

Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986

1986 CHAPTER 56

An Act to consolidate the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Acts 1949 to 1979 and certain related enactments

[7th November 1986]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows

Commented [GR(1): Track changes show amendments made by Draft Parliamentary Constituencies Bill 2020 as following Commons Committee.

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1 Parliamentary constituencies

(1) There shall for the purpose of parliamentary elections be the county and borough constituencies (or in Scotland the county and burgh constituencies), each returning a single member, which are described in Orders in Council made under this Act.

(2) In this Act and, except where the context otherwise requires, in any Act passed after the Representation of the People Act 1948, "constituency" means an area having separate representation in the House of Commons.

2 The Boundary Commissions

(1) For the purpose of the continuous review of the distribution of seats at parliamentary elections, there shall continue to be four permanent Boundary Commissions, namely a Boundary Commission for England, a Boundary Commission for Scotland, a Boundary Commission for Wales and a Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland.

(2) Schedule 1 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the constitution of, and other matters relating to, the Boundary Commissions.

3 Reports of the Commissions

(1) Each Boundary Commission shall keep under review the representation in the House of Commons of the part of the United Kingdom with which they are concerned and shall, in accordance with subsection (2) below, submit to the ~~Secretary of State~~Speaker of the House of Commons reports with respect to the whole of that part of the United Kingdom, either—

- (a) showing the constituencies into which they recommend that it should be divided in order to give effect to the rules set out in [Schedule 2 to this Act] (read with paragraph 7 of that Schedule), or
- (b) stating that, in the opinion of the Commission, no alteration is required to be made in respect of that part of the United Kingdom in order to give effect to the said rules . . .

~~(2) Each Boundary Commission must submit a report under subsection (1)—~~

~~(a) before 1 July 2023,~~

~~(b) before 1 October 2031, and~~

~~(c) before 1 October of every eighth year after that.~~~~(2)—A Boundary Commission shall submit reports under subsection (1) above periodically—~~

(2ZA) On submitting a report to the Speaker under subsection (1), a Boundary Commission must send a copy of it to the Secretary of State or the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

(2ZB) On receiving a report under subsection (1), the Speaker must lay it before Parliament.

(2ZC) As soon as reasonably practicable after a report of a Boundary Commission has been laid under subsection (2B), the Commission must publish it in such manner as they think fit.

[(2A) A failure by a Boundary Commission to submit a report within the time limit which is appropriate to that report shall not be regarded as invalidating the report for the purposes of any enactment.]

[(2B) In relation to any report which a Boundary Commission are required by subsection (2) above to submit before a particular date but have not yet submitted (a “pending boundary report”), the Commission shall submit to the Speaker of the House of Commons—

- (a) during the ~~January that begins one year and nine months before that date~~relevant January, and
- (b) during each subsequent January,

a report setting out what progress they have made with the preparation of the pending boundary report, with particular reference to the requirement in subsection (2) above.

(2BA) For the purposes of subsection (2B), “the relevant January” means—

(a) January 2022 in the case of a report required by subsection (2) to be submitted before 1 July 2023, and

(b) in the case of any other report required by subsection (2) to be submitted before a particular date, the January that begins one year and nine months before that date.

(For example, January 2030 in the case of a report required to be submitted before 1 October 2031).

(2C) On receiving a report under subsection (2B) above, the Speaker shall lay it before Parliament.]

(3) ...

(4) A report of a Boundary Commission under this Act showing the constituencies into which they recommend that any area should be divided shall state, as respects each constituency, the name by which they recommend that it should be known, and whether they recommend that it should be a county constituency or a borough constituency (or in Scotland a county constituency or a burgh constituency).

