

# Parliamentary Constituencies Bill

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## COMMONS REASONS

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*[The page and line numbers refer to HL Bill 126, the bill as first printed for the Lords]*

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### LORDS AMENDMENT 1

#### Clause 1

- 1** Page 1, line 12, leave out “2031” and insert “2033”

#### COMMONS REASON

*The Commons disagree to Lords Amendment 1 for the following Reason –*

- 1A** *Because the Commons consider that eight years is a balanced and appropriate approach to ensure that parliamentary constituencies are updated sufficiently regularly.*

### LORDS AMENDMENT 2

- 2** Page 1, line 13, leave out “eighth” and insert “tenth”

#### COMMONS REASON

*The Commons disagree to Lords Amendment 2 for the following Reason –*

- 2A** *Because the Commons consider that eight years is a balanced and appropriate approach to ensure that parliamentary constituencies are updated sufficiently regularly.*

### LORDS AMENDMENT 6

#### After Clause 4

- 6** Insert the following new Clause –

**“The Boundary Commissions: constitution**

- (1) Schedule 1 to the 1986 Act (the Boundary Commissions) is amended as follows.
- (2) At the end of paragraph 2 insert “in accordance with paragraph 3A below”.

- (3) In paragraph 3(a), for “Lord Chancellor” substitute “Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales”.
- (4) In paragraph 3(c), for “Lord Chancellor” substitute “Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales”.
- (5) After paragraph 3 insert—
- “3A The two members of each Commission appointed by the Secretary of State shall each be appointed in accordance with the following process—
- (a) a selection panel shall be convened by the Secretary of State to select the members of the Commission, which shall comprise—
- (i) the deputy chairman of the Commission, and
- (ii) two persons appointed by the Speaker of the House of Commons;
- (b) the selection panel shall determine the selection process to be applied and apply that process;
- (c) the selection panel shall select only one person for recommendation for each appointment as a member of the Commission;
- (d) the selection panel shall submit to the Secretary of State a report stating who has been selected and any other information required by the Secretary of State;
- (e) the Secretary of State shall on receipt of the report do one of the following—
- (i) accept the selection,
- (ii) reject the selection, or
- (iii) require the panel to reconsider the selection;
- (f) the power of the Secretary of State to require the selection panel to reconsider a selection is exercisable only on the ground that, in the Secretary of State’s opinion, there is not enough evidence that the person selected is suitable for appointment as a member of the Commission;
- (g) the power of the Secretary of State to reject a selection is exercisable only on the ground that, in the Secretary of State’s opinion, the person selected is not suitable for appointment as a member of the Commission;
- (h) the Secretary of State shall give the selection panel reasons in writing for requiring the reconsideration of, or rejecting, any selection.”
- (6) In paragraph 4, at end insert “, but the term for which each member (other than the chairman) is appointed shall be a non-renewable term.””

#### COMMONS REASON

*The Commons disagree to Lords Amendment 6 for the following Reason –*

- 6A** *Because the Commons consider that the existing public appointments system and the requirements of Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 are sufficient.*

## LORDS AMENDMENT 7

**After Clause 5**

7 Insert the following new Clause –

**“Electorate per constituency**

- (1) Rule 2(1) of Schedule 2 to the 1986 Act (electorate per constituency) is amended as follows.
- (2) In paragraph (a), for “95%” substitute “92.5%”.
- (3) In paragraph (b), for “105%” substitute “107.5%”.

## COMMONS REASON

*The Commons disagree to Lords Amendment 7 for the following Reason –*

7A *Because the Commons consider that the existing law on this matter is sufficient to ensure equal parliamentary constituency boundaries.*

## LORDS AMENDMENT 8

**After Clause 6**

8 Insert the following new Clause –

**“Improving completeness of electoral registers for purposes of boundary reviews etc.**

- (1) Within a year of this Act coming into force, the Secretary of State must lay before Parliament proposals for improving the completeness of electoral registers for purposes of boundary reviews.
- (2) The proposals in subsection (1) may include requirements for either –
  - (a) the Department for Work and Pensions to provide every registration officer with the name, address, date of birth and nationality of each individual in their district to whom they issue a National Insurance number ahead of their 16th birthday, and for registration officers to add to the full electoral registers those electors who they are satisfied are eligible for inclusion; or
  - (b) the Department for Work and Pensions to notify individuals of the criteria for eligibility to vote and of the process for making an application to join the register when they are issued with a new National Insurance number.”

## COMMONS REASON

*The Commons disagree to Lords Amendment 8 for the following Reason –*

8A *Because the Commons consider the Government has provided sufficient explanation of appropriate action the Government has taken and is taking to improve the completeness of the electoral registers.*

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*11th November 2020*

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PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS