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PREM 19/1885

The Boundary Commission's review of Parliamentary Constituencies for Wales and the UK

PART 1

PARLIAMENT

PART 1:
FEBRUARY 1981

PREM 19/1885

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
~~14.2.81~~		~~28.2.84~~					
~~25.2.81~~		~~5.3.84~~					
~~21.10.82~~		8.3.84					
~~4.11.82~~		~~14.3.84~~					
~~8.11.82~~		~~16.3.84~~					
~~9.11.82~~		~~22.3.84~~					
~~10.11.82~~		~~28.3.84~~					
~~11.11.82~~		~~20.6.84~~					
~~18.11.82~~		~~2.2.85~~					
~~3.12.82~~		~~4.3.85~~					
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PART 1 ends:-

HOME OFFICE to NGA 20/2/86

PART 2 begins:-

HOME SEC to LPC 11/7/86

TO BE RETAINED AS TOP ENCLOSURE

Cabinet / Cabinet Committee Documents

Reference	Date
H(82) 47 (Revised)	19/10/1982
CC(82) 48th Conclusions, item 1	11/11/1982
CC(83) 2nd meeting, item 1	27/01/1983
CC(83) 3rd meeting, item 1	03/02/1983
CC(83) 5th meeting, item 1	17/02/1983

The documents listed above, which were enclosed on this file, have been removed and destroyed. Such documents are the responsibility of the Cabinet Office. When released they are available in the appropriate **CAB** (CABINET OFFICE) CLASSES

Signed _____ Date 14/10/2014

PREM Records Team

Published Papers

The following published paper(s) enclosed on this file have been removed and destroyed. Copies may be found elsewhere in The National Archives.

Boundary Commission for Wales, Report
1983 Review of European Assembly Constituencies
Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Command of Her Majesty, March 1984
Published by HMSO

Boundary Commission for England, Report
1983 Review of European Assembly Constituencies
Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Command of Her Majesty, March 1984
Published by HMSO

Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland
Third Periodical Report on Parliamentary Constituencies and First Supplementary Report on The Number of Members to be returned to the Northern Ireland Assembly by each of those constituencies
Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland by Command of Her Majesty, November 1982
Published by HMSO

Signed _____ Date 14/10/2014

PREM Records Team

Published Papers

The following published paper(s) enclosed on this file have been removed and destroyed. Copies may be found elsewhere in The National Archives.

1. House of Commons Hansard, 1 March 1983, Columns 141-216 "Parliamentary Boundary Commissions"

2. House of Commons Hansard, 2 March 1983, Columns 249-328 "Parliamentary Constituencies (England)"

Signed C M Wayland Date 5 February 2015

PREM Records Team

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

for CF file pl.

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SWIH 9AT

20 February 1986

Dear Mark,

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The Home Secretary has received from the Parliamentary Boundary Commissions for England and Wales notices dated 17 February, stating their intention to commence interim reviews of 42 and 21 parliamentary constituencies respectively.

The reviews are primarly intended to realign the parliamentary boundaries with altered local government boundaries, although the Commissions may recommend more radical changes if they consider such changes necessary. For example, to reduce the disparity of electorates between the constituencies concerned.

The Home Secretary proposes to announce the receipt of the Commissions' notices by way of a Parliamentary Question for Written Answer on 24 February.

I enclose a copy of the Draft Question and Answer. I am also sending a copy to the Private Secretaries to the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Lord President and the Secretary of State for Wales.

Yours

Clare

MS CLARE PELHAM

Mark Addison, Esq

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER ON FEBRUARY 1986

: To ask the Secetary of State for the Home Department, whether the Boundary Commissions for England and Wales intend to conduct any interim reviews of parliamentary constituencies; and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT REPLY

The Commissions have informed me that they intend to conduct interim reviews of 63 parliamentary constituencies under the powers provided in section 2(3) of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949. The counties and constituencies concerned are as follows:

ENGLAND

COUNTIES AND CONSTITUENCIES

Bedfordshire

Luton South BC

Mid Bedfordshire CC

North Luton CC

South West Bedfordshire CC

Berkshire

Reading West CC

Wokingham CC

Lincolnshire

Gainsborough and Horncastle CC

Grantham CC

Oxfordshire

Banbury CC

Oxford West and Abingdon CC

Wantage CC

Witney CC

Cheshire

Halton CC

Warrington South BC

Cleveland

Stockton North BC

Cumbria

Barrow and Furness CC

Westmorland and Lonsdale CC

Durham

Bishop Auckland CC

City of Durham CC

Easington CC

North Durham CC

Sedgefield CC

Hertfordshire

Hertford and Stortford CC

South West Hertfordshire CC

Stevenage CC

Welwyn Hatfield CC

West Hertfordshire CC

Surrey

Esher BC

Guildford CC

Mole Valley CC

North West Surrey CC

South West Surrey CC

Woking CC

West Sussex

Arundel CC

Chichester CC

Crawley BC

Horsham CC

Mid Sussex CC

Shoreham CC

Worthing BC

Wiltshire

Salisbury CC

Westbury CC

WALES

COUNTIES AND CONSTITUENCIES

Dyfed

Carmarthen CC

Ceredigion and Pembroke North CC

Llanelli CC

Pembroke CC

Gwent

Blaenau Gwent CC

Monmouth CC

Newport East CC

Newport West CC

Torfaen CC

Mid Glamorgan

Bridgend CC

Caerphilly CC

Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney CC

Ogmore CC

Pontypridd CC

Rhondda CC

Powys

Brecon and Radnor CC

West Glamorgan

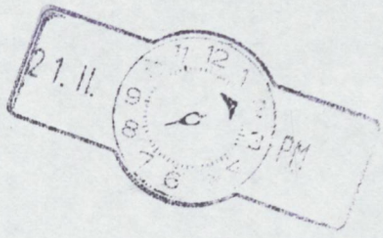
Aberavon CC

Gower CC

Neath CC

Swansea East BC

Swansea West BC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SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

T J Flesher Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

19 February 1986

Dear Tim

My Secretary of State would be grateful if you would inform the Prime Minister that the Boundary Commission for Scotland intends to conduct an interim review of 14 parliamentary constituencies in Scotland. This is an appropriate consequence of changes in local authority boundaries, including minor adjustments which were not controversial, and should not be so in the present context.

We are arranging for an announcement in Parliament later this month by means of a Written Question and Answer, of which I attach a copy.

I am copying this letter to Steven Boys Smith at the Home Office and Joan MacNaughton at the Office of the Lord President.

Yours ever

Robert Gordon

Robert Gordon
Private Secretary

HMP05003

FEBRUARY 1986 WRITTEN

HOUSE OF COMMONS

: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, whether the Boundary Commission for Scotland intends to conduct any interim reviews of parliamentary constituencies; and if he will make a statement.

MR MALCOLM RIFKIND:

The Boundary Commission for Scotland has informed me that it intends to conduct an interim review of 14 parliamentary constituencies under section 2(3) of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949. The constituencies are as follows:

Dumbarton CC and Stirling CC
East Lothian CC, and Roxburgh and Berwickshire CC
Hamilton BC and East Kilbride CC
Ayr CC and Cunninghame South CC
Clackmannan CC, and Perth and Kinross CC
Edinburgh South BC and Midlothian CC
Strathkelvin and Bearsden CC, and Clydebank and Milngavie CC.

Scottish Office

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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL. LONDON SW1A 2AT

18 February 1986

Dear Douglas

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REPORT ON PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND'S 1985 INTERIM REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

You wrote to me on 28 January with your proposals for handling this Boundary Commission Report.

In your letter you propose to lay the Report and a single draft Order in Council on 20 February. No member of the Committee has objected to this proposal and you may take it that you have H Committee agreement to proceed accordingly.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, the members of H Committee, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours

John

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP

HOME SECRETARY

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

28 January 1986

Dear Willie,

REPORT ON PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND'S 1985 INTERIM REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

I enclose a copy of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England's report on their 1985 interim review of 19 Parliamentary constituencies. A summary of their recommendations is annexed to this letter.

I am required by the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 to lay this report "as soon as may be" after its receipt. together with the draft of an Order in Council giving effect, with or without modifications, to the Commission's recommendations. The report is published when it is laid before Parliament. The issues to be decided are:-

(a) whether to implement the final recommendations by a single Order in Council; and

(b) when to lay the draft Order and arrange the ensuing debates.

The question of whether to modify the Commission's proposals does not arise. The changes involved are minimal and I have received no representations on them. The only objection made to the Commission was about the scope of their report.

Parliamentary Handling

The Government may seek to implement the final recommendations of a Parliamentary Boundary Commission either by a single Order in Council or by a number of Orders. In 1971 and 1973 the then Home Secretary laid 11 and 5 draft Orders respectively following the receipt of reports on interim reviews by the English Commission. However, the Commission's final recommendations on the completion of last year's interim review of 23 Parliamentary constituencies were implemented by one Order in November 1985. So, too, were their proposals following the completion of their second and third periodical reviews of all the Parliamentary constituencies in 1969 and 1983. I therefore recommend that we follow the most recent precedents and lay one draft Order for all 19 constituencies.

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw, CH., MC.

/over...

Timing

I propose to lay the report and the draft Order on 20 February to meet the statutory duty to do so "as soon as may be". The draft Order must then be approved by both Houses of Parliament before it can be made by Her Majesty in Council. Once the Order has been made the new boundaries will not take effect until the next general election. However, I think we should arrange the necessary debates as soon as reasonably practicable and certainly more quickly than the seven months it took on last year's review.

Unless I hear to the contrary by 13 February I shall assume that colleagues are content with the proposals in this letter.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and to other members of H Committee.

Yours,

Doug'17.

ANNEX

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND: ANALYSIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

Section 2(3) of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 enables the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England to conduct interim reviews of one or more constituencies in its area.

Background

2. There had been a number of changes to county, district and district ward boundaries since the completion of the Commission's third periodical review in 1983. These alterations were generally quite small but had divorced the boundaries of the local government areas concerned from those of the constituencies created by the Parliamentary Constituencies (England) Order 1983. The Commission therefore embarked on a programme of interim reviews to remove as many of these anomalies as possible before the next general election. Having reviewed 23 constituencies in eleven areas in 1984, the Commission decided to review a further 19 seats in six counties in 1985.

Final Recommendations

3. The Commission's final recommendations (which are identical to their provisional recommendations) propose the minimum change in each area, namely the realignment of the constituency boundary with the altered local government boundary.

4. All of the areas affected by the recommendations contain comparatively small numbers of electors, ranging from 2 to 246. During the review, only one objection was made to constituency boundaries. This came from Sir David Price MP and concerned the boundary between the Eastleigh constituency and the Southampton, Itchen constituency, which was not included in this review. It therefore seems unlikely that there will be any pressure for modifications to the Commission's proposals before the report is laid before Parliament.

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BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

REPORT

with respect to the areas comprised in the constituencies of Basingstoke; East Hampshire; Eastleigh; Fareham; Havant; North West Hampshire; Romsey and Waterside; Winchester; Bridgwater; Taunton; Falmouth and Camborne; St. Ives; South East Cornwall; Truro; Keighley; Skipton and Ripon; North East Cambridgeshire; South East Cambridgeshire; and South West Cambridgeshire.

Presented pursuant to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 c. 66: s. 2(5)

Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 198 .

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
Price £

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CONSTITUTION OF COMMISSION

In accordance with Part 1 of the First Schedule to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act, 1949 as amended by paragraph 1 of the Schedule to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act, 1958, the Commission was constituted as follows:

Ex-officio Member

The Speaker of the House of Commons, Chairman

And three other Members

The Honourable Mr. Justice Walton, Deputy Chairman appointed by the Lord Chancellor.

His Honour Judge John Newey, Q.C. (Official Referee) appointed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Mr. Thomas Morris Hornby Scott, M.A., appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Assessors

The Registrar General for England and Wales

The Director General of Ordnance Survey.

Joint Secretaries

Mr. G. P. Barnes, Mr. A. N. Pickersgill } appointed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

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BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

St. Catherines House
10 Kingsway
London WC2B 6JP
23rd January 1986

To the Right Honourable Douglas Hurd, C.B.E., M.P.
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department

Sir

1. We, the Boundary Commission for England, constituted by the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Acts, 1949 and 1958 and charged with keeping under review the distribution of seats at parliamentary elections in England, submit this Report under the provisions of section 2(3) of the 1949 Act, showing our recommendations with respect to the areas comprised in the following constituencies:

(i) The borough constituencies of Eastleigh and Havant and the county constituencies of Basingstoke, East Hampshire, Fareham, North West Hampshire, Romsey and Waterside and Winchester.

(ii) The county constituencies of Falmouth and Camborne, St. Ives, South East Cornwall and Truro.

(iii) The county constituencies of Keighley and Skipton and Ripon.

(iv) The county constituencies of North East Cambridgeshire, South East Cambridgeshire and South West Cambridgeshire.

(v) The county constituencies of Bridgwater and Taunton.

2. Notice of our intention to consider making a report with respect to these areas was submitted to your predecessor, the Right Honourable Leon Brittan, Q.C., M.P. on 20th February 1985 and was published in the London Gazette on 22nd February 1985. The enumeration date for this interim review is therefore 22nd February 1985 and our recommendations are based on the numbers of parliamentary electors on that date. We issued our provisional recommendations for the areas in (i) to (iv) above on 13th June 1985 and for the area in (v) above on 4th July 1985 and, as required by the Acts, we published these in local newspapers circulating in the constituencies affected. Copies of these recommendations, with illustrative maps, were made available for public inspection at suitable places within the constituencies and facilities were afforded for the submission of representations.

3. Our provisional recommendations were framed to take account of changes in local government boundaries which had resulted in their divergence from parliamentary constituency boundaries. The considerations which led to our proposals are set out below. Sketch maps illustrating the recommended changes are contained in the Appendix.

(i) *The borough constituencies of Eastleigh and Havant and the county constituencies of Basingstoke, East Hampshire, Fareham, North West Hampshire, Romsey and Waterside and Winchester.*

The East Hampshire and Havant (Areas) Order 1983 came into operation on 1st April 1984 and altered the boundary between the District of East

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Hampshire and the Borough of Havant, which had formed the constituency boundary between East Hampshire C.C. and Havant B.C., affecting 65 parliamentary electors. Our provisional recommendation was that the constituency boundary should be altered to conform with the new district boundary. This would transfer 24 electors from Havant B.C. to East Hampshire C.C. and 41 from East Hampshire C.C. to Havant B.C.

The Test Valley (Parishes) Order 1984, which came into operation on 1st April 1984, changed the boundaries of some of the parishes within the Borough of Test Valley and, in consequence, altered the ward boundaries which formed the constituency boundary between North West Hampshire C.C. and Romsey and Waterside C.C., affecting 25 parliamentary electors. Our provisional recommendation was that the constituency boundary be altered to conform with the new ward boundaries, transferring the 25 electors from North West Hampshire C.C. to Romsey and Waterside C.C.

The Hampshire (Areas) Order 1985, which came into operation on 1st April 1985, altered the boundaries between the City of Winchester and each of the adjoining districts of East Hampshire, Basingstoke and Deane, Eastleigh and Test Valley. As a result the boundaries of the parliamentary constituencies of Basingstoke, East Hampshire, Eastleigh, Fareham, North West Hampshire and Winchester no longer follow the district boundaries in some places. A total of 41 parliamentary electors were affected. Our provisional recommendation was that the constituency boundaries should be altered to conform with the new district boundaries.

Nine parliamentary electors would be transferred from Basingstoke C.C. to Winchester C.C.; two would be transferred from East Hampshire C.C. to Fareham C.C.; six would be transferred from Eastleigh B.C. to Winchester C.C.; three would be transferred from Winchester C.C. to East Hampshire C.C.; two would be transferred from Winchester C.C. to Eastleigh B.C.; and 19 would be transferred from Winchester C.C. to North West Hampshire C.C.

We should mention that a new ward, Badger Farm, was created from parts of the Compton, Olivers Battery, St. Luke and St. Michael wards by the City of Winchester (Parishes) Order 1985 with effect from 1st April 1985. The notice of our provisional recommendations omitted to refer to this Order and did not list the Badger Farm ward in the Winchester C.C., but it did list the four wards from which Badger Farm was formed. We also displayed maps in the constituency showing the area concerned. We consider that there could have been no confusion since the area and boundary of the constituency and the electorate were correct.

The Basingstoke and Deane (Parishes) Order 1985, which came into operation on 1st April 1985, changed the boundaries of some of the parishes within the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane and, in consequence, altered the ward boundaries which formed part of the constituency boundary between Basingstoke C.C. and North West Hampshire C.C., affecting 130 parliamentary electors. Our provisional recommendation was that the constituency boundary be altered to conform with the new ward boundaries, transferring the 130 parliamentary electors from North West Hampshire C.C. to Basingstoke C.C.

Five representations were received relating to the eight constituencies under review in Hampshire. The East Hampshire Conservative Association, the Eastleigh Conservative Association, the Fareham Conservative Association and the North West Hampshire Conservative Association raised no objection

to our proposals. However, in noting the growth of the electorate in his constituency, the Member of Parliament for Eastleigh, Sir David Price D.L., repeated his personal view that the Woolston ward should not have been detached from the City of Southampton and included in Eastleigh B.C. This option had been rejected after careful consideration during our third general review on which we reported in February 1983 and none of the Southampton constituencies were included in this interim review. We have now confirmed that we do not think that it is appropriate for the Commission to recommend major changes in the constituencies between periodical general reviews, save in exceptional circumstances.

The Winchester City Council wrote subsequently to confirm that they had no representations to make on the proposals.

We recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations.

Constituency	*Parliamentary Electorate 1985*	*Net number of Electors affected*	*Electorate after recommended alterations*
Basingstoke C.C.	76,838	+121	76,959
East Hampshire C.C.	84,333	− 16	84,317
Eastleigh B.C.	86,329	− 4	86,325
Fareham C.C.	75,104	+ 2	75,106
Havant B.C.	75,866	+ 17	75,883
North West Hampshire C.C.	69,026	−136	68,890
Romsey and Waterside C.C.	75,337	+ 25	75,362
Winchester C.C.	75,590	− 9	75,581

(ii) *The county constitutencies of Falmouth and Camborne, St. Ives, South East Cornwall and Truro.*

The Restormel (Parishes) Order 1983, which came into operation on 1st April 1983, created new parishes within the Borough of Restormel and, in consequence, altered a ward boundary which formed part of the constituency boundary between South East Cornwall C.C. and Truro C.C. This affected six parliamentary electors. Our provisional recommendation was that the constituency boundary should be altered to conform with the new ward boundary, transferring the six electors from Truro C.C. to South East Cornwall C.C.

The Kerrier (Parishes) Order 1985, which came into operation on 1st April 1985, created a new district ward of Constantine and Gweek within the District of Kerrier and, in consequence, altered the ward boundary which formed part of the constituency boundary between Falmouth and Camborne C.C. and St. Ives C.C., affecting 246 parliamentary electors. Our provisional recommendation was that the constituency boundary should be altered to conform with the boundary of the new ward, transferring 246 electors from St. Ives C.C. to Falmouth and Camborne C.C.

The Carrick (Parishes) Order 1985, which came into operation on 1st April 1985, changed the boundaries of some of the parishes within the District of Carrick and, in consequence, altered a ward boundary which formed part of the constituency boundary between Falmouth and Camborne C.C. and Truro

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C.C., affecting 11 parliamentary electors. Our provisional recommendation was that the constituency boundary be altered to conform with the new ward boundary transferring the 11 electors from Falmouth and Camborne C.C. to Truro C.C.