~~[(5) — As soon as may be after the submission of a report under subsection (1) above, the Secretary of State shall lay the report before Parliament.~~

~~[(7) ...]~~

~~[(7A) ...]~~

~~(8) ...]~~

~~[[3A ...]~~

~~[...]~~

4 Orders in Council

(1) As soon as reasonably practicable after all four reports under section 3(1) which are required by section 3(2) to be submitted before a particular date have been laid before Parliament under section 3(2ZB), the Secretary of State or the Minister for the Cabinet Office must submit to Her Majesty in Council a draft of an Order in Council for giving effect to the recommendations in those of the four reports (if any) which are reports under section 3(1)(a) (report with recommendations).

(2) A draft of an Order in Council submitted under subsection (1)—

(a) may give effect to recommendations in the reports with modifications only if that is required under section 4A, and

(b) may make provision for any matters which appear to the Secretary of State or, as the case may be, the Minister for the Cabinet Office to be incidental to, or consequential on—

(i) the recommendations in the reports, or

(ii) those recommendations together with the modifications that the draft is required to give effect to under section 4A.

~~(1) — The draft of any Order in Council laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State under this Act for giving effect, whether with or without modifications, to the recommendations contained in the report of a Boundary Commission may make provision for any matters which appear to him to be incidental to, or consequential on, the recommendations.~~

(5) Where the draft of an Order in Council is submitted to Her Majesty in Council under this Act, Her Majesty in Council may make an Order in terms of the draft which (subject to subsection (6) below) shall come into force on such date as may be specified in the Order and shall have effect notwithstanding anything in any enactment.

(6) The coming into force of any such Order shall not affect any parliamentary election [or] the constitution of the House of Commons until the dissolution of the Parliament then in being.

(7) The validity of any Order in Council purporting to be made under this Act ~~and reciting that a draft of the Order has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament~~ shall not be called in question in any legal proceedings whatsoever.

~~[(8) ...]~~

4A Modifications of recommendations in reports

(1) Subsection (2) applies where—

(a) a report of a Boundary Commission has been submitted to the Speaker of the House of Commons under section 3(1),

(b) it is a report under section 3(1)(a) (report with recommendations), and
(c) no draft of an Order in Council has yet been submitted to Her Majesty in Council under section 4(1) in relation to the report.

(2) The Commission in question may submit to the Speaker a statement (“a statement of modifications”) specifying—

(a) the modifications which they consider should be made to the recommendations in the report in order to correct any error in those recommendations, and
(b) their reasons for those modifications.

(3) On submitting a statement of modifications to the Speaker under subsection (2), the Commission must send a copy of it to the Secretary of State or the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

(4) On receiving a statement of modifications under subsection (2), the Speaker must lay it before Parliament.

(5) As soon as reasonably practicable after a statement of modifications has been laid under subsection (4), the Boundary Commission which submitted the statement must publish it in such manner as they think fit.

(6) Where a statement of modifications in relation to a report has been laid under subsection (4), the draft of the Order in Council to be submitted under section 4(1) in relation to the report must give effect to the recommendations in the report with the modifications specified in the statement.

[5 Publicity and consultation]

[1] Once a Boundary Commission have decided what constituencies they propose to recommend in a report under section 3(1)(a) above—

(a) the Commission shall take such steps as they think fit to inform people in each of the proposed constituencies—

- (i) what the proposals are,
- (ii) that a copy of the proposals is open to inspection at a specified place within the proposed constituency, and
- (iii) that written representations with respect to the proposals may be made to the Commission during a specified period of ~~12 weeks~~eight weeks (“the initial consultation period”);

~~(b) the Commission shall cause public hearings to be held during the period beginning with the fifth week of the initial consultation period and ending with the tenth week of it.~~

~~(3) Schedule 2A to this Act, which makes further provision about public hearings under subsection (1)(b) above, has effect.~~

(a) shall publish, in such manner as they think fit, representations made as mentioned in subsection (1)(a) above ~~and records of public hearings held under subsection (1)(b) above;~~

(b) shall take such steps as they think fit to inform people in the proposed constituencies that further written representations with respect to the ~~things~~representations published under paragraph (a) above may be made to the Commission during a specified period of ~~four weeks~~eight weeks (“the secondary consultation period”);

(c) shall cause public hearings to be held at such times during the secondary consultation period as they think fit.

