12.40pm	Boundary Commission for Wales
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 1pm	Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 2.30pm	The Conservative Party
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 3pm	The Labour Party
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 3.30pm	The Liberal Democrats
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 4pm	The Scottish National Party
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 4.30pm	Plaid Cymru
Thursday 18 June	Until no later than 5pm	Professor Richard Wyn Jones, Wales Governance Centre, Cardiff University
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 9.55am	Dr Alan Renwick, The Constitution Unit, University College London
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 10.10am	The Green Party
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 10.40am	Professor Roger Awan-Scully, School of Law and Politics, Cardiff University
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 11.25am	Professor Iain McLean, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford Professor Sir John Curtice, Department of Politics, University of Strathclyde
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 2.30pm	The Association of Electoral Administrators
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 3pm	The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Parliamentary Constituencies Bill, *continued*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Witness</i>
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 3.30pm	The Electoral Reform Society
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 3.50pm	The Democratic Unionist Party
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 4.10pm	Dr Jac Larnier, Wales Governance Centre, Cardiff Univeristy
Tuesday 23 June	Until no later than 5pm	Professor Charles Pattie, Department of Politics, University of Sheffield Dr David Rossiter

- (3) proceedings on consideration of the Bill in Committee shall be taken in the following order: Clauses 1 to 11, the Schedule, Clause 12, New Clauses, New Schedules, remaining proceedings on the Bill;
- (4) the proceedings shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at 5.00pm on Thursday 2 July.
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