No representations were received about our proposals in Cornwall. We now recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations.

Constituency	*Parliamentary Electorate 1985*	*Net number of Electors affected*	*Electorate after recommended alterations*
Falmouth and Camborne C.C.	67,695	+235	67,930
St. Ives C.C.	66,123	−246	65,877
South East Cornwall C.C.	68,544	+ 6	68,550
Truro C.C.	71,111	+ 5	71,116

(iii) *The county constituencies of Keighley and Skipton and Ripon.*

The North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire (Areas) Order 1982, which came into operation on 1st April 1983, altered the county boundary which formed the constituency boundary between Keighley C.C. and Skipton and Ripon C.C., affecting 111 parliamentary electors. Our provisional recommendation was that the constituency boundary be altered to conform with the new county boundary. Four representations were received within the statutory period of one month: North Yorkshire County Council, West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council, Skipton and Ripon Conservative Association and Keighley Constituency Conservative Association accepted our proposals without objection. The Aire Valley Branch of Skipton and Ripon Constituency Conservative Association wrote soon afterwards to welcome our recommendations. We recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations.

Constituency	*Parliamentary Electorate 1985*	*Number of Electors affected*	*Electorate after recommended alteration*
Keighley C.C.	65,377	−111	65,266
Skipton and Ripon C.C.	71,398	+111	71,509

(iv) *The county constituencies of North East Cambridgeshire, South East Cambridgeshire and South West Cambridgeshire.*

The East Cambridgeshire (Parishes) Order 1983, which came into operation on 1st April 1984, changed the boundaries of some of the parishes within the District of East Cambridgeshire and, in consequence, altered a ward boundary which formed part of the constituency boundary between South East Cambridgeshire C.C. and North East Cambridgeshire C.C., affecting 10 parliamentary electors. Our provisional recommendation was that the constituency boundary be altered to conform with the new ward boundary transferring the 10 electors from South East Cambridgeshire C.C. to North East Cambridgeshire C.C.

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The South Cambridgeshire (Parishes) Order 1984, which came into operation on 1st April 1985, changed the boundaries of some of the parishes within the District of South Cambridgeshire and, in consequence, altered the ward boundaries which formed parts of the constituency boundary between South East Cambridgeshire C.C. and South West Cambridgeshire C.C., affecting 25 parliamentary electors. Our provisional recommendation was that the constituency boundary be altered to conform with the new ward boundaries transferring the 25 electors from South West Cambridgeshire C.C. to South East Cambridgeshire C.C.

No representations were received concerning these proposals in Cambridgeshire. We recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations.

Constituency	*Parliamentary Electorate 1985*	*Net number of Electors affected*	*Electorate after recommended alterations*
North East Cambridgeshire C.C.	72,689	+10	72,699
South East Cambridgeshire C.C.	70,535	+15	70,550
South West Cambridgeshire C.C.	80,231	−25	80,206

(v) *The county constituencies of Bridgwater and Taunton.*

The West Somerset (Parishes) Order 1983, which came into operation on 1st April 1983, changed the boundaries of some of the parishes within the District of West Somerset and, in consequence, altered the ward boundaries which formed part of the constituency boundary between Bridgwater C.C. and Taunton C.C. Our provisional recommendation was that the constituency boundary should be altered to conform with the new ward boundaries. No parliamentary elector would be affected.

The Sedgemoor and Taunton Deane (Areas) Order 1984, which came into operation on 1st April 1985, altered the boundary between the District of Sedgemoor and the Borough of Taunton Deane, which formed the constituency boundary between Bridgwater C.C. and Taunton C.C. Seventy-eight parliamentary electors were affected. Our provisional recommendation was that the constituency boundary should be altered to conform with the new district boundary. This proposal transferred 76 electors from Bridgwater C.C. to Taunton C.C. and two electors from Taunton C.C. to Bridgwater C.C. No representations were received about the constituencies in Somerset. We recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations.

Constituency	*Parliamentary Electorate 1985*	*Net number of Electors affected*	*Electorate after recommended alterations*
Bridgwater C.C.	66,281	−74	66,207
Taunton C.C.	73,112	+74	73,186

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4. The detailed administrative contents of our final recommendations are as follows:—

Eastleigh B.C.

(i) The Borough of Eastleigh as altered by the Hampshire (Areas) Order 1985;

(ii) The following ward (as constituted by the City of Southampton (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and as altered by the New Forest and Southampton (Areas) Order 1978) of the City of Southampton, namely, Woolston.

Havant B.C.

The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Havant (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and as altered by the East Hampshire and Havant (Areas) Order 1983) of the Borough of Havant, namely, Barncroft, Battins, Bedhampton, Bondfields, Cowplain, Emsworth, Hart Plain, Hayling East, Hayling West, St. Faith's, Warren Park and Waterloo.

Basingstoke C.C.

The following wards (as constituted by the District of Basingstoke (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975 and as altered by the Basingstoke and Deane (Parishes) Order 1985 and the Hampshire (Areas) Order 1985) of the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane, namely, Basing, Black Dam, Bramley, Brighton Hill, Buckskin, Chapel, Daneshill, Eastrop, Farleigh Wallop, Kempshott, King's Furlong, Norden, North Waltham, Oakley, Pamber, Popley, Sherborne St. John, Sherfield on Loddon, Silchester, South Ham, Upton Grey, Viables, Westside and Winklebury.

East Hampshire C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the District of East Hampshire (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and as altered by the East Hampshire (Parishes) Order 1981, the East Hampshire and Havant (Areas) Order 1983 and the Hampshire (Areas) Order 1985) of the District of East Hampshire, namely, Binsted, Bramshott and Liphook, Clanfield and Buriton, East Meon and Langrish, Froyle and Bentley, Froxfield and Steep, Grayshott, Headley, Horndean-Catherington, Horndean-Hazleton, Horndean-Kings, Horndean-Murray, Liss, Petersfield-Heath, Petersfield-St. Mary's, Petersfield-St. Peters, Rowlands Castle, Selborne, The Hangers, Whitehill-Bordon and Whitehill and Whitehill-Lindford;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Hart (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and as altered by the Hart (Parishes) Order 1981) of the District of Hart, namely, Church Crookham, Crondall, Fleet Courtmoor, Fleet Pondtail, Fleet West, Hook, Long Sutton and Odiham.

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Fareham C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Fareham (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975) of the Borough of Fareham, namely, Fareham East, Fareham North, Fareham North-West, Fareham South, Fareham West, Locks Heath, Portchester Central, Portchester East, Portchester West, Sarisbury, Titchfield and Warsash;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the City of Winchester (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and as altered by the Hampshire (Areas) Order 1985) of the City of Winchester, namely, Boarhunt and Southwick, Curdridge, Denmead, Droxford Soberton and Hambledon, Shedfield, Swanmore, Waltham Chase and Wickham.

North West Hampshire C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Basingstoke (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975 and as altered by the Basingstoke and Deane (Parishes) Order 1985) of the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane, namely, Baughurst, Burghclere, East Woodhay, Kingsclere, Overton, St. Mary Bourne, Tadley Central, Tadley North, Tadley South and Whitchurch;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Test Valley (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975 and as altered by the Test Valley (Parishes) Order 1984 and the Hampshire (Areas) Order 1985) of the Borough of Test Valley, namely, Alamein, Anna, Bourne Valley, Dun Valley, Harewood, Harroway, Kings Somborne and Michelmersh, Millway, Nether Wallop and Broughton, Over Wallop, St. Mary's, Stockbridge, Tedworth, Weyhill and Winton.

Romsey and Waterside C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the District of New Forest (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and as altered by the New Forest and Southampton (Areas) Order 1978 and the New Forest (Parishes) Order 1979) of the District of New Forest, namely, Blackfield and Langley, Colbury, Dibden and Hythe North, Dibden Purlieu, Fawley Holbury, Hythe South, Marchwood, Netley Marsh, Totton Central, Totton North and Totton South;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Test Valley (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975 and as altered by the Test Valley (Parishes) Order 1984) of the Borough of Test Valley, namely, Abbey, Blackwater, Chilworth and Nursling, Cuppernham, Field, North Baddesley, Romsey Extra and Tadburn.

Winchester C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the District of East Hampshire (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and as altered by the East Hampshire (Parishes) Order 1981) of the District of East Hampshire, namely, Alton-Holybourne, Alton North East, Alton North West, Alton South East,

Alton South West and Beech, Farringdon, Four Marks, Medstead, North Downland and Ropley and West Tisted;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the City of Winchester (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and as altered by the Hampshire (Areas) Order 1985 and ~~altered by~~ the Winchester (Parishes) Order 1985) of the City of Winchester, namely, Badger Farm, Bishops Sutton, Bishops Waltham, Cheriton, Compton, Durley and Upham, Itchen Valley, Littleton, Micheldever, New Alresford, Olivers Battery, Otterbourne and Hursley, Owslebury and Colden Common, St. Barnabas, St. Bartholomew, St. John and All Saints, St. Luke, St. Michael, St. Paul, Sparsholt, The Worthys, Twyford, Upper Meon Valley and Wonston.

Falmouth and Camborne C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Carrick (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978 and as altered by the Carrick (Parishes) Order 1985) of the District of Carrick, namely, Arwenack, Mylor, Penryn, Penwerris, Smithick and Trevethan;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Kerrier (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978 and as altered by the Kerrier (Parishes) Order 1985) of the District of Kerrier, namely, Camborne North, Camborne South, Camborne West, Constantine and Gweek, Illogan North, Illogan South, Mabe and St. Gluvias, Mawnan and Budock, Redruth North, Redruth South, St. Day and Lanner and Stithians.

St. Ives C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Kerrier (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978 and as altered by the Kerrier (Parishes) Order 1985) of the District of Kerrier, namely, Breage and Germoe, Crowan, Grade-Ruan and Landewednack, Helston North, Helston South, Meneage, Mullion, Porthleven, St. Keverne and Wendron and Sithney;

(ii) The District of Penwith;

(iii) The Isles of Scilly.

South East Cornwall C.C.

(i) The District of Caradon;

(ii) The following ward (as constituted by the District of North Cornwall (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978) of the District of North Cornwall, namely, Stokeclimsland;

(iii) The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Restormel (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1979 and as altered by the Restormel (Parishes) Order 1983) of the Borough of Restormel, namely, Fowey, Lostwithiel, St. Blaise and Tywardreath.

bc45355

Truro C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Carrick (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978 and as altered by the Carrick (Parishes) Order 1985) of the District of Carrick, namely, Boscawen, Chacewater, Feock, Kea, Kenwyn, Moresk, Newlyn, Perranzabuloe, Probus, Roseland, St. Agnes, St. Clement, Tregolls and Trehaverne;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Restormel (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1979 and as altered by the Restormel (Parishes) Order 1983) of the Borough of Restormel, namely, Crinnis, Mevagissey, Poltair, Rock, St. Ewe, St. Mewan, St. Stephen-in-Brannel, Trevarna and Treverbyn.

Keighley C.C.

The following wards (as constituted by the City of Bradford (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1979 and as altered by the North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire (Areas) Order 1982) of the City of Bradford, namely, Craven, Ilkley, Keighley North, Keighley South, Keighley West and Worth Valley.

Skipton and Ripon C.C.

(i) The District of Craven as altered by the North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire (Areas) Order 1982;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Harrogate (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1979) of the Borough of Harrogate, namely, Almscliffe, Bishop Monkton, Boroughbridge, Fountains, Killinghall, Kirkby Malzeard, Lower Nidderdale, Mashamshire, Newby, Nidd Valley, Pateley Bridge, Ripon East, Ripon West, Wathvale and Wharfedale Moors.

North East Cambridgeshire C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the District of East Cambridgeshire (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980 and as altered by the East Cambridgeshire (Parishes) Order 1983) of the District of East Cambridgeshire, namely, Downham, Haddenham, Littleport, Stretham, Sutton and Witchford;

(ii) The District of Fenland;

(iii) The following wards (as constituted by the City of Peterborough (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976) of the City of Peterborough, namely, Eye, Newborough and Thorney.

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South East Cambridgeshire C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the District of East Cambridgeshire (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980 and as altered by the East Cambridgeshire (Parishes) Order 1983) of the District of East Cambridgeshire, namely, Bottisham, Burwell, Chevely, Dullingham Villages, Ely Northern, Ely Southern, Ely West, Fordham Villages, Isleham, Soham, The Swaffhams and Woodditton;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the District of South Cambridgeshire (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975 and as altered by the South Cambridgeshire (Parishes) Order 1984) of the District of South Cambridgeshire, namely, Abington, Balsham, Bar Hill, Castle Camps, Coton, Cottenham, Elsworth, Fulbourn, Girton, Histon, Linton, Longstanton, Milton, Over, Swavesey, Teversham, The Wilbrahams, Waterbeach and Willingham.

South West Cambridgeshire C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the City of Cambridge (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975) of the City of Cambridge, namely, Queen Edith's and Trumpington;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Huntingdon (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and as altered by the Huntingdon (Parishes) Order 1982) of the District of Huntingdon, namely, Buckden, Eaton Ford, Eaton Socon, Eynesbury, Gransden, Paxton, Priory Park, Staughton and The Offords;

(iii) The following wards (as constituted by the District of South Cambridgeshire (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975 and as altered by the South Cambridgeshire (Parishes) Order 1984) of the District of South Cambridgeshire, namely, Arrington, Barrington and Shepreth, Barton, Bassingbourn, Bourn, Comberton, Duxford, Foxton, Gamlingay, Great Shelford, Hardwick, Harston, Haslingfield, Ickleton, Little Shelford, Melbourn, Meldreth, Orwell, Papworth, Sawston, Stapleford, The Mordens and Whittlesford.

Bridgwater C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Sedgemoor (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1977 and as altered by the Sedgemoor (Parishes) Order 1981, the Sedgemoor (Parishes) (Amendment) Order 1981 and the Sedgemoor and Taunton Deane (Areas) Order 1984) of the District of Sedgemoor, namely, Cannington and Combwich, Central, Dowsborough, Eastern Quantocks, Eastover, East Poldens, Hamp, Huntspill, Newton Green, North Petherton, Parchey, Pawlett and Puriton, Quantock, Sandford, Sowey, Sydenham, Victoria, Westonzoyland, West Poldens and Woolavington;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the District of West Somerset (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and as altered by the West Somerset (Parishes) Order 1983) of the District of West Somerset, namely, Alcombe, Aville Vale, Carhampton and Withycombe, Crowcombe and Stogumber,

bc45355

Dunster, East Brendon, Holnicote, Minehead North, Minehead South, Old Cleeve, Porlock and Oare, Quantock Vale, Watchet, West Quantock and Williton.

Taunton C.C.

(i) The Borough of Taunton Deane as altered by the Sedgemoor and Taunton Deane (Areas) Order 1984;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the District of West Somerset (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and as altered by the West Somerset (Parishes) Order 1983) of the District of West Somerset, namely, Dulverton and Brushford, Exmoor, Haddon and Quarme.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant
Raymond Walton
Deputy Chairman,
for the Boundary Commission for England

bc4535

APPENDIX

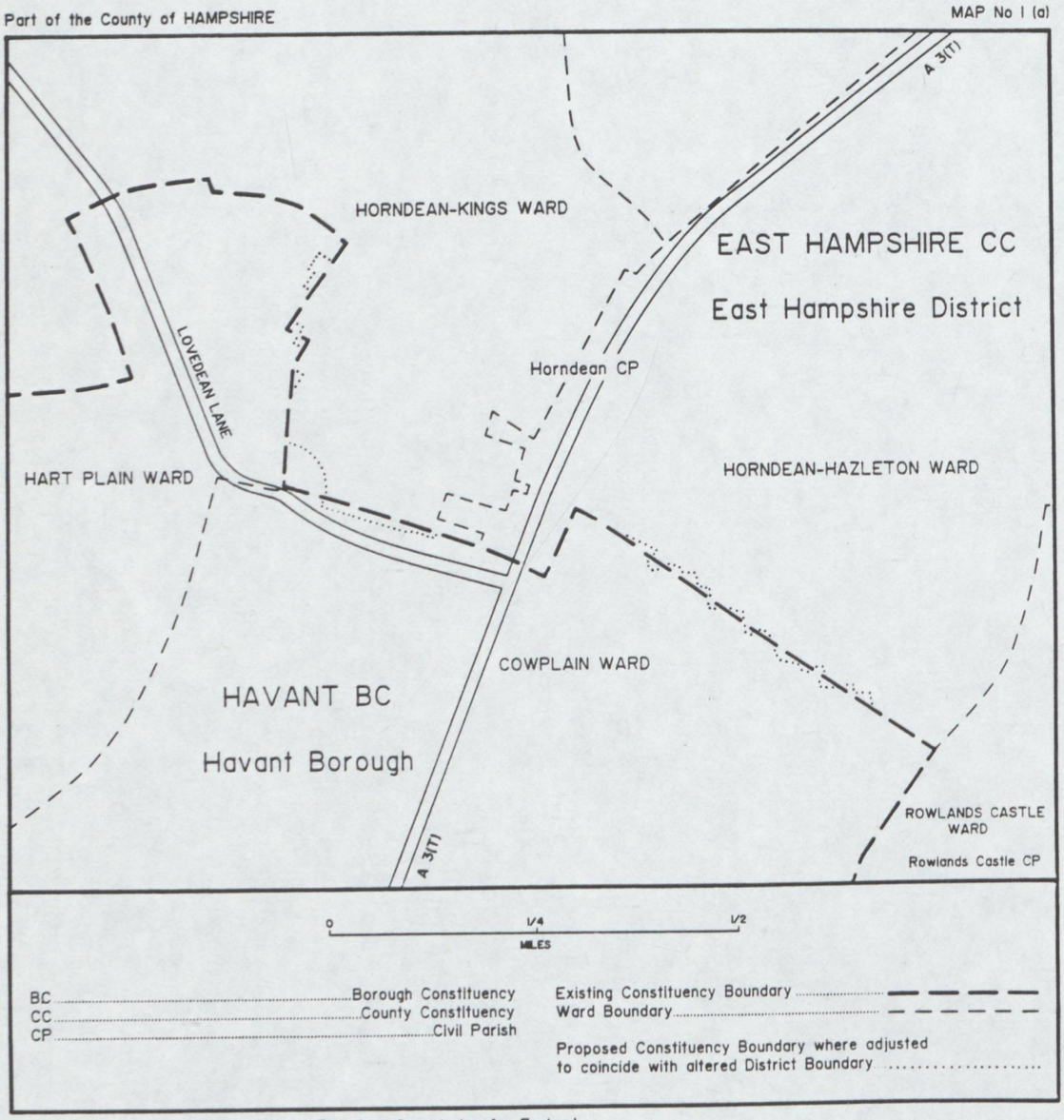
1. The changes to constituencies recommended in this report are illustrated on the following maps:—

Map No. 1	(a)	East Hampshire County Constituency Havant Borough Constituency
	(b)	North West Hampshire County Constituency Romsey and Waterside County Constituency
	(c)	Basingstoke County Constituency North West Hampshire County Constituency Winchester County Constituency
	(d)	East Hampshire County Constituency Fareham County Constituency Winchester County Constituency
	(e)	Eastleigh Borough Constituency Winchester County Constituency
	(f)	North West Hampshire County Constituency Winchester County Constituency
Map No. 2	(a)	Falmouth and Camborne County Constituency St. Ives County Constituency
	(b)	Falmouth and Camborne County Constituency Truro County Constituency
	(c)	South East Cornwall County Constituency Truro County Constituency
Map No. 3		Keighley County Constituency Skipton and Ripon County Constituency
Map No. 4	(a)	North East Cambridgeshire County Constituency South East Cambridgeshire County Constituency
	(b)	South East Cambridgeshire County Constituency South West Cambridgeshire County Constituency
	(c)	South East Cambridgeshire County Constituency South West Cambridgeshire County Constituency
Map No. 5	(a)	Bridgwater County Constituency Taunton County Constituency
	(b)	Bridgwater County Constituency Taunton County Constituency

2. Maps covering the areas affected by the recommended changes have been deposited in the House of Commons Library for reference by Members of Parliament.