(4A) Schedule 2A to this Act contains further provision about public hearings under subsection (4)(c).

(4B) After the end of the secondary consultation period, the Commission—

- (a) must publish, in such manner as they think fit, records of public hearings held under subsection (4)(c), and
- (b) must take such steps as they think fit to inform people in the proposed constituencies that written representations with respect to those records may be made to the Commission during a specified period of eight weeks (“the third consultation period”).

(5) If after the end of the secondary consultation period the Commission are minded to revise their original proposals so as to recommend different constituencies, they shall take such steps as they see fit to inform people in each of those revised proposed constituencies before the beginning of the third consultation period—

(a) what the revised proposals are,

(b) that a copy of the revised proposals is open to inspection at a specified place within the revised proposed constituency, and

(c) that written representations with respect to the revised proposals may be made to the Commission during ~~a specified period of eight weeks~~ the third consultation period.

(6) Subsection (5) above does not apply to any proposals to make further revisions.

(7) Steps taken under subsection (4), (4B) or (5) above need not be of the same kind as those taken under subsection (1) above.

(8) A Boundary Commission shall take into consideration—

(a) written representations duly made to them as mentioned in subsection (1)(a), (4)(b), (4B)(b) or (5)(c) above, and

(b) representations made at public hearings under subsection (4)(c) above.

(9) Except as provided by this section and Schedule 2A to this Act, a Boundary Commission shall not cause any public hearing or inquiry to be held for the purposes of a report under this Act.

(10) Where a Boundary Commission publish—

(a) general information about how they propose to carry out their functions (including, in the case of the Boundary Commission for England, information about the extent (if any) to which they propose to take into account the boundaries mentioned in rule 5(2) of Schedule 2 to this Act), or

(b) anything else to which subsection (1), (4), (4B) or (5) above does not apply,

it is for the Commission to determine whether to invite representations and, if they decide to do so, the procedure that is to apply.]

(11) If the report mentioned in subsection (1) is a 2023 report, this section applies in relation to that report as if—

(a) in subsection (4)(b), the reference to eight weeks were a reference to six weeks, and

(b) in subsection (4B)(b), the reference to eight weeks were a reference to four weeks.

(12) In subsection (11), a “2023 report” means a report that is required by section 3(2) to be submitted before 1 July 2023.

6 . . .

. . .

[[6A . . .]

[. . .]

6B . . .

. . .

7 Consequential amendments

Schedule 3 to this Act shall have effect.

8 Repeals and revocation

(1) The enactments specified in Schedule 4 to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule.

(2) . . .

(3) . . .

9 Citation, commencement and extent

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, and shall be included among the Acts which may be cited as the Representation of the People Acts.
- (2) This Act shall come into force at the end of the period of three months beginning with the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act extends to Northern Ireland.

SCHEDULE 1 THE BOUNDARY COMMISSIONS

Section 2

Constitution

1

The Speaker of the House of Commons shall be the chairman of each of the four Commissions.

2

Each of the four Commissions shall consist of the chairman, a deputy chairman and two other members appointed by the Secretary of State or the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

3

The deputy chairman—

- (a) in the case of the Commission for England shall be a judge of the High Court appointed by the Lord Chancellor,
- (b) in the case of the Commission for Scotland shall be a judge of the Court of Session appointed by the Lord President of the Court of Session,
- (c) in the case of the Commission for Wales shall be a judge of the High Court appointed by the Lord Chancellor,
- (d) in the case of the Commission for Northern Ireland shall be a judge of the High Court in Northern Ireland appointed by the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland.

4

A member of any Commission (other than the chairman) shall hold his appointment for such term and on such conditions as may be determined before his appointment by the person appointing him.