Part of the County of HAMPSHIRE

MAP No 1 (a)



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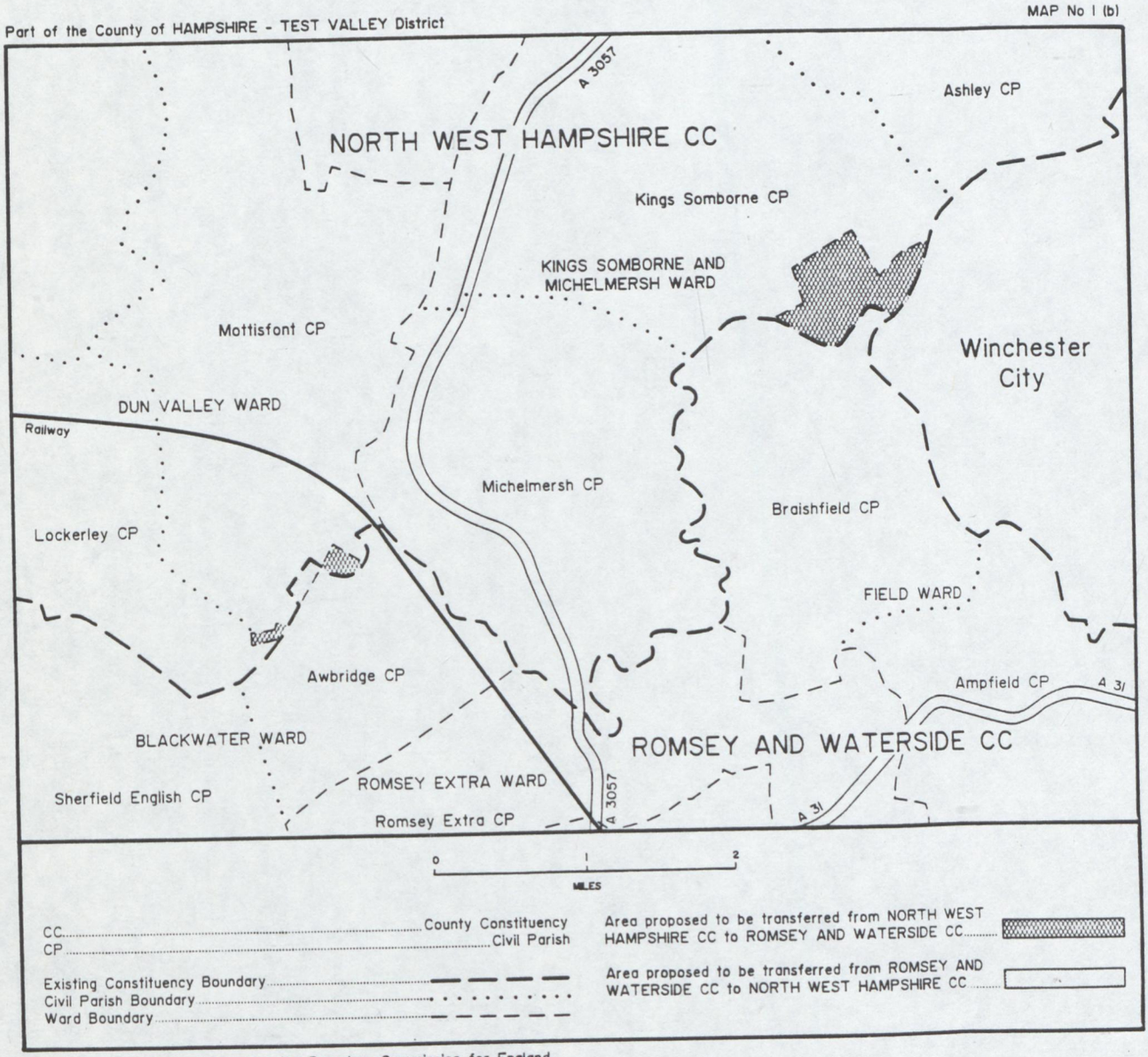
Part of the County of HAMPSHIRE - TEST VALLEY District

MAP No 1 (b)



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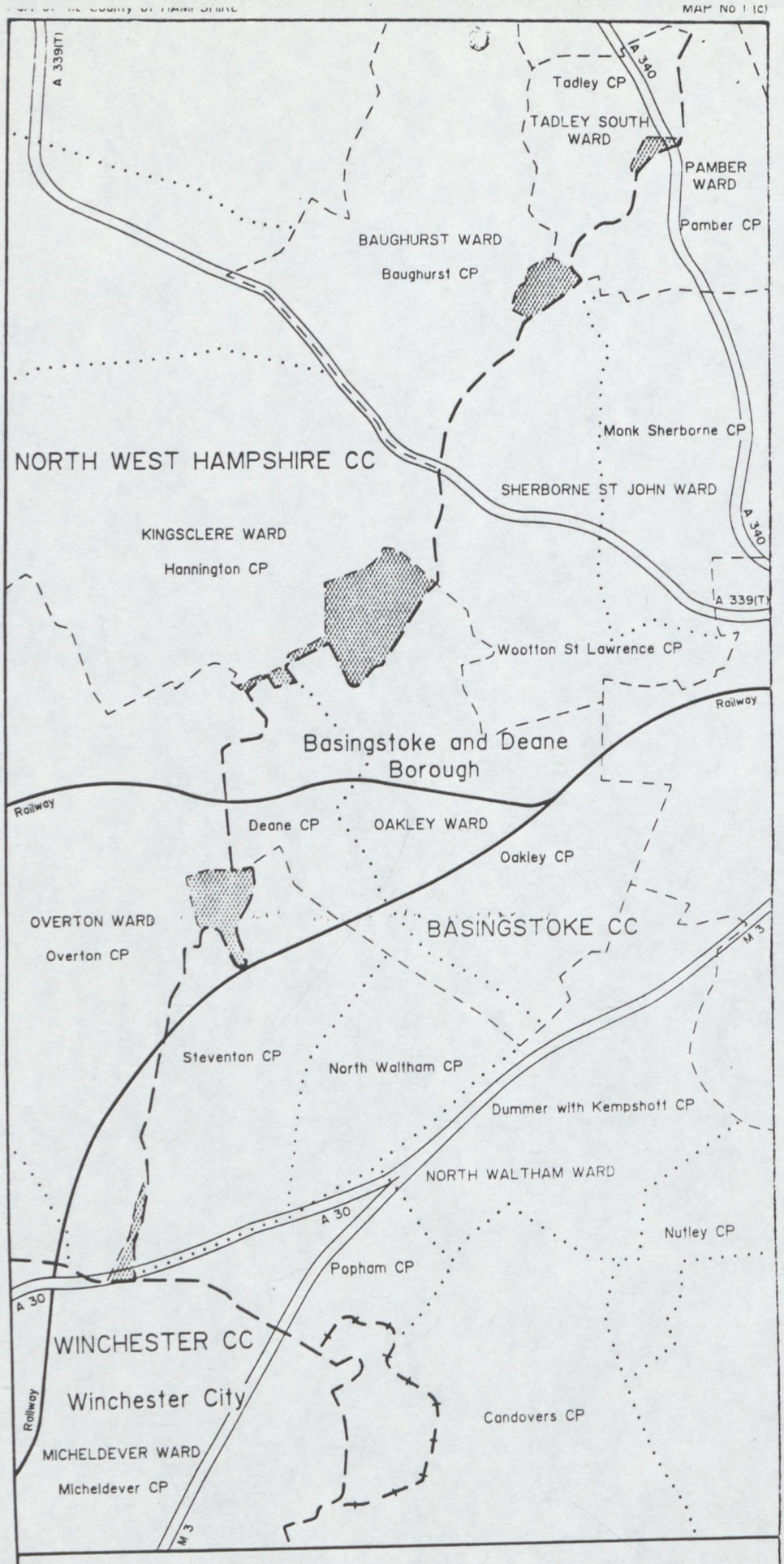
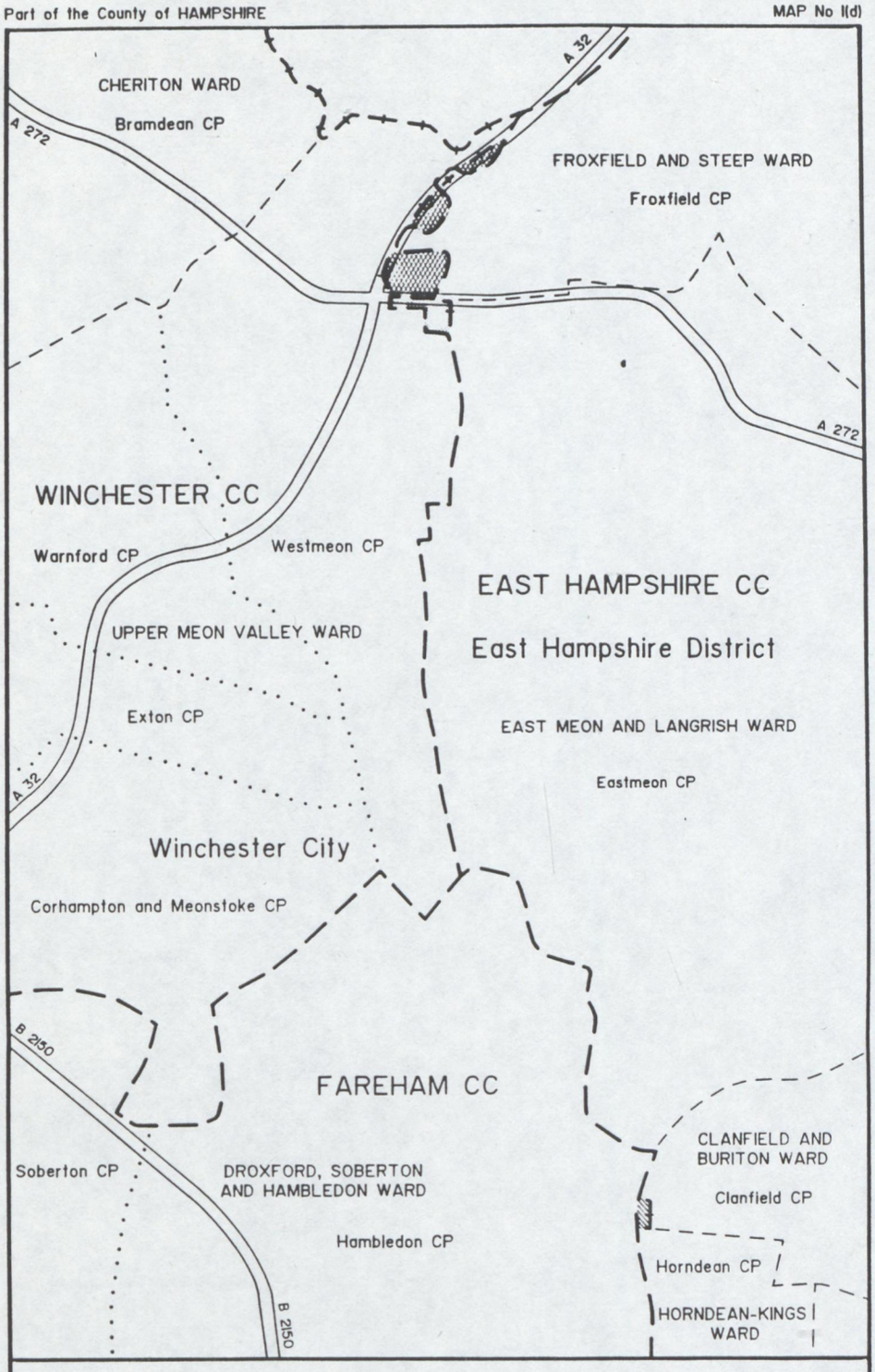

A 339(T)
A 340
Tadley CP
TADLEY SOUTH WARD
PAMBER WARD
Pamber CP
BAUGHURST WARD
Baughurst CP
Monk Sherborne CP
NORTH WEST HAMPSHIRE CC
SHERBORNE ST JOHN WARD
KINGSCLERE WARD
Hannington CP
A 339(T)
Wootton St Lawrence CP
Railway
Basingstoke and Deane Borough
Railway
Deane CP
OAKLEY WARD
Oakley CP
OVERTON WARD
Overton CP
BASINGSTOKE CC
M 3
Steventon CP
North Waltham CP
Dummer with Kempshott CP
NORTH WALTHAM WARD
A 30
Nutley CP
Popham CP
A 30
WINCHESTER CC
Winchester City
Railway
Candovers CP
MICHELDEVER WARD
Micheldever CP
M 3
0
1
2
MILES
CC ..... County Constituency
CP ..... Civil Parish
Existing Constituency Boundary .....
District Boundary .....
Ward Boundary .....
Civil Parish Boundary .....
Area proposed to be transferred from NORTH WEST HAMPSHIRE CC to BASINGSTOKE CC .....

Part of the County of HAMPSHIRE

MAP No I(d)



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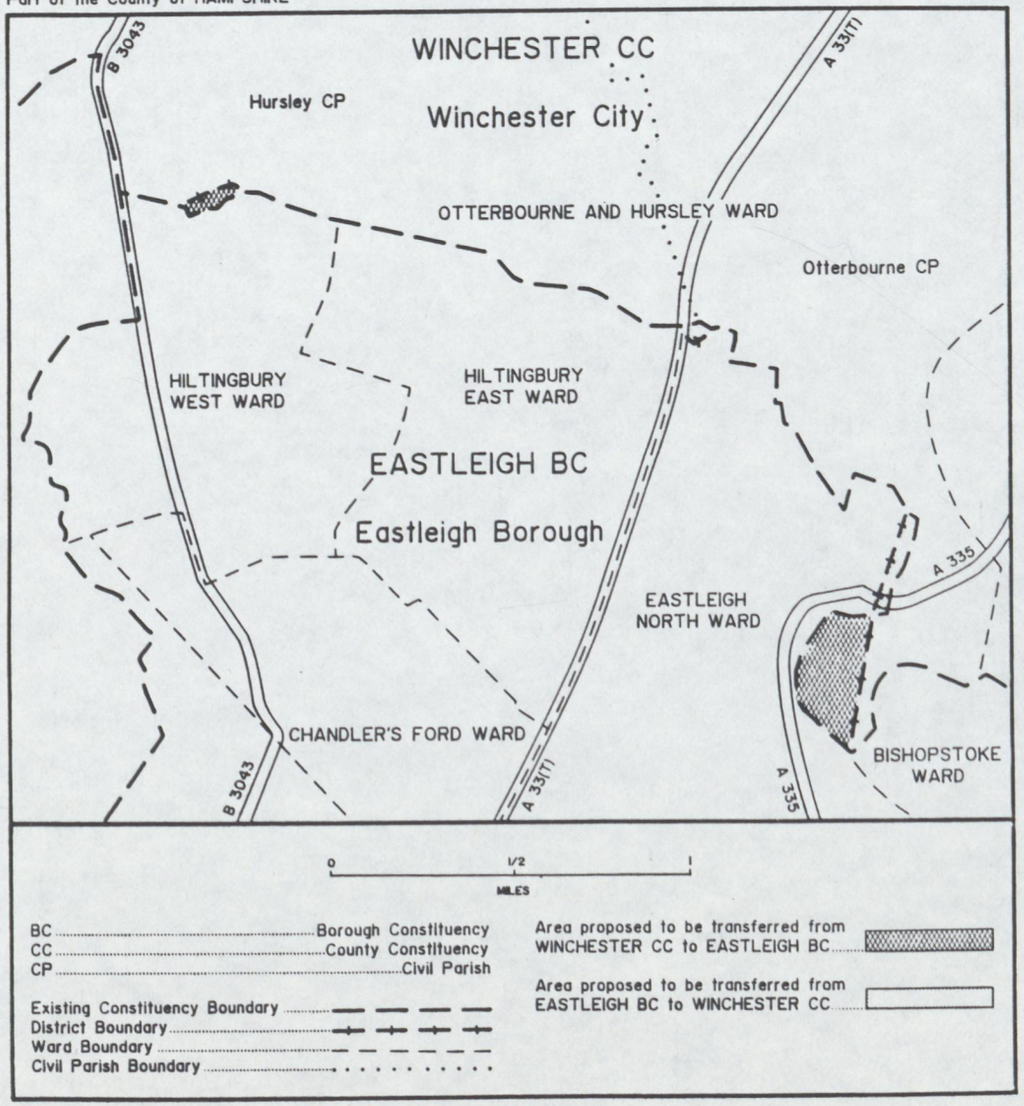
Part of the County of HAMPSHIRE

MAP No 1 (e)



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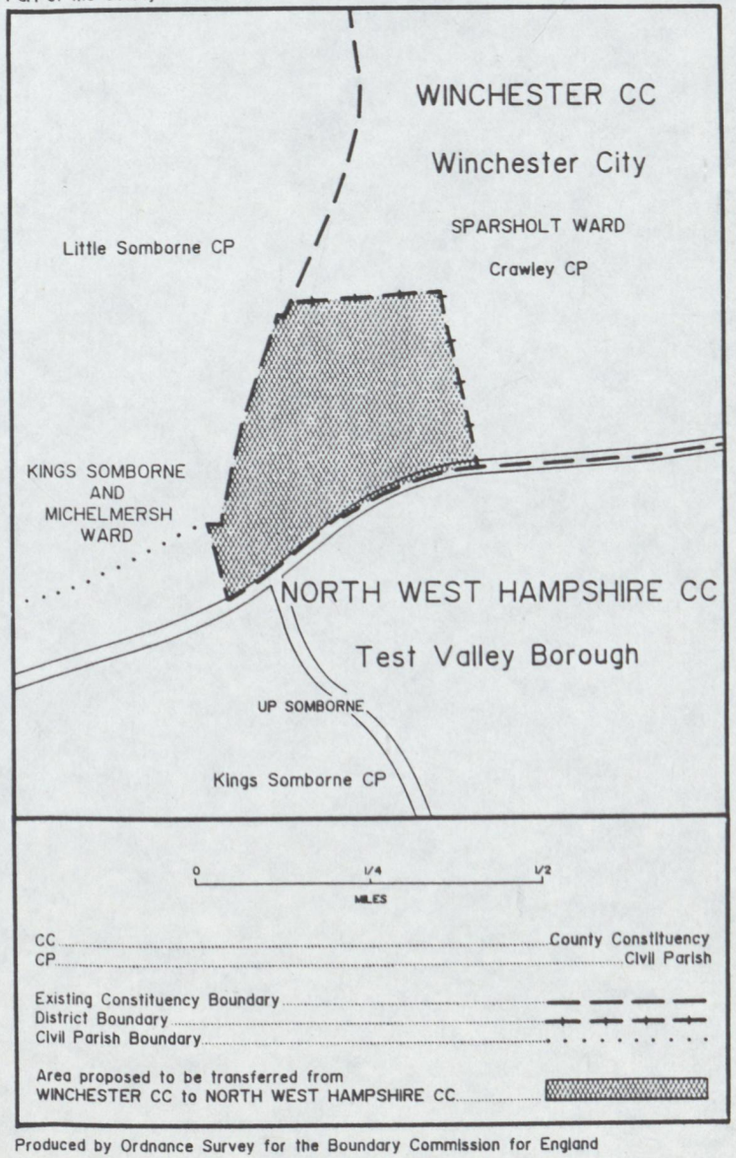
Part of the County of HAMPSHIRE

MAP No 1 (f)



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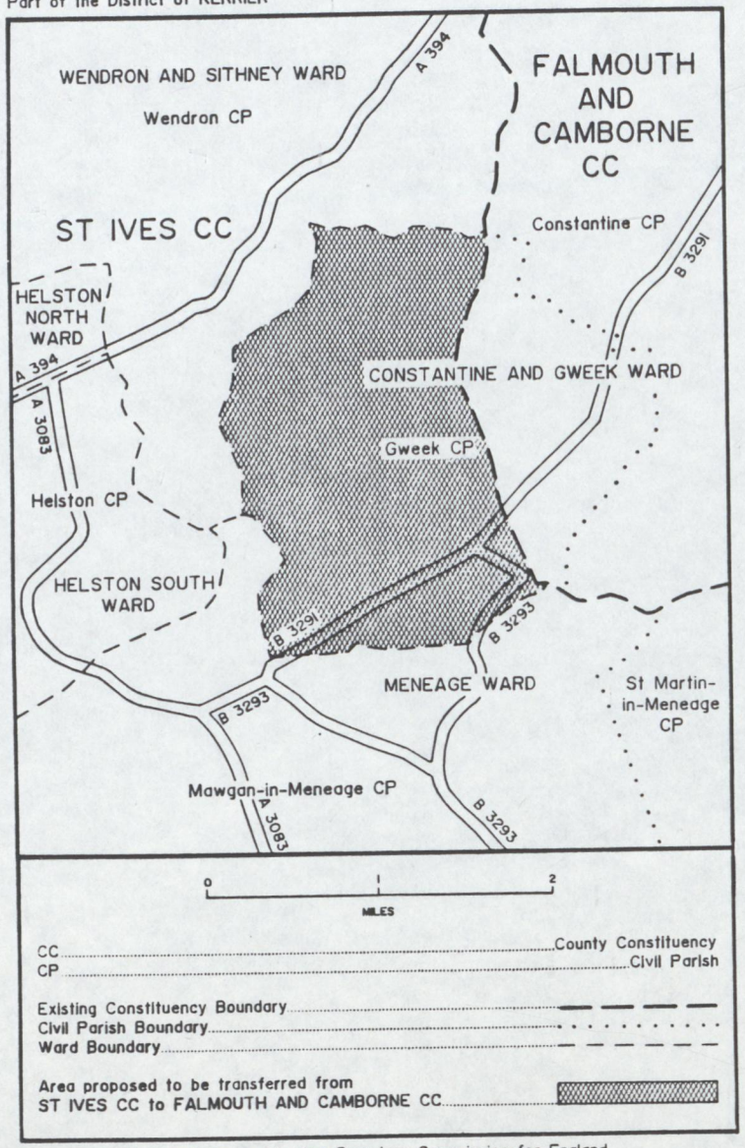
Part of the District of KERRIER

MAP No 2(a)



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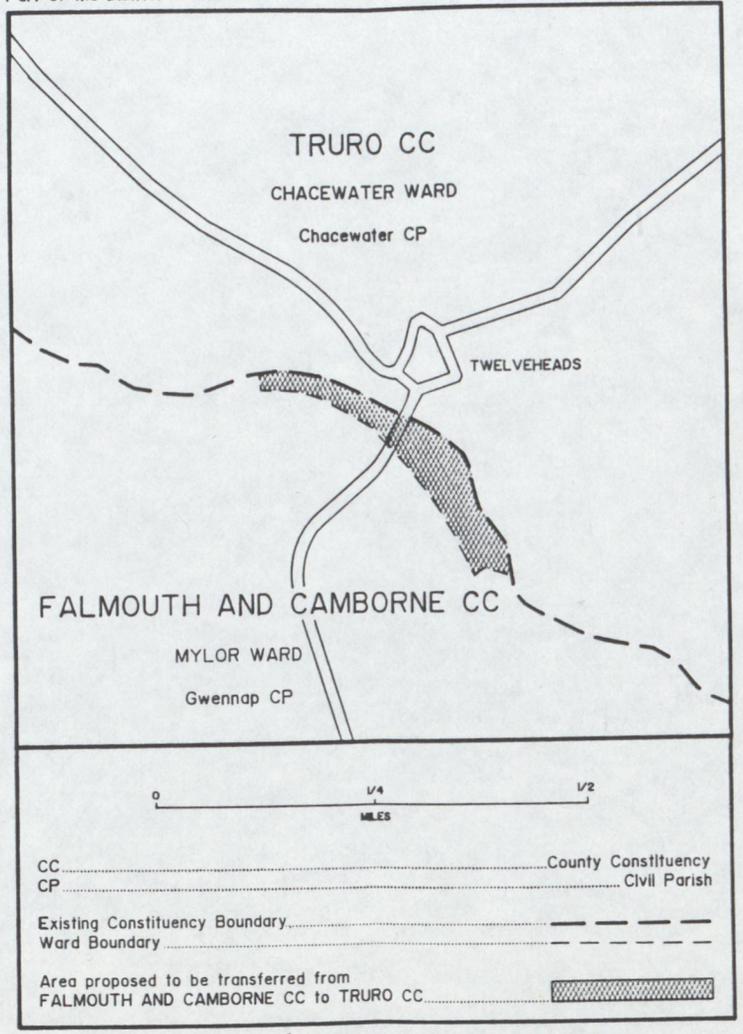
Part of the District of CARRICK

MAP No 2(b)



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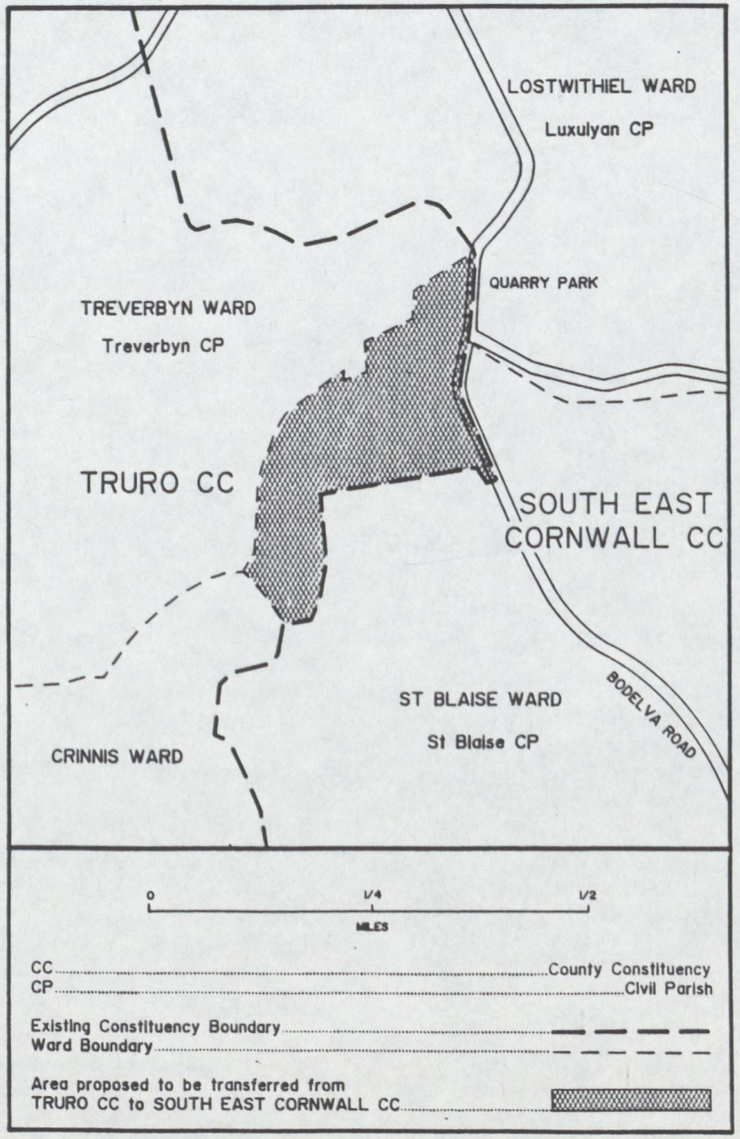
Part of the Borough of RESTORMEL MAP No 2(c)



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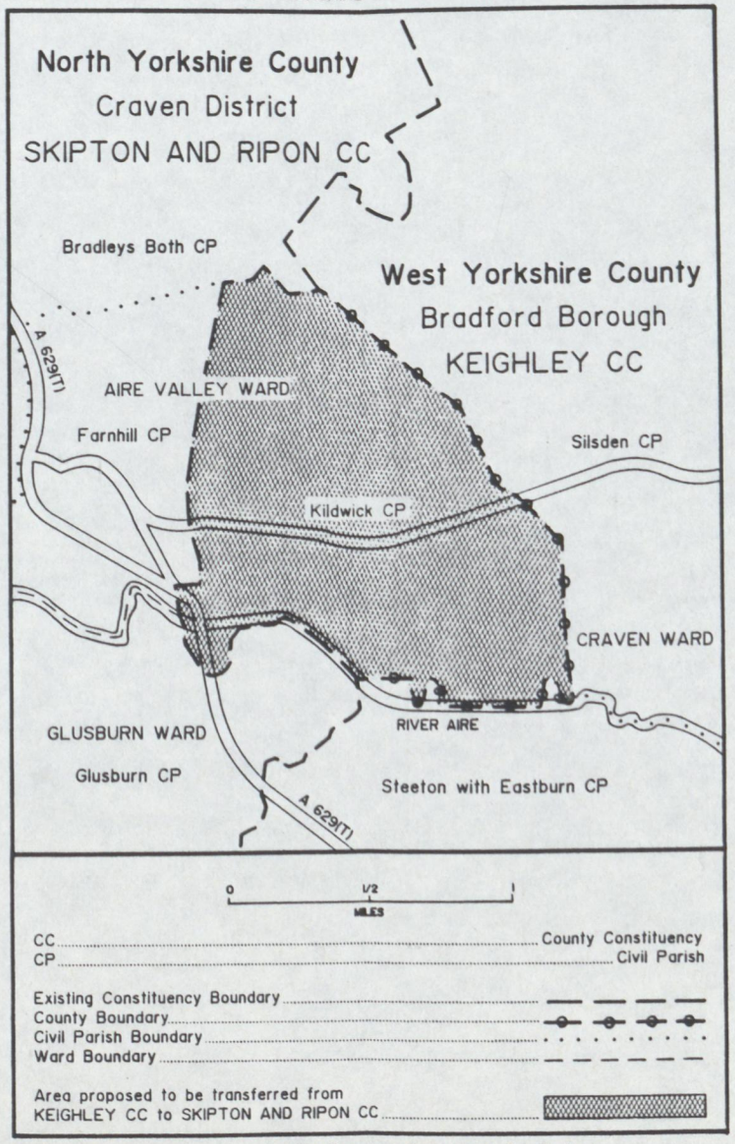
Part of the Counties of NORTH YORKSHIRE and WEST YORKSHIRE MAP No 3



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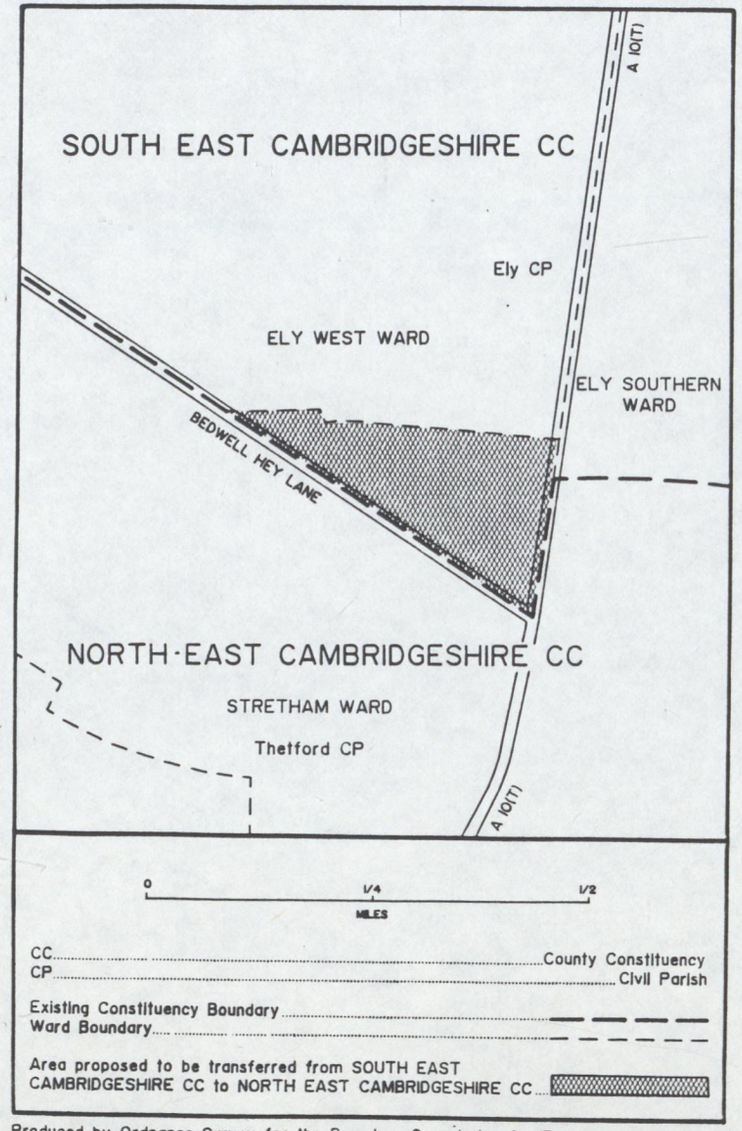
Part of the District of EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

MAP No 4(a)



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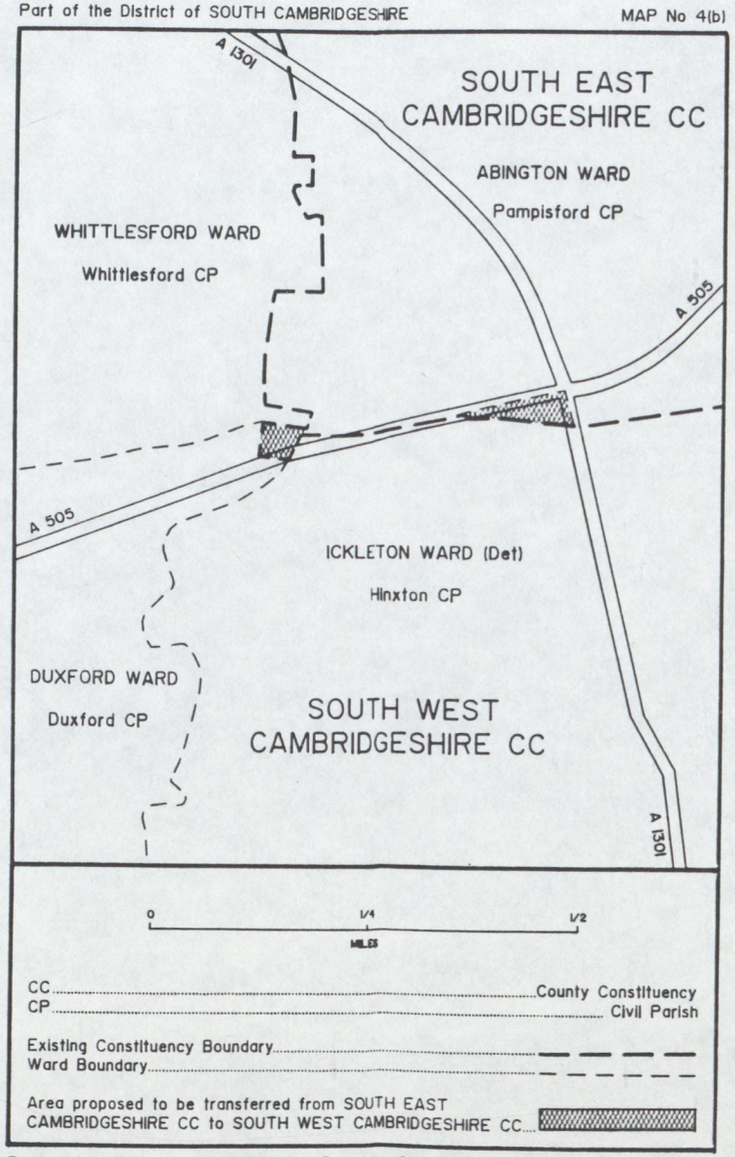
Part of the District of SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

MAP No 4(b)



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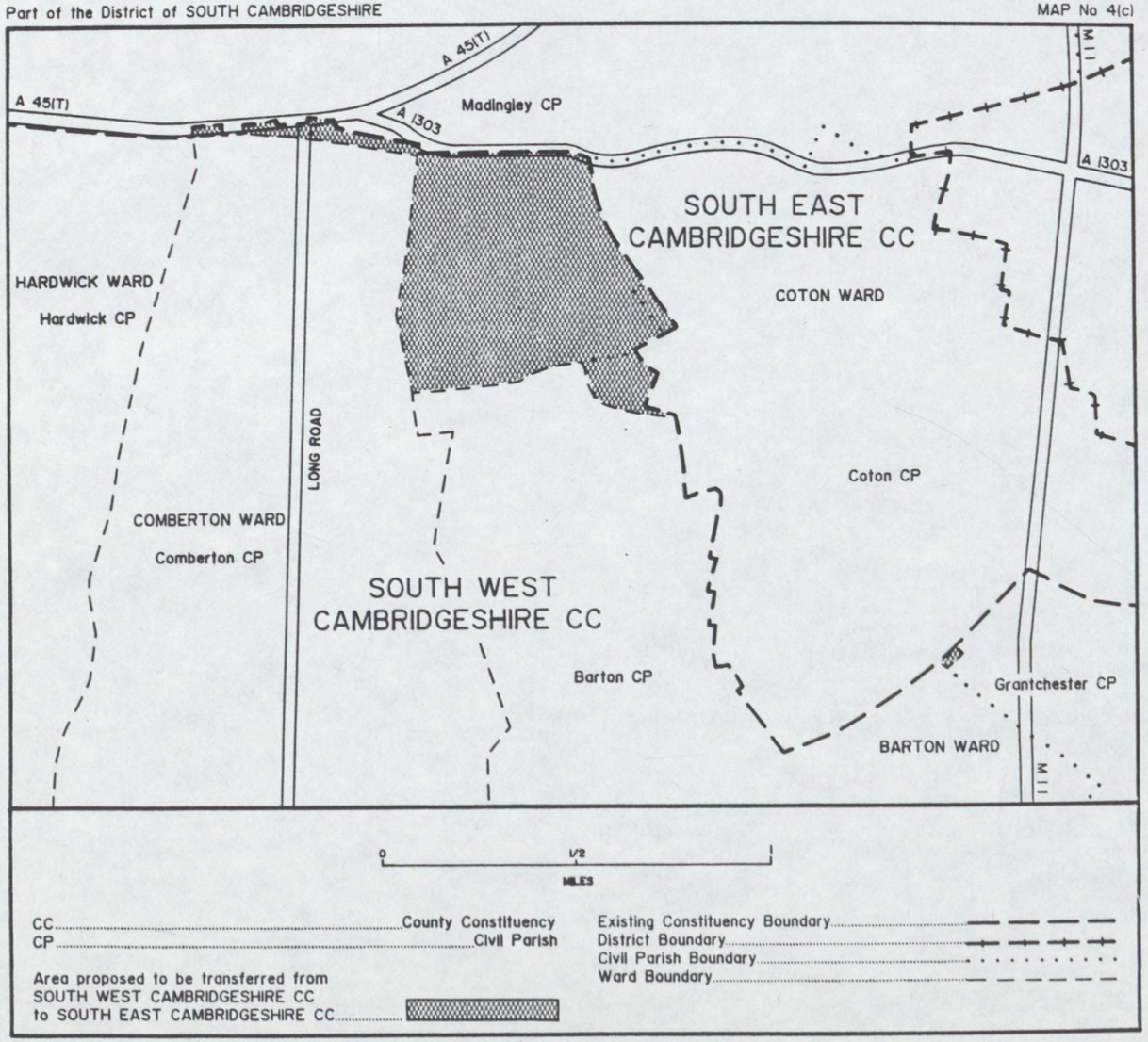
Part of the District of SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