[4A

In the case of a member of a Commission other than the chairman or deputy chairman, the conditions referred to in paragraph 4 above may include such provisions with respect to remuneration as the Secretary of State or the Minister for the Cabinet Office may determine with the approval of the Treasury.]

Officers

5

The officers of each Commission shall include, as assessors, the following persons—

- (a) in the case of the Commission for England, [the Statistics Board] and the Director General of Ordnance Survey,

(b) in the case of the Commission for Scotland, the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Scotland and the Director General of Ordnance Survey,

(c) in the case of the Commission for Wales, [the Statistics Board] and the Director General of Ordnance Survey,

(d) in the case of the Commission for Northern Ireland, the Registrar General of Births and Deaths in Northern Ireland, the Commissioner of Valuation for Northern Ireland[, the] Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland [and the Chief Survey Officer of Land and Property Services].

6

(1) The Secretary of State *or the Minister for the Cabinet Office* may, at the request of any Commission, appoint one or more assistant Commissioners [to assist the Commission in the discharge of their functions].

(2) Any such assistant Commissioner shall be appointed either for a certain term or for the purposes of a particular [matter], and on such conditions as to remuneration and otherwise as may be determined before his appointment by the Secretary of State *or the Minister for the Cabinet Office* with the approval of the Treasury.

7

The Secretary of State *or the Minister for the Cabinet Office* shall appoint a secretary to each of the Commissions, and may appoint such other officers of any Commission as he may determine with the approval of the Treasury, and the term and conditions of any such appointment shall be such as may be so determined.

Expenses

8

The expenses of each Commission, [including the remuneration and travelling and other expenses of the members, assistant Commissioners], secretary and other officers, shall be paid out of money by Parliament.

Proceedings and instruments

9

A Commission shall have power to act notwithstanding a vacancy among their members, and at any meeting of a Commission two, or such greater number as the Commission may determine, shall be the quorum.

10

For the purpose of considering any matter of common concern, the Commissions, or any two or three of them, may hold joint meetings.

11

Subject to the provisions of this Act, each of the Commissions shall have power to regulate their own procedure.

12

Every document purporting to be an instrument made or issued by a Commission and to be signed by the secretary or any person authorised to act in that behalf, shall be received in evidence and shall, until the contrary is proved, be deemed to be an instrument made or issued by the Commission.

[...]

13

...]

[SCHEDULE 2 RULES FOR DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS]

[Section 3]

[Number of constituencies]

1

The number of constituencies in the United Kingdom shall be ~~600~~650.

Electorate per constituency

2

- (1) The electorate of any constituency shall be—
 - (a) no less than 95% of the United Kingdom electoral quota, and
 - (b) no more than 105% of that quota.
- (2) This rule is subject to rules 4(2), 6(3) and 7.
- (3) In this Schedule the “United Kingdom electoral quota” means—

U / ~~596~~645

where U is the electorate of the United Kingdom minus the electorate of the constituencies mentioned in rule 6.

Allocation of constituencies to parts of the United Kingdom

3

- (1) Each constituency shall be wholly in one of the four parts of the United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland).
- (2) The number of constituencies in each part of the United Kingdom shall be determined in accordance with the allocation method set out in rule 8.

Area of constituencies

4

- (1) A constituency shall not have an area of more than 13,000 square kilometres.
- (2) A constituency does not have to comply with rule 2(1)(a) if—
 - (a) it has an area of more than 12,000 square kilometres, and
 - (b) the Boundary Commission concerned are satisfied that it is not reasonably possible for the constituency to comply with that rule.

Factors

5

- (1) A Boundary Commission may take into account, if and to such extent as they think fit—
 - (a) special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
 - ~~(b) local government boundaries as they exist on the most recent ordinary council election day before the review date;~~~~(b) local government boundaries which exist, or are prospective, on the review date;~~
 - (c) boundaries of existing constituencies;
 - (d) any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies;

(e) the inconveniences attendant on such changes.

[\(1A\) In the case of a local government boundary which is prospective on the review date, it is that boundary rather than any existing boundary which it replaces, which may be taken into account under sub-paragraph \(1\)\(b\).](#)

(2) The Boundary Commission for England may take into account, if and to such extent as they think fit, [boundaries of the English regions specified in sub-paragraph (2A) as they exist on the most recent ordinary council-election day before the review date].

[(2A) The English regions listed in column (1) of the Table below comprise the areas specified in column (2) of the Table (and a reference to an area specified in column (2) of the Table is to that area as it is for the time being).

Table

<i>(1)</i> <i>Name of Region</i>	<i>(2)</i> <i>Area included</i>
East Midlands	County of Derby County of Derbyshire County of Leicester County of Leicestershire County of Lincolnshire County of Northamptonshire County of Nottingham County of Nottinghamshire County of Rutland
Eastern	County of Bedford County of Central Bedfordshire County of Cambridgeshire County of Essex County of Hertfordshire County of Luton County of Norfolk County of Peterborough County of Southend-on-Sea County of Suffolk County of Thurrock
London	Greater London
North East	County of Darlington County of Durham County of Hartlepool County of Middlesbrough County of Northumberland County of Redcar and Cleveland County of Stockton-On-Tees County of Tyne and Wear
North West	County of Blackburn with Darwen County of Blackpool County of Cheshire East County of Cheshire West and Chester County of Cumbria County of Greater Manchester County of Halton County of Lancashire County of Merseyside County of Warrington
South East	County of Berkshire County of Brighton and Hove

	County of Buckinghamshire County of East Sussex County of Hampshire County of Isle of Wight County of Kent County of the Medway Towns County of Milton Keynes County of Oxfordshire County of Portsmouth County of Southampton County of Surrey County of West Sussex
South West	County of Bath and North East Somerset County of Bournemouth County of the City of Bristol County of Cornwall County of Devon County of Dorset County of Gloucestershire County of North Somerset County of Plymouth County of Poole County of Somerset County of South Gloucestershire County of Swindon County of Torbay County of Wiltshire Isles of Scilly
West Midlands	County of Herefordshire County of Shropshire County of Staffordshire County of Stoke-on-Trent County of Telford and Wrekin County of Warwickshire County of West Midlands County of Worcestershire
Yorkshire and the Humber	County of the City of Kingston upon Hull County of the East Riding of Yorkshire County of North East Lincolnshire County of North Lincolnshire County of North Yorkshire County of South Yorkshire County of West Yorkshire County of York]

(3) This rule has effect subject to rules 2 and 4.

Protected constituencies

6

- (1) There shall be two constituencies in the Isle of Wight.
- (2) There shall continue to be—

- (a) a constituency named Orkney and Shetland, comprising the areas of the Orkney Islands Council and the Shetland Islands Council;
 - (b) a constituency named Na h-Eileanan an Iar, comprising the area of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar;
 - (c) [a constituency named Ynys Môn, comprising the area of the Isle of Anglesey County Council.](#)
- (3) Rule 2 does not apply to these constituencies.

Northern Ireland

7

- (1) In relation to Northern Ireland, sub-paragraph (2) below applies in place of rule 2 where—
- (a) the difference between—
 - (i) the electorate of Northern Ireland, and
 - (ii) the United Kingdom electoral quota multiplied by the number of seats in Northern Ireland (determined under rule 8),exceeds one third of the United Kingdom electoral quota, and
 - (b) the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland consider that having to apply rule 2 would unreasonably impair—
 - (i) their ability to take into account the factors set out in rule 5(1), or
 - (ii) their ability to comply with section 3(2) of this Act.
- (2) The electorate of any constituency shall be—
- (a) no less than whichever is the lesser of—

$N - A$

and 95% of the United Kingdom electoral quota, and

- (b) no more than whichever is the greater of—

$N + A$

and 105% of the United Kingdom electoral quota,

where—

N is the electorate of Northern Ireland divided by the number of seats in Northern Ireland (determined under rule 8), and

A is 5% of the United Kingdom electoral quota.