MAP No 4(c)



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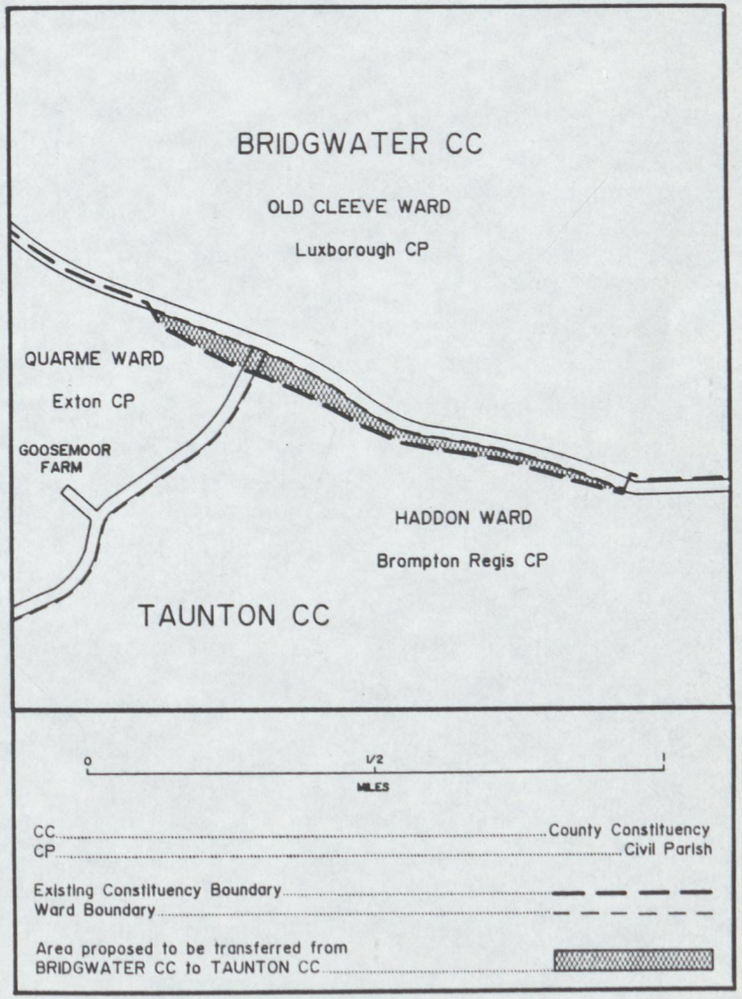
Part of the District of WEST SOMERSET

MAP No 5(a)



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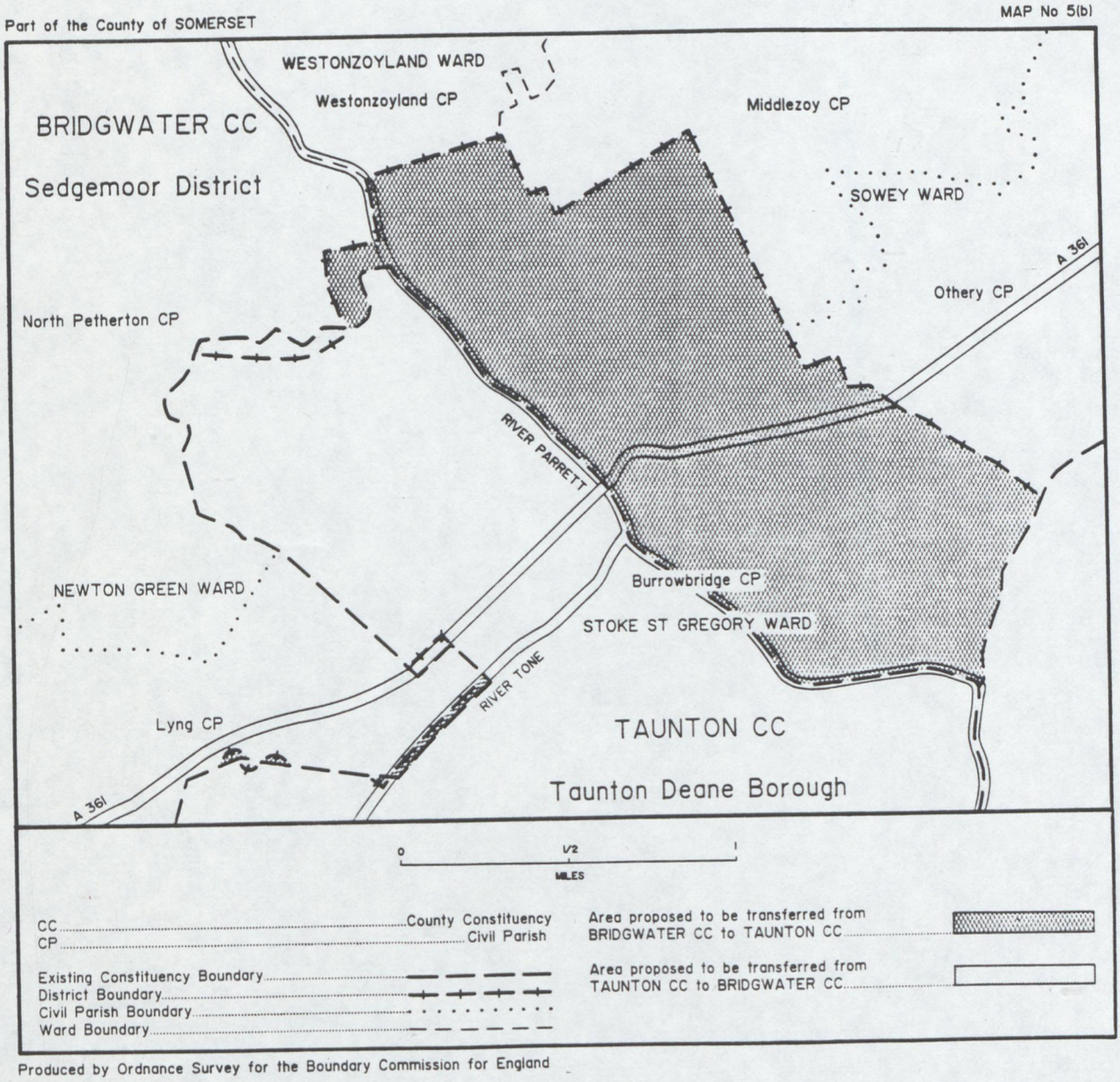
Part of the County of SOMERSET

MAP No 5(b)



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PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL. LONDON SW1A 2AT

4 March 1985

Dear Leon 4/3.

REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND ON 1984 INTERIM REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

Thank you for your letter of 21 February enclosing this report.

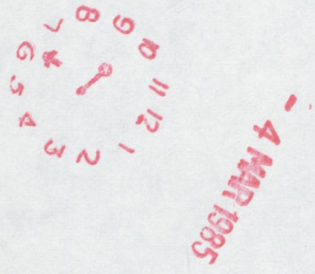
I am fully content with the approach you have in mind. I understand that there are no objections from other recipients of your letter, and you may therefore take it that you have H Committee approval to proceed.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, the members of H Committee, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Minister without Portfolio, the Paymaster General, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever
Lord

The Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP

Parliament : Boundary Commission Review 2/84



HOME SECRETARY

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SWIH 9AT

21 February 1985

Dear Willie,

M 22/2.

REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND ON 1984 INTERIM REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

I enclose herewith a copy of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England's report on their 1984 interim review of 23 parliamentary constituencies. A summary of the recommendations is attached as an Annex to this letter.

The House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 requires me to lay this report before Parliament as soon as may be after receiving it, together with the draft of an Order in Council giving effect, with or without modifications, to the Commission's recommendations. The report is published when it is laid before Parliament. The issues to be decided are as follows:-

a. whether to modify the Commission's proposals;

b. whether to implement the final recommendations by a single Order in Council; and

c. when to lay the draft Order and arrange the ensuing debates.

Modifications

I have already received two representations about the Commission's final recommendations. These reiterate objections considered and rejected by the Commission during the review and disclose no new evidence to warrant modifications. Robert Hayward MP has objected to the Commission's decision to review the Kingswood and Wansdyke constituenceis without waiting for the outcome of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's second electoral review of the district of Kingswood. This point is dealt with in paragraph 3(iv) of the report. The district review is unlikely to be completed before 1986, whereas new parish boundaries with consequential changes to some district wards are already in force. One of two individuals who made representations to the Commission about the boundary between the Huntingdon and Peterborough constituencies objects to the continued inclusion of the Werrington parish and ward of the City of Peterborough in the Huntingdon seat. The Commission, however, rejected both representations because the transfer of even one ward to the Peterborough constituency would greatly increase the disparity between the electorates of both seats (paragraph 3(vii) of the report). Since the Commission's recommendations for all four constituencies seem in general to have been accepted locally, I would not propose to modify them. In the unlikely event that I subsequently receive further representations about the recommended boundaries and names, I would not in general favour making modifications on the grounds that Parliament should have the opportunity to discuss the Commission's recommendations as submitted to me.

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw, CH, MC

Parliamentary Handling

It is open to the Government to seek to implement the final recommendations of a Parliamentary Boundary Commission either by a single Order in Council or by a number of Orders. In 1971 and 1973, the then Home Secretary laid 11 and 5 draft Orders respectively on the completion of interim reviews by the English Commission. However, the Commission's final recommendations on completion of their second and third periodical reviews of all the parliamentary constituencies were each implemented by one Order. So too were the final recommendations for new European Parliament constituencies in 1984. Since the proposed alterations are so minor, my view is that we should follow the latest precedents and lay only one draft Order for all 23 constituencies.

Timing

I propose to lay the report and the draft Order on Tuesday 5 March in order to meet the statutory obligation on me to do so as soon as may be. The draft Order will then have to be approved by both Houses and made by Her Majesty in Council. Once made, the new boundaries will not take affect until the next general election. However, I am anxious that we should arrange the ensuing debates as soon as reasonably practicable to avoid invidious comparisons being made with the short time taken to process the 1983 and 1984 reports.

Perhaps I may assume that colleagues are content with the proposals in this letter unless I hear to the contrary by 28 February.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and to the other members of H Committee.

ANNEX

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND: ANALYSIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

Section 2(3) of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 enables the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England to conduct interim reviews of one or more constituencies in its area.

Background

2. There had been a number of changes to county, district and district ward boundaries since the completion of the Commision's third periodical review in 1983. These alterations were generally quite small but had divorced the boundaries of the local government areas concerned from those of the constituencies created by the Parliamentary Constituencies (England) Order 1983. The Commission therefore decided to review 23 parliamentary constituencies in eleven areas to remove the anomalies.

Final Recommendations

3. The Commission's final recommendations (which are identical to their provisional recommendations) propose the minimum change in each area, namely the realignment of the constituency boundary with the altered local government boundary.

4. All but one of the areas affected by the recommendations contain comparatively small numbers of electors, ranging from 5 to 461. The exception is in Wiltshire, where 1,240 electors are affected by the proposed alterations to the boundaries between the Swindon and Devizes constituencies. During the review, only two objections were made to constituency boundaries. These concerned the Huntingdon and Peterborough constituencies and came from individual electors. It therefore seems unlikely that there will be any pressure for modifications to the Commission's proposals before the report is laid before Parliament.

5. Representations have been made by Mr Robert Hayward MP against the Commission's decision to review the Kingswood and Wansdyke constituencies to take account of the Kingswood (Parishes) Order 1982 without waiting for the outcome of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's electoral review of the district of Kingswood. The Commission did not, however, think it right to wait for the outcome of the district review, which was unlikely to be completed before 1986 at the earliest. If necessary, a further interim review could be carried out later to take account of changes in the district ward boundaries.

6. Representations have also been made by one of the two individual electors referred to in paragraph 4. He wishes the Werrington parish and ward of the City of Peterborough to be transferred from the Huntingdon constituency to the Peterborough constituency. However, acceding to this request would increase the disparity between the 1984 electorates of these constituencies from 1,438 to 14,522.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

REPORT

with respect to the areas comprised in the constituencies of Basildon; Castle Point; Brigg and Cleethorpes; Glanford and Scunthorpe; Bristol East; Woodspring; Kingswood; Wansdyke; Wells; Weston-Super-Mare; Devizes; Swindon; Huntingdon; Peterborough; Knowsley North; Knowsley South; Newcastle-under-Lyme; Stoke-on-Trent North; Stafford; Nuneaton; Rugby and Kenilworth; South Dorset and West Dorset.

Presented pursuant to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 c. 66, s. 2(5)

Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed

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CONSTITUTION OF COMMISSION

In accordance with Part 1 of the First Schedule to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act, 1949 as amended by paragraph 1 of the Schedule to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act, 1958, the Commission was constituted as follows:

Ex-officio Member

The Speaker of the House of Commons, Chairman

And three other Members

The Honourable Mr. Justice Walton, Deputy Chairman appointed by the Lord Chancellor.

His Honour Judge John Newey, Q.C. (Official Referee) appointed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Mr. Thomas Morris Hornby Scott, M.A. appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Assessors

The Registrar General for England and Wales
The Director General of Ordnance Survey

Joint Secretaries

Mr. G. P. Barnes
Mr. A. N. Pickersgill } appointed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

St. Catherines House
10 Kingsway
London WC2B 6JP
31st January 1985

To The Right Honourable Leon Brittan, Q.C., M.P.
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department

Sir

1. We, the Boundary Commission for England, constituted by the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Acts, 1949 and 1958 and charged with keeping under review the distribution of seats at parliamentary elections in England, submit this Report under the provisions of section 2(3) of the 1949 Act, showing our recommendations with respect to the areas comprised in the following constituencies:

(i) The borough constituencies of Basildon and Castle Point.

(ii) The county constituency of Brigg and Cleethorpes and the borough constituency of Glanford and Scunthorpe.

(iii) The borough constituency of Bristol East and the county constituency of Woodspring.

(iv) The borough constituency of Kingswood and the county constituency of Wansdyke.

(v) The county constituencies of Wells and Weston-Super-Mare.

(vi) The county constituency of Devizes and the borough constituency of Swindon.

(vii) The county constituency of Huntingdon and the borough constituency of Peterborough.

(viii) The county constituencies of Knowsley North and Knowsley South.

(ix) The borough constituencies of Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent North and the county constituency of Stafford.

(x) The county constituencies of Nuneaton and Rugby and Kenilworth.

(xi) The county constituencies of South Dorset and West Dorset.

2. Notice of our intention to consider making a report with respect to these areas was submitted to you on 4th June 1984 and was published in the London Gazette on 22nd June 1984. The enumeration date for this interim review is therefore 22nd June 1984 and our recommendations are based on the numbers of parliamentary electors on that date. We issued our provisional recommendations for the areas on 13th September 1984 and, as required by the Acts, we published these in local newspapers circulating in the constituencies affected. Copies of these recommendations, with illustrative maps, were made available for public inspection at suitable places within the constituencies, and facilities were afforded for the submission of representations.

3. Our provisional recommendations were framed to take account of changes in local government boundaries which had resulted in their divergence from

parliamentary constituency boundaries. The considerations which led to our proposals are set out below. Sketch maps illustrating the recommended changes are contained in the Appendix.

(i) *The borough constituencies of Basildon and Castle Point*

The Basildon and Castle Point (Areas) Order 1984, which came into operation on 1st April 1984, altered the district boundary which formed the constituency boundary between Basildon B.C. and Castle Point B.C., affecting 461 parliamentary electors. Our provisional recommendations were that the constituency boundary be altered to conform with the new district boundary. One representation was received, from Essex County Council supporting our proposals.

We recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations.

Constituency	*Parliamentary Electorate 1984*	*Number of Electors affected*	*Electorate after recommended alteration*
Basildon B.C.	67,477	−461	67,016
Castle Point B.C.	65,439	+461	65,900

(ii) *The county constituency of Brigg and Cleethorpes and the borough constituency of Glanford and Scunthorpe*

The Glanford (Parishes) Order 1982, which came into operation on 1 April 1983, changed the boundaries of some of the parishes within the Borough of Glanford and, in consequence, altered a ward boundary which formed part of the constituency boundary between Brigg and Cleethorpes C.C. and Glanford and Scunthorpe B.C., affecting 51 parliamentary electors. Our provisional recommendations were that the constituency boundary be altered to conform with the new ward boundary. One representation was received, from Humberside County Council who did not wish to comment on our proposals. We recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations.

Constituency	*Parliamentary Electorate 1984*	*Number of Electors affected*	*Electorate after recommended alteration*
Brigg and Cleethorpes C.C.	79,234	+51	79,285
Glanford and Scunthorpe B.C.	73,451	−51	73,400

(iii) *The borough constituency of Bristol East and the county constituency of Woodspring*

One of the effects of the Bristol, Wansdyke and Woodspring (Areas) Order 1984, which came into operation on 1st April 1984, was to alter the boundary between the City of Bristol and the District of Wansdyke which formed the constituency boundary between Bristol East B.C. and Woodspring C.C. There were no parliamentary electors in the area transferred. Our provisional recommendations were that the constituency boundary be altered to conform with the new district boundary. No representations were received. We recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations.

Constituency	*Parliamentary Electorate 1984*	*Number of Electors affected*
Bristol East B.C.	67,147	Nil
Woodspring C.C.	73,672	

(iv) *The borough constituency of Kingswood and the county constituency of Wansdyke*

The Kingswood (Parishes) Order 1982, which came into operation on 1st April 1983, changed the boundaries of some of the parishes within the District of Kingswood and, in consequence, altered the ward boundaries which formed the constituency boundary between Kingswood B.C. and Wansdyke C.C., affecting 104 electors. Our provisional recommendations were that the constituency boundary be altered to conform with the new ward boundaries. One representation was received, from Mr. Robert Hayward, Member of Parliament for the Kingswood constituency, proposing that our review should not take place until after the ward review of the District of Kingswood. We decided that, as the ward review was at a very early stage and there was no indication of whether or not any new ward boundaries would affect the constituency boundaries, we should not delay our review. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations.