The allocation method

8

- (1) The allocation method referred to in rule 3(2) is as follows.
- (2) The first constituency shall be allocated to the part of the United Kingdom with the greatest electorate.
- (3) The second and subsequent constituencies shall be allocated in the same way, except that the electorate of a part of the United Kingdom to which one or more constituencies have already been allocated is to be divided by—

$2C + 1$

where C is the number of constituencies already allocated to that part.

(4) Where the figure given by sub-paragraph (3) above is the same for two or more parts of the United Kingdom, the part to which a constituency is to be allocated shall be the one with the smaller or smallest actual electorate.

(5) This rule does not apply to the constituencies mentioned in rule 6, and accordingly—

(a) the electorate of England shall be treated for the purposes of this rule as reduced by the electorate of the constituencies mentioned in rule 6(1);

(b) the electorate of Scotland shall be treated for the purposes of this rule as reduced by the electorate of the constituencies mentioned in rule 6(2)(a) and (b);

(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).

Interpretation

9

(1) This rule has effect for the purposes of this Schedule.

(2) ~~The Subject to sub-paragraph (2A), 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 the relevant version of a register of parliamentary electors in respect of addresses in the United Kingdom, or in that part or that constituency.

For this purpose the relevant version of a register is the version that is required by virtue of subsection (1) of section 13 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to be published no later than the review date, or would be so required but for—

(a) any power under that section to prescribe a later date, or

(b) subsection (1A) of that section.

(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.

(3) “Local government boundaries” are—

(a) in England, the boundaries of counties and their electoral divisions, districts and their wards, London boroughs and their wards and the City of London,

(b) in Wales, the boundaries of counties, county boroughs, electoral divisions, communities and community wards,

(c) in Scotland, the boundaries of local government areas and the electoral wards into which they are divided under section 1 of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004, and

(d) in Northern Ireland, the boundaries of wards.

(3A) A local government boundary is “prospective” on a particular date if, on that date—

(a) it is specified in a provision of primary or secondary legislation, but

(b) that provision is not yet in force for all purposes.

(3B) For that purpose—

(a) “primary legislation” means—

(i) an Act of Parliament,

(ii) an Act of the Scottish Parliament,

(iii) an Act of Senedd Cymru, or

[\(iv\) Northern Ireland legislation, and](#)

[\(b\) “secondary legislation” means an instrument made under primary legislation.](#)

- (4) “Ordinary council-election day” is—
- (a) in relation to England and Wales, the ordinary day of election of councillors for local government areas;
 - (b) in relation to Scotland, the day on which the poll is held at ordinary elections of councillors for local government areas;
 - (c) in relation to Northern Ireland, the day of an election for any district council (other than an election to fill a casual vacancy).
- (5) The “review date”, in relation to a report under section 3(1) of this Act that a Boundary Commission is required (by section 3(2)) to submit before a particular date, is— ~~two years and ten months before that date.~~
- [\(a\) 1 December 2020, in the case of a report required to be submitted before 1 July 2023, and](#)
 - [\(b\) in the case of a report required to be submitted before any other particular date, the date which is two years and 10 months before that date.](#)
- [\(For example, 1 December 2028 in the case of a report required to be submitted before 1 October 2031\).](#)
- (6) “The United Kingdom electoral quota” has the meaning given by rule 2(3).
- (7) A reference in rule [6\(2\)\(a\) or \(b\)](#) to an area is to the area as it existed on the coming into force of Part 2 of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011, [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.](#)

[SCHEDULE 2A PUBLIC HEARINGS ABOUT BOUNDARY COMMISSION PROPOSALS]

[Section 5]

[Purpose of hearings]

1

The purpose of a public hearing is to enable representations to be made about any of the proposals with which the hearing is concerned.