Fifty-nine electors would be transferred from Wansdyke constituency to Kingswood constituency and 45 electors would be transferred from Kingswood to Wansdyke.

Constituency	*Parliamentary Electorate 1984*	*Net Number of Electors affected*	*Electorate after recommended alteration*
Kingswood B.C.	73,490	+14	73,504
Wansdyke C.C.	73,136	−14	73,122

(v) *The county constituencies of Wells and Weston-Super-Mare*

The Avon and Somerset (Areas) Order 1983, which came into operation on 1st April 1983, altered the county boundary which formed the constituency boundary between Wells C.C. and Weston-Super-Mare C.C., affecting 38 electors. Our provisional recommendations were that the constituency boundary be altered to conform with the new county boundary. No representations were received. We recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations. Thirty-seven electors would be transferred from the Weston-Super-Mare constituency to the Wells constituency and one elector would be transferred from Wells to Weston-Super-Mare.

Constituency	*Parliamentary Electorate 1984*	*Net Number of Electors affected*	*Electorate after recommended alteration*
Wells C.C.	64,438	+36	64,474
Weston-Super-Mare C.C.	73,463	−36	73,427

(vi) *The county constituency of Devizes and the borough constituency of Swindon*

The Thamesdown (Parishes) Order 1982, which came into operation on 1st April 1983, changed the boundaries of some of the parishes within the Borough

of Thamesdown and, in consequence, altered the ward boundaries which formed the constituency boundary between Devizes C.C. and Swindon B.C., affecting 1,240 electors. Our provisional recommendations were that the constituency boundaries be altered to conform with the new ward boundaries. We received one representation, from Thamesdown Borough Council who supported our proposals. We were subsequently informed that Wiltshire County Council had no comments to make and that Kennet District Council supported the proposals. We recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations. Twenty-nine electors would be transferred from the Swindon constituency to the Devizes constituency and 1,211 electors would be transferred from Devizes to Swindon.

Constituency	*Parliamentary Electorate 1984*	*Net Number of Electors affected*	*Electorate after recommended alteration*
Devizes C.C.	85,643	−1,182	84,461
Swindon B.C.	79,693	+1,182	80,875

(vii) *The county constituency of Huntingdon and the borough constituency of Peterborough*

The Peterborough (Parishes) Order 1984, which came into operation on 1st April 1984, changed the boundaries of some of the parishes within the City of Peterborough and, in consequence, altered a ward boundary which formed part of the constituency boundary between Huntingdon C.C. and Peterborough B.C., affecting 108 electors. Our provisional recommendations were that the constituency boundary be altered to conform with the new ward boundary. We received representations from two residents of Peterborough. One criticised the "meaningless change" to the Peterborough constituency boundary. Both objected to the fact that some wards of the City of Peterborough are currently included in the Huntingdon constituency instead of in the Peterborough constituency. We noted, however, that the transfer of even one ward from Huntingdon constituency to Peterborough constituency would greatly increase the disparity between the electorates.

The Peterborough Constituency Labour Party subsequently wrote to support our proposals.

We now recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations which have the affect of transferring 108 electors from Huntingdon C.C. to Peterborough B.C.

Constituency	*Parliamentary Electorate 1984*	*Number of Electors affected*	*Electorate after recommended alteration*
Huntingdon C.C.	79,740	−108	79,632
Peterborough B.C.	81,172	+108	81,280

(viii) *The county constituencies of Knowsley North and Knowsley South*

The Knowsley (Parishes) Order 1983, which came into operation on 1st April 1983, changed the boundaries of some of the parishes within the Borough

of Knowsley and, in consequence, altered a ward boundary which formed part of the constituency boundary between Knowsley North C.C. and Knowsley South C.C., affecting five electors. Our provisional recommendations were that the constituency boundary be altered to conform with the new ward boundary. No representations were received. We recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations. The effect would be to transfer one elector from Knowsley North constituency to Knowsley South constituency and four electors from Knowsley South to Knowsley North.

Constituency	*Parliamentary Electorate 1984*	*Net number of Electors affected*	*Electorate after recommended alteration*
Knowsley North C.C.	55,854	+3	55,857
Knowsley South C.C.	68,754	−3	68,751

(ix) *The borough constituencies of Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent North and the county constituency of Stafford*

The Newcastle-under-Lyme (Parishes) Order 1984, which came into operation on 1st April 1984, changed the boundaries of some of the parishes within the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme and, in consequence, altered ward boundaries which formed the constituency boundary between Newcastle-under-Lyme B.C. and Stoke-on-Trent B.C., and the constituency boundary between Newcastle-under-Lyme B.C. and Stafford C.C., affecting eight electors. Our provisional recommendations were that the constituency boundaries be altered to conform with the new ward boundaries. One representation was received, from Staffordshire County Council wishing to raise no objections to our proposals. We recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations.

Constituency	*Parliamentary Electorate 1984*	*Number of Electors affected*	*Electorate after recommended alteration*
Newcastle-under-Lyme B.C.	66,492	−8	66,484
Stoke-on-Trent North B.C.	76,155	+8	76,163
Stafford C.C.	71,781	0	71,781

(x) *The county constituencies of Nuneaton and Rugby and Kenilworth*

The Rugby (Parishes) Order 1983, which came into operation on 1st April 1984, changed the boundaries of some of the parishes within the Borough of Rugby and, in consequence, altered a ward boundary which formed part of the constituency boundary between Nuneaton C.C. and Rugby and Kenilworth C.C., affecting 18 electors. Our provisional recommendations were that the constituency boundary be altered to conform with the new ward boundary. No representations were received. We recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations.

Constituency	*Parliamentary Electorate 1984*	*Number of Electors affected*	*Electorate after recommended alteration*
Nuneaton C.C.	67,719	+18	67,737
Rugby and Kenilworth C.C.	76,264	−18	76,246

(xi) *The county constituencies of South Dorset and West Dorset*

The West Dorset (Parishes) Order 1983, which came into operation on 1st November 1983, changed the boundaries of some of the parishes within the District of West Dorset and, in consequence, altered a ward boundary which formed part of the constituency boundary between South Dorset C.C. and West Dorset C.C. There were no parliamentary electors in the area transferred. Our provisional recommendations were that the constituency boundary be altered to conform with the new ward boundary. No representations were received. We recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations.

Constituency	*Parliamentary Electorate 1984*	*Number of Electors affected*
South Dorset C.C.	70,653	Nil
West Dorset C.C.	62,795	

4. The detailed administrative contents of our final recommendations are as follows:-

Basildon B.C.

The following wards (as constituted by the District of Basildon (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978 and as altered by the Basildon and Castle Point (Areas) Order 1984) of the District of Basildon, namely, Fryerns Central, Fryerns East, Langdon Hills, Lee Chapel North, Nethermayne, Pitsea East, Pitsea West and Vange.

Castle Point B.C.

The District of Castle Point as altered by the Basildon and Castle Point (Areas) Order 1984.

Brigg and Cleethorpes C.C.

(i) The Borough of Cleethorpes;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Glanford (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and as altered by the Glanford (Parishes) Order 1982) of the Borough of Glanford, namely, Abbey, Barton-upon-Humber Bridge, Barton-upon-Humber Park, Brigg, Goxhill, Humber, Kirton, North Ancholme, Scawby, South Ancholme, Ulceby, Wold and Wrawby.

Glanford and Scunthorpe B.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Glanford (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and as altered by the Glanford (Parishes) Order 1982) of the Borough of Glanford, namely, Bottesford Central, Bottesford East, Bottesford West, Broughton, Burton upon Stather, Gunness, Messingham, North West, Trentside and Winterton;

(ii) The Borough of Scunthorpe.

Bristol East B.C.

The following wards (as constituted by the City of Bristol (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980 and as altered by the Bristol, Wansdyke and Woodspring (Areas) Order 1984) of the City of Bristol, namely, Brislington East, Brislington West, Easton, Eastville, Hengrove, Lawrence Hill and Stockwood.

Woodspring C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Wansdyke (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975 and as altered by the Wansdyke (Parishes) Order 1981 and the Bristol, Wansdyke and Woodspring (Areas) Order 1984) of the District of Wansdyke, namely Cameley, Chew Magna, Chew Stoke, Clutton, Compton Dando, Farmborough, Harptrees, High Littleton, Paulton, Publow, Stowey Sutton and Timsbury;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Woodspring (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1977 and as altered by the Woodspring (Parishes) Order 1982 and the Bristol, Wansdyke and Woodspring (Areas) Order 1984) of the District of Woodspring, namely, Backwell, Clevedon Central, Clevedon East, Clevedon North, Clevedon South, Clevedon Walton, Clevedon West, Easton-in-Gordano, Gordano, Long Ashton, Nailsea East, Nailsea North and West, North Weston, Portishead Central, Portishead Coast, Portishead South, Portishead West, Winford and Wraxall.

Kingswood B.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the City of Bristol (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980) of the City of Bristol, namely, Frome Vale, Hillfields, St. George East and St. George West;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Kingswood (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975 and as altered by the Kingswood (Parishes) Order 1982) of the District of Kingswood, namely, Chase, Chiphouse, Downend, Forest, Hanham, Mangotsfield, New Cheltenham, Soundwell, Staple Hill and Woodstock.

Wansdyke C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Kingswood (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975 and as altered by the Kingswood

(Parishes) Order 1982) of the District of Kingwood, namely, Badminton, Bitton North Common, Bitton Oldland Common, Bitton South, Blackhorse, Bromley Heath, Hanham Abbots East, Hanham Abbots West, Oldland Cadbury Heath, Oldland Longwell Green, Siston and Springfield;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Wansdyke (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975 and as altered by the Wansdyke (Parishes) Order 1981) of the District of Wansdyke, namely, Bathampton, Batheaston, Bathford, Camerton, Charlcombe, Freshford, Hinton Charterhouse, Keynsham East, Keynsham North, Keynsham South, Keynsham West, Midsomer Norton North, Midsomer Norton Redfield, Newton St. Loe, Peasedown St. John, Radstock, Saltford and Westfield.

Wells C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Mendip (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976) of the District of Mendip, namely, Ashwick, Avalon, Chilcompton and Ston Easton, Ebbor, Glastonbury St. Benedict's, Glastonbury St. Edmund's, Glastonbury St. John's, Glastonbury St. Mary's, Moor, Nedge, Pylcombe, Rodney, Sheppey, Shepton Mallet, Street North, Street South, Wells Central, Wells St. Cuthbert's and Wells St. Thomas;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Sedgemoor (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1977 and as altered by the Sedgemoor (Parishes) Order 1981, the Sedgemoor (Parishes) (Amendment) Order 1981 and the Avon and Somerset (Areas) Order 1983) of the District of Sedgemoor, namely, Axbridge, Axe Vale, Berrow, Brent, Burnham North, Burnham South, Cheddar, Highbridge, Mark, Shipham and Wedmore.

Weston-Super-Mare C.C.

The following wards (as constituted by the District of Woodspring (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1977 and as altered by the Woodspring (Parishes) Order 1982 and the Avon and Somerset (Areas) Order 1983) of the District of Woodspring, namely, Banwell, Blagdon, Churchill, Congresbury, Hutton, Locking, Weston-Super-Mare Ashcombe, Weston-Super-Mare East, Weston-Super-Mare Ellenborough, Weston-Super-Mare North, Weston-Super-Mare South, Weston-Super-Mare Uphill, Weston-Super-Mare West, Winscombe, Wrington and Yatton.

Devizes C.C.

(i) The District of Kennet;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Thamesdown (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975 and as altered by the North Wiltshire and Thamesdown (Areas) Order 1980 and the Thamesdown (Parishes) Order 1982) of the Borough of Thamesdown, namely, Blunsdon, Chiseldon, Covingham, Highworth, Ridgeway, St. Margaret, St. Philip and Wroughton.

Swindon B.C.

The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Thamesdown (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1975 and as altered by the North Wiltshire and Thamesdown (Areas) Order 1980 and the Thamesdown (Parishes) Order 1982) of the Borough of Thamesdown, namely Central, Dorcan, Eastcott, Gorse Hill, Lawns, Moredon, Park, Toothill, Walcot, Western and Whitworth.

Huntingdon C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Huntingdon (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and as altered by the Huntingdon (Parishes) Order 1982) of the District of Huntingdon, namely, Brampton, Bury, Earith, Ellington, Elton, Farcet, Fenstanton, Godmanchester, Hemingford Abbots and Hilton, Hemingford Grey, Houghton and Wyton, Huntingdon North, Huntingdon West, Kimbolton, Needingworth, Ramsey, Sawtry, Somersham, Stilton, St. Ives North, St. Ives South, The Stukeleys, Upwood and the Raveleys, Warboys and Yaxley;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the City of Peterborough (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and as altered by the Peterborough (Parishes) Order 1984) of the City of Peterborough, namely, Barnack, Glinton, Northborough, Werrington and Wittering.

Peterborough B.C.

The following wards (as constituted by the City of Peterborough (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 and as altered by the Peterborough (Parishes) Order 1984) of the City of Peterborough, namely, Bretton, Central, Dogsthorpe, East, Fletton, North, Orton Longueville, Orton Waterville, Park, Paston, Ravensthorpe, Stanground, Walton and West.

Knowsley North C.C.

The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Knowsley (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980 and as altered by the Knowsley (Parishes) Order 1983) of the Borough of Knowsley, namely, Cantril Farm, Cherryfield, Kirkby Central, Knowsley Park, Northwood, Park, Prescot East, Prescot West, Tower Hill and Whitefield.

Knowsley South C.C.

The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Knowsley (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980 and as altered by the Knowsley (Parishes) Order 1983) of the Borough of Knowsley, namely, Halewood East, Halewood South, Halewood West, Longview, Page Moss, Princess, Roby, St. Gabriels, St. Michaels, Swanside, Whiston North and Whiston South.

Newcastle-under-Lyme B.C.

The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978 and as altered by the

Newcastle-under-Lyme (Parishes) Order 1984) of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme, namely, Audley and Bignall End, Bradwell, Chesterton, Clayton, Cross Heath, Halmerend, Holditch, Keele, May Bank, Porthill, Seabridge, Silverdale, Thistleberry, Town, Westlands and Wolstanton.

Stoke-on-Trent North B.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978 and as altered by the Newcastle-under-Lyme (Parishes) Order 1984) of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme, namely, Butt Lane, Kidsgrove, Newchapel and Talke;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the City of Stoke-on-Trent (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976) of the City of Stoke-on-Trent, namely, Burslem Central, Burslem Grange, Chell, East Valley, Norton and Bradeley and Tunstall North.

Stafford C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978 and as altered by the Newcastle-under-Lyme (Parishes) Order 1984) of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme, namely, Loggerheads, Madeley and Whitmore;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Stafford (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976) of the Borough of Stafford, namely, Baswich, Beaconside, Castle, Church Eaton, Common, Coton, Eccleshall, Forebridge, Gnosall, Highfields, Holmcroft, Littleworth, Manor, Milford, Penkside, Rowley, Seighford, Swynnerton, Tillington, Weeping Cross and Woodseaves.

Nuneaton C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Nuneaton (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1977) of the Borough of Nuneaton and Bedworth, namely, Abbey, Arbury, Attleborough, Bulkington, Camp Hill, Chilvers Coton, Galley Common, St. Nicolas, Stockingford, Weddington and Whitestone;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Rugby (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978 and as altered by the Rugby (Parishes) Order 1983) of the Borough of Rugby, namely, Earl Craven, Fosse and Wolvey.

Rugby and Kenilworth C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the Borough of Rugby (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978 and as altered by the Rugby (Parishes) Order 1983) of the Borough of Rugby, namely, Admirals, Benn, Bilton, Brownsover, Caldecott, Clifton and Newton, Dunchurch and Thurlaston, Eastlands, Hillmorton, Knightlow, Lawford, Leam Valley, New Bilton,

Newbold, Overslade, Paddox, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, St. Mary's and Wolston;

(ii) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Warwick (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1979) of the District of Warwick, namely, Abbey, Park Hill, St. John's and Stoneleigh.

South Dorset C.C.

(i) The following wards (as constituted by the District of Purbeck (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1977) of the District of Purbeck, namely, Bere Regis, Castle, Langton, St. Martin, Swanage North, Swanage South, Wareham, West Purbeck, Winfrith and Wool;

(ii) The following ward (as constituted by the District of West Dorset (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980 and as altered by the West Dorset (Parishes) Order 1983) of the District of West Dorset, namely, Owermoigne;

(iii) The Borough of Weymouth and Portland.

West Dorset C.C.

The following wards (as constituted by the District of West Dorset (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980 and as altered by the West Dorset (Parishes) Order 1983) of the District of West Dorset, namely, Beaminster, Bothenhampton, Bradford Abbas, Bradpole, Bridport North, Bridport South, Broadmayne, Broadwindsor, Burton Bradstock, Caundle Vale, Cerne Valley, Charminster, Charmouth, Chesil Bank, Chickerell, Dorchester East, Dorchester North, Dorchester South, Dorchester West, Frome Valley, Halstock, Holnest, Loders, Lyme Regis, Maiden Newton, Netherbury, Piddle Valley, Puddletown, Queen Thorne, Sherborne East, Sherborne West, Symondsbury, Thorncombe, Tolpuddle, Whitechurch Canonicorum, Winterborne St. Martin and Yetminster.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant

Raymond Walton

Deputy Chairman,

for the Boundary Commission for England

APPENDIX

1. The changes to constituencies recommended in this report are illustrated on the following maps:—

Map No. 1	Basildon Borough Constituency Castle Point Borough Constituency
Map No. 2	Brigg and Cleethorpes County Constituency Glanford and Scunthorpe Borough Constituency
Map No. 3	Bristol East Borough Constituency Woodspring County Constituency
Map No. 4	Kingswood Borough Constituency Wansdyke County Constituency
Map No. 5	Wells County Constituency Weston-Super-Mare County Constituency
Map No. 6	Devizes County Constituency Swindon Borough Constituency
Map No. 7	Huntingdon County Constituency Peterborough Borough Constituency
Map No. 8	Knowsley North County Constituency Knowsley South County Constituency
Map No. 9	(a) Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Constituency Stafford County Constituency (b) Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Constituency Stoke-on-Trent North Borough Constituency
Map No. 10	Nuneaton County Constituency Rugby and Kenilworth County Constituency
Map No. 11	South Dorset County Constituency West Dorset County Constituency

2. Maps covering the areas affected by the recommended changes have been deposited in the House of Commons Library for reference by Members of Parliament.