Number of hearings

2

- (1) In relation to any particular report under section 3(1)(a) of this Act—
- (a) the Boundary Commission for England shall cause at least two and no more than five public hearings to be held in each English region;
 - (b) the Boundary Commission for Scotland shall cause at least two and no more than five public hearings to be held in Scotland;
 - (c) the Boundary Commission for Wales shall cause at least two and no more than five public hearings to be held in Wales;
 - (d) the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland shall cause at least two and no more than five public hearings to be held in Northern Ireland.
- (2) The public hearings in an English region shall be concerned with proposals for that region, and shall between them cover the whole region.
- (3) The public hearings in Scotland shall be concerned with proposals for Scotland, and shall between them cover the whole of Scotland.

(4) The public hearings in Wales shall be concerned with proposals for Wales, and shall between them cover the whole of Wales.

(5) The public hearings in Northern Ireland shall be concerned with proposals for Northern Ireland, and shall between them cover the whole of Northern Ireland.

Chair of hearing

3

For each public hearing the Boundary Commission concerned shall appoint a person to chair the hearing.

Length of hearings

4

A public hearing shall be completed within two days.

Procedure at hearings

5

It is for the chair of each public hearing to determine the procedure that is to govern that hearing.

6

The chair shall make arrangements for a public hearing to begin with an explanation of—

- (a) the proposals with which the hearing is concerned;
- (b) how written representations about the proposals may be made (as mentioned in section 5(1)(a), (4)(b), (4B)(b) or (5)(c) of this Act).

7

(1) The chair of a public hearing must allow representations to be made—

- (a) by each qualifying party;
- (b) by any other persons (whether individuals or organisations) considered by the chair to have an interest in any of the proposals with which the hearing is concerned.

Paragraph (b) above has effect subject to sub-paragraph (3)(b) below.

(2) The chair may restrict the amount of time allowed for representations—

- (a) by qualifying parties, and
- (b) by other persons,

and need not allow the same amount to each.

(3) The chair may determine—

- (a) the order in which representations are made, and
- (b) if necessary because of shortage of time, which of those wishing to make representations are not allowed to do so,

in whatever way the chair decides.

8

(1) The chair may put questions, or allow questions to be put, to a person present at the hearing.

(2) If questions are allowed to be put, the chair may regulate the manner of questioning or restrict the number of questions a person may ask.

Interpretation

9

In this Schedule—

“the chair” means the person appointed under paragraph 3 above;

“English region” means an electoral region specified in Schedule 1 to the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002 (ignoring paragraph 2(2) of that Schedule and the references to Gibraltar) as it has effect on the day referred to in rule 5(2) of Schedule 2 to this Act;

[“English region” means a region specified in rule 5(2A) of Schedule 2 as the region existed on the day referred to in rule 5(2) of that Schedule;]

“public hearing” means a hearing under ~~section 5(4)(b)~~section 5(4)(c) of this Act;

“qualifying party” means a party that is registered under Part 2 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and either—

- (a) has at least one Member of the House of Commons representing a constituency in the region, or (as the case may be) the part of the United Kingdom, in which the hearing is held, or
- (b) received at least 10% of the votes cast in that region or part in the most recent parliamentary general election.]

SCHEDULE 3 CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

Section 7

1 - 6

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SCHEDULE 4 REPEALS

Section 8

Chapter	Short Title	Extent of Repeal
11 & 12 Geo 6 c 65	The Representation of the People Act 1948	Section 1(1).
12, 13 & 14 Geo 6 c 66	The House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949	Section 81. The whole Act.
6 & 7 Eliz 2 c 26	The House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1958	The whole Act.
1963 c 33	The London Government Act 1963	Section 4(7)(c) Section 8(1). In Schedule 3, in Part II, paragraph 21.
1973 c 36	The Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973	Section 28(7).
1973 c 65	The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973	In Schedule 3, paragraphs 1 and 19.
1979 c 15	The House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1979	The whole Act.
1986 c 12	The Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1986	In Schedule 2, paragraph 4(1).