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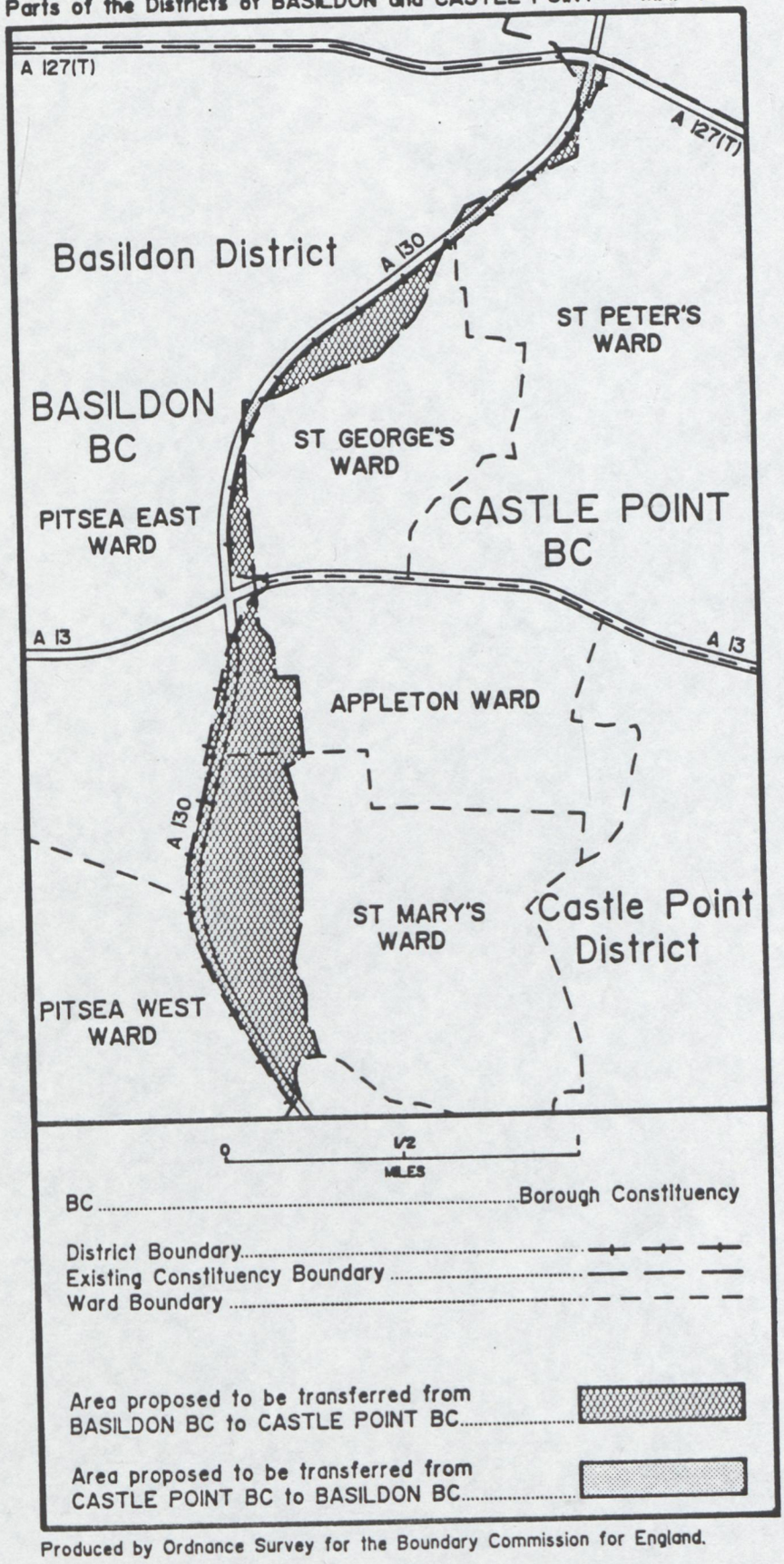
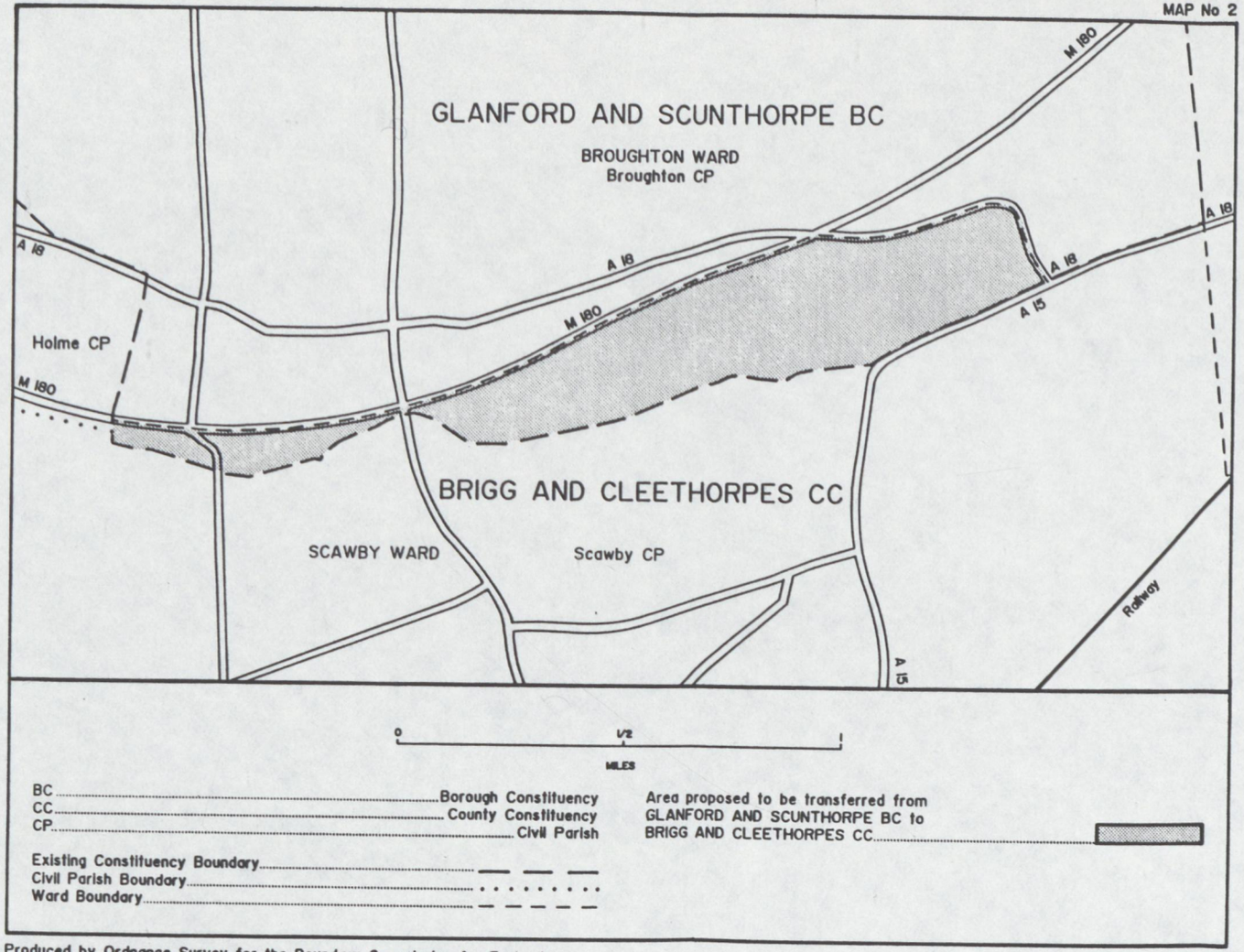
Parts of the Districts of BASILDON and CASTLE POINT MAP No 1



Produced by Ordnance Survey for the Boundary Commission for England.

Part of the Borough of GLANFORD

MAP No 2



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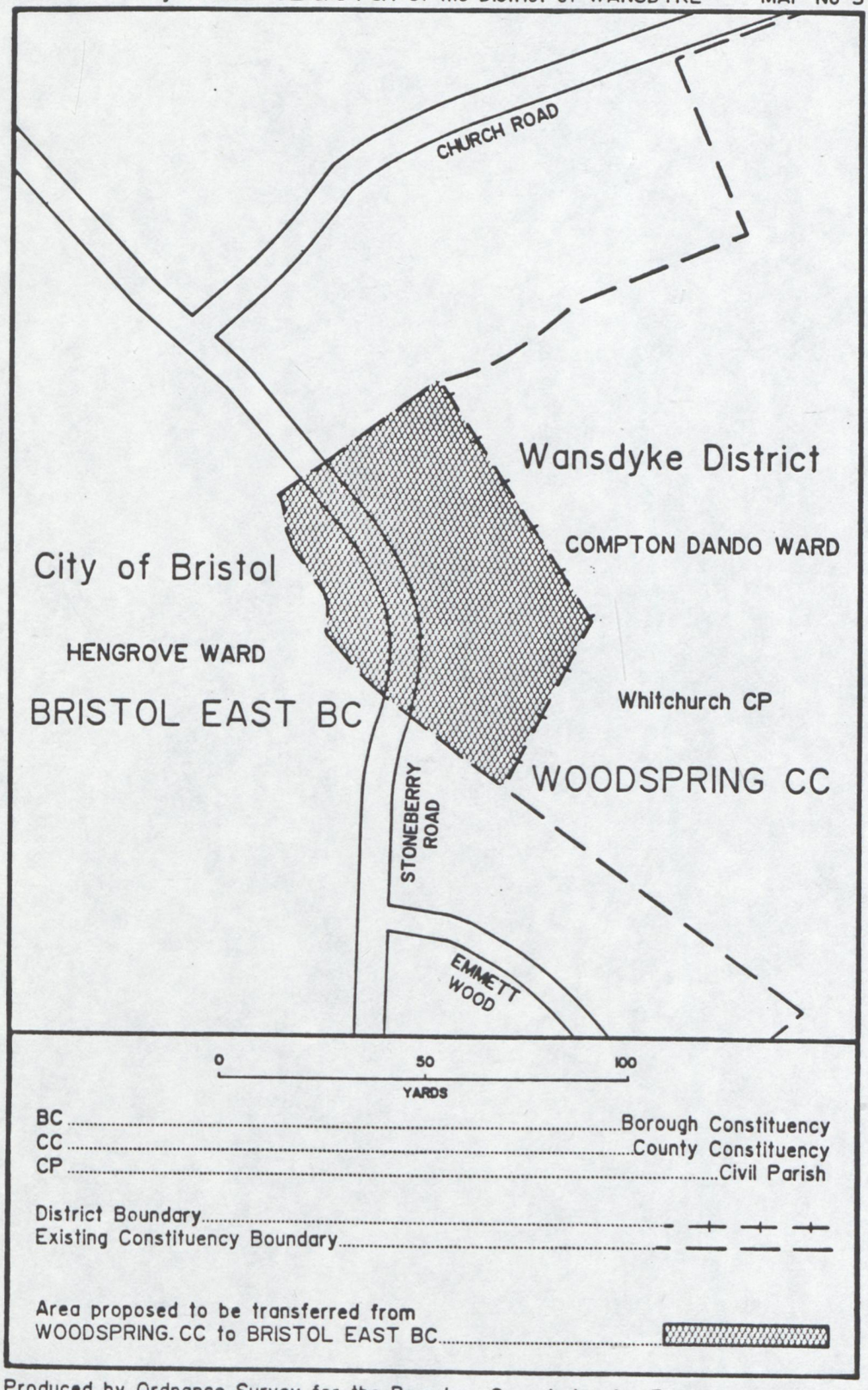
Part of the City of BRISTOL and Part of the District of WANSDYKE MAP No 3



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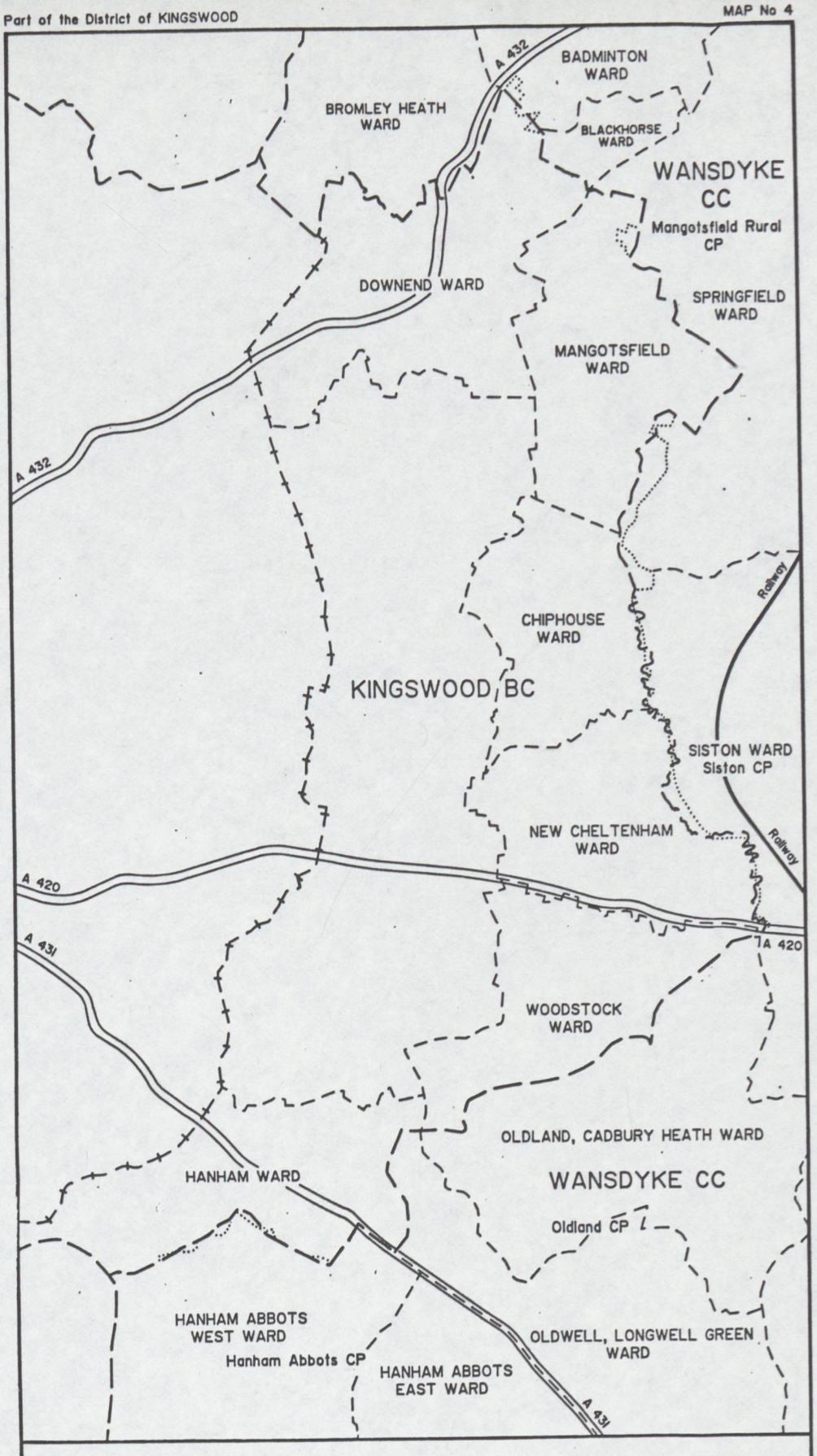
Part of the District of KINGSWOOD

MAP No 4



BC ..... Borough Constituency
CC ..... County Constituency
CP ..... Civil Parish

District Boundary .....
Existing Constituency Boundary .....
Ward Boundary .....

Proposed Constituency Boundary where adjusted to coincide with altered Ward Boundary .....

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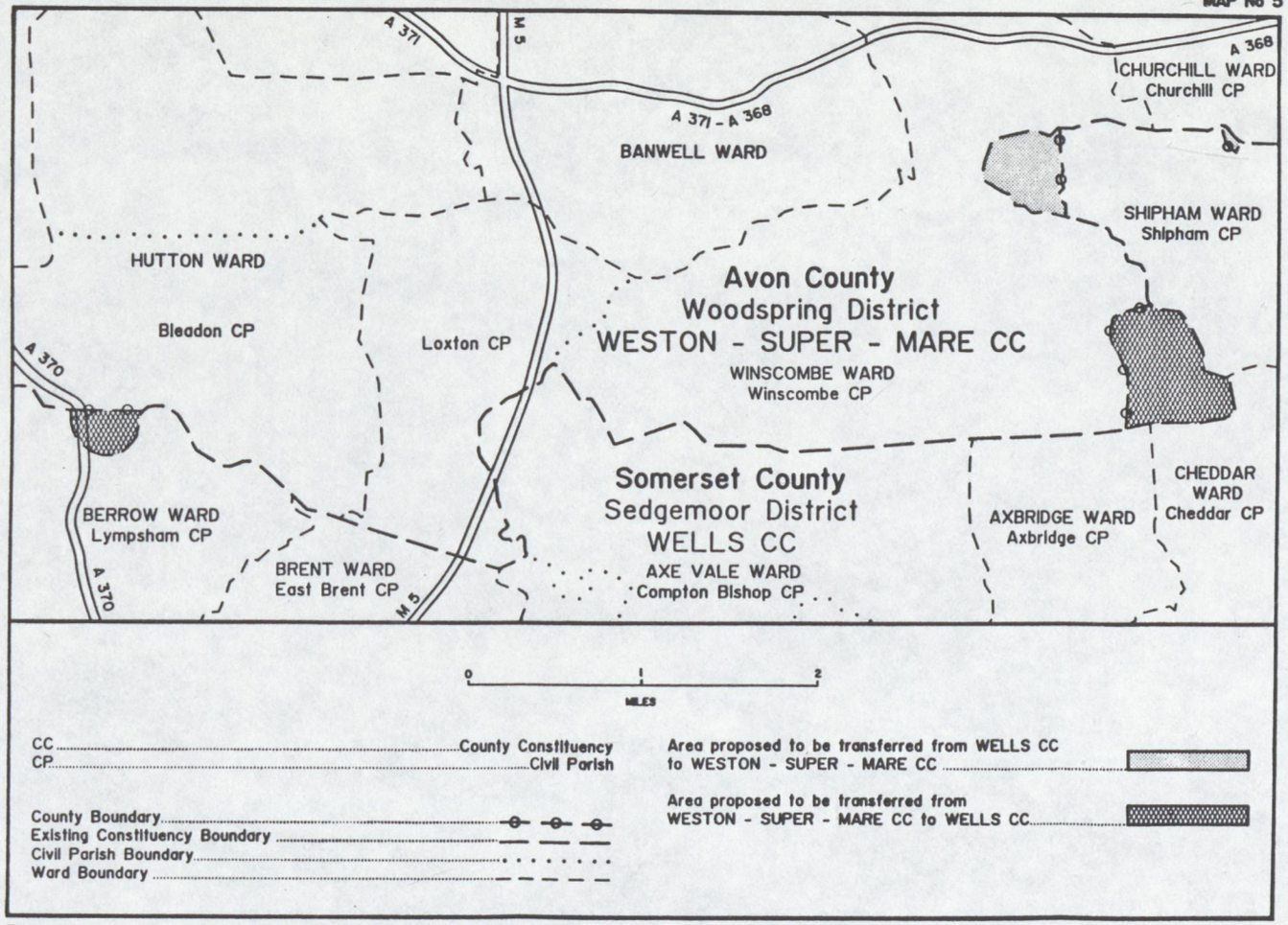
Parts of the Counties of AVON and SOMERSET

MAP No 5



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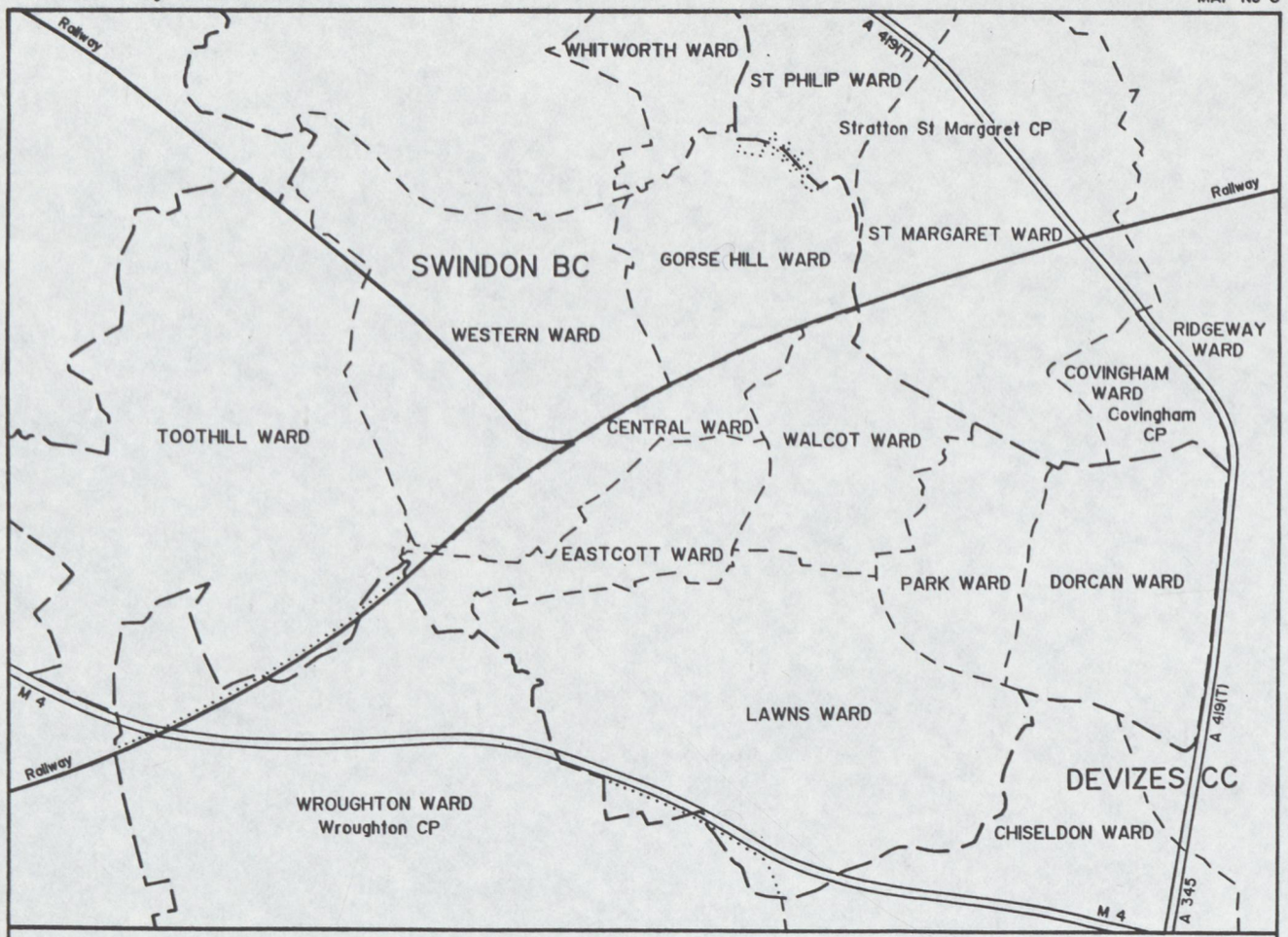
Part of the Borough of THAMESDOWN

MAP No 6



Produced by Ordnance Survey for the Boundary Commission for England

0 1 2

MILES

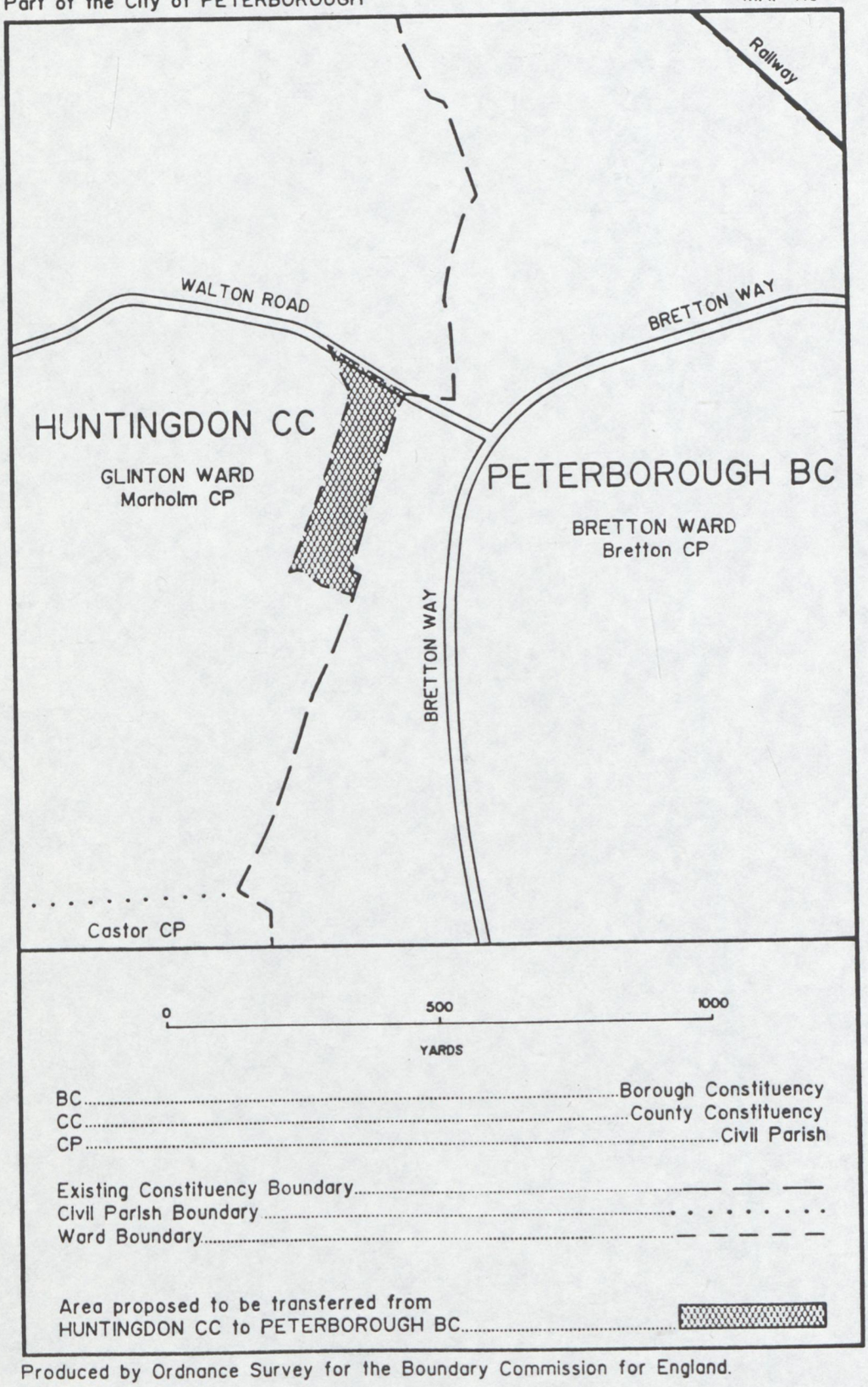
BC.....Borough Constituency
CC.....County Constituency
CP.....Civil Parish

Existing Constituency Boundary .....
Ward Boundary .....

Proposed Constituency Boundary where adjusted to coincide with altered Ward Boundary.....

Part of the City of PETERBOROUGH

MAP No 7



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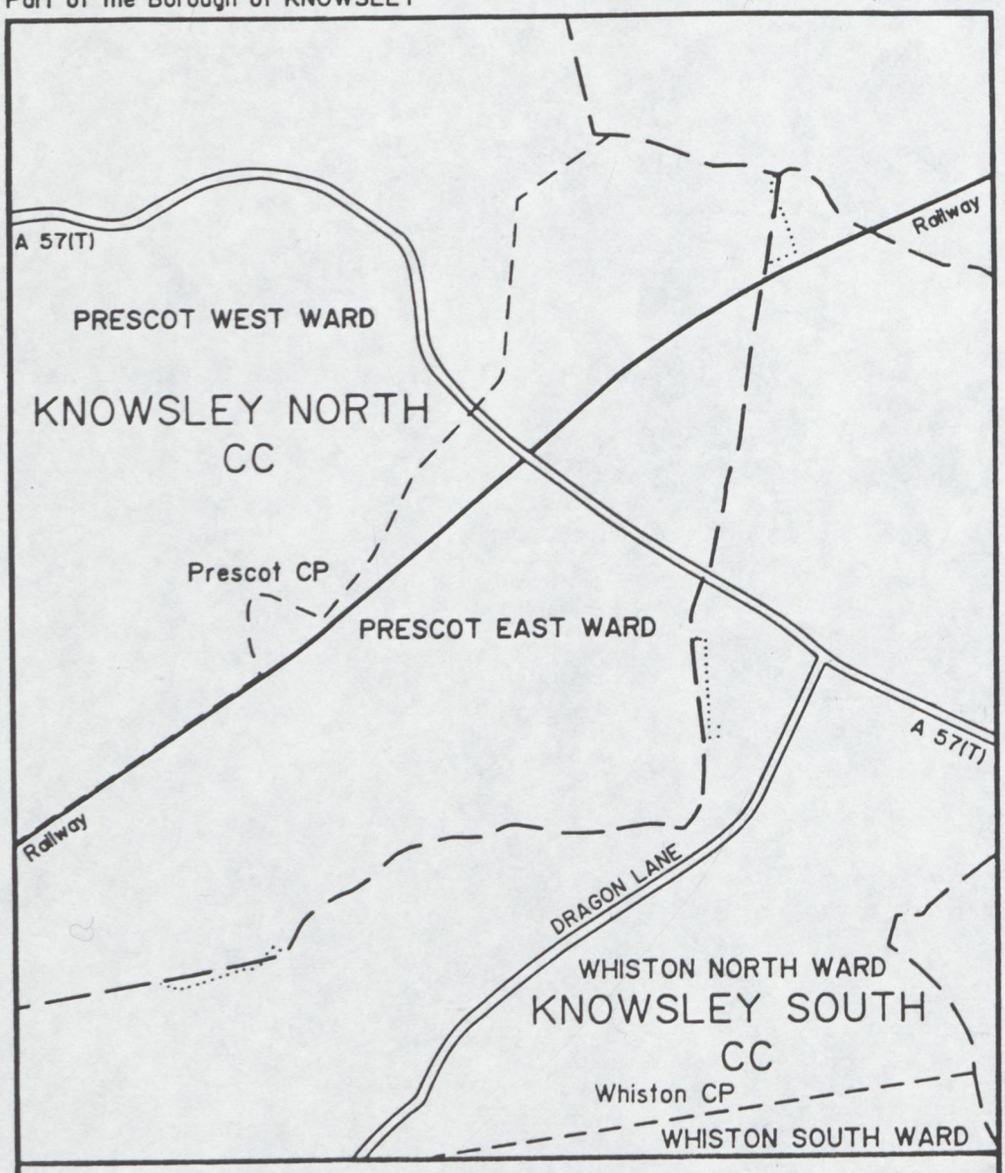
Part of the Borough of KNOWSLEY

MAP No 8



CC ..... County Constituency
CP ..... Civil Parish

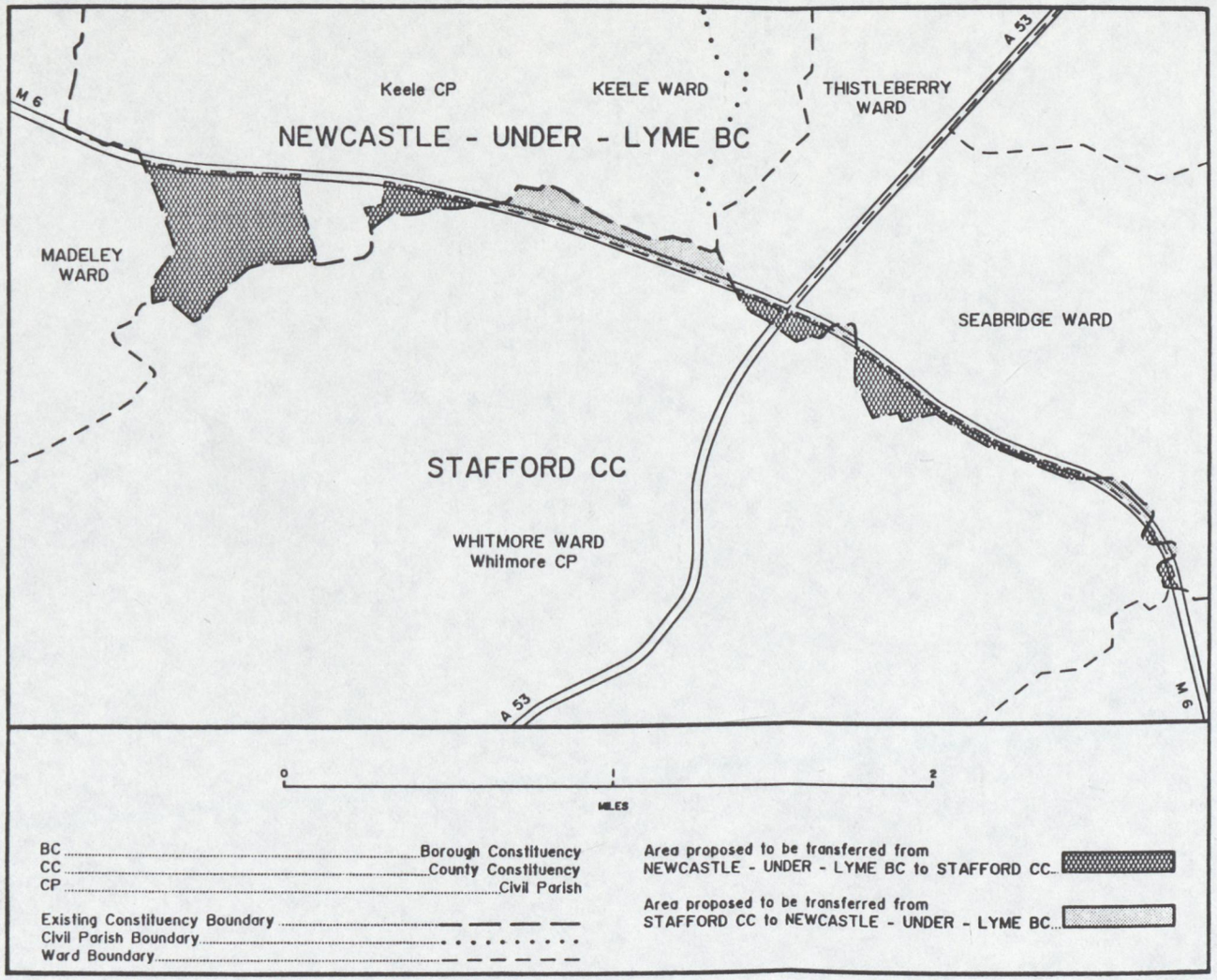
Existing Constituency Boundary .....
Ward Boundary .....

Proposed Constituency Boundary where adjusted to coincide with altered Ward Boundary .....

Produced by Ordnance Survey for the Boundary Commission for England.

Part of the Borough of NEWCASTLE - UNDER - LYME

MAP No 9(a)



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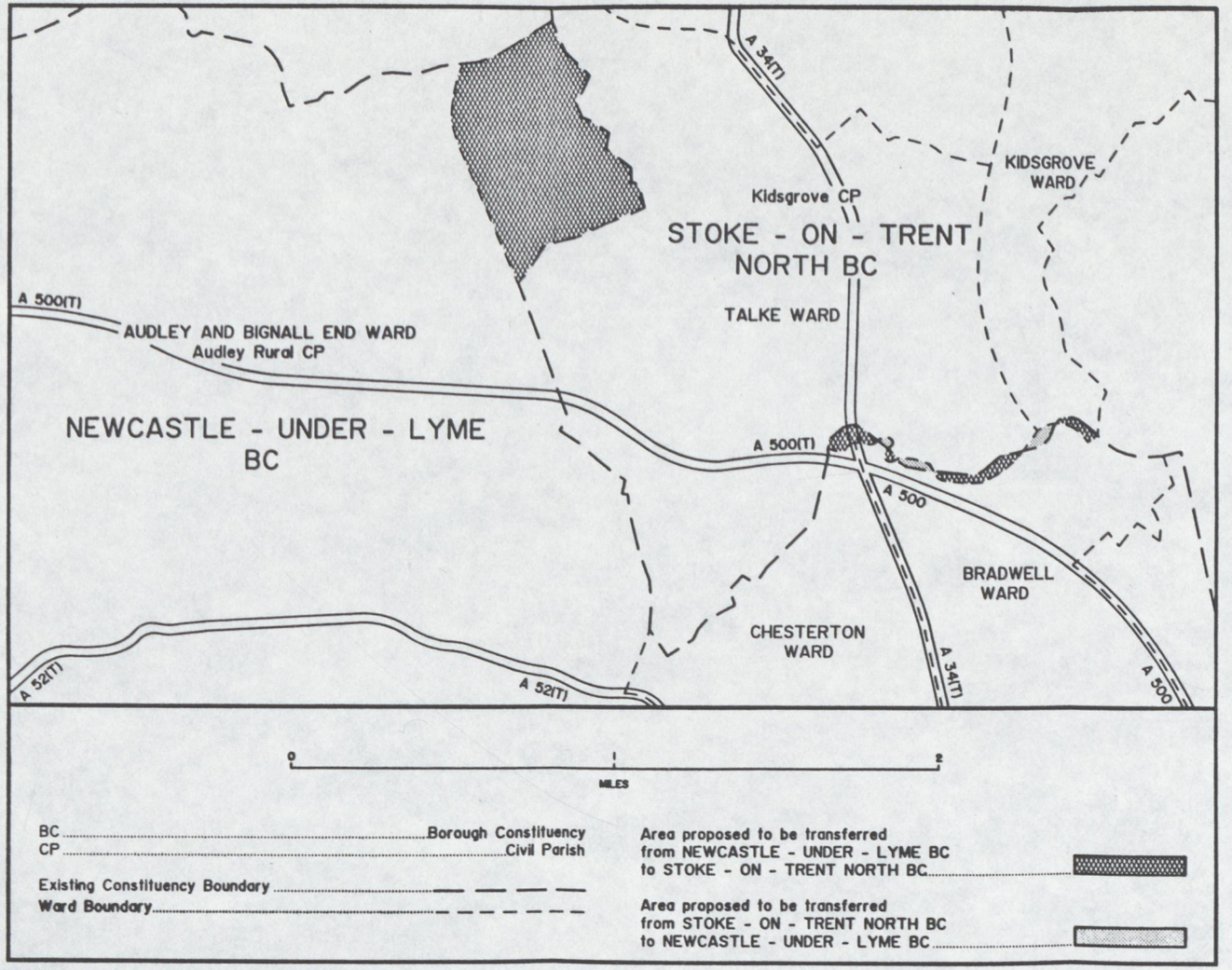
Part of the Borough of NEWCASTLE - UNDER - LYME

MAP No 9(b)



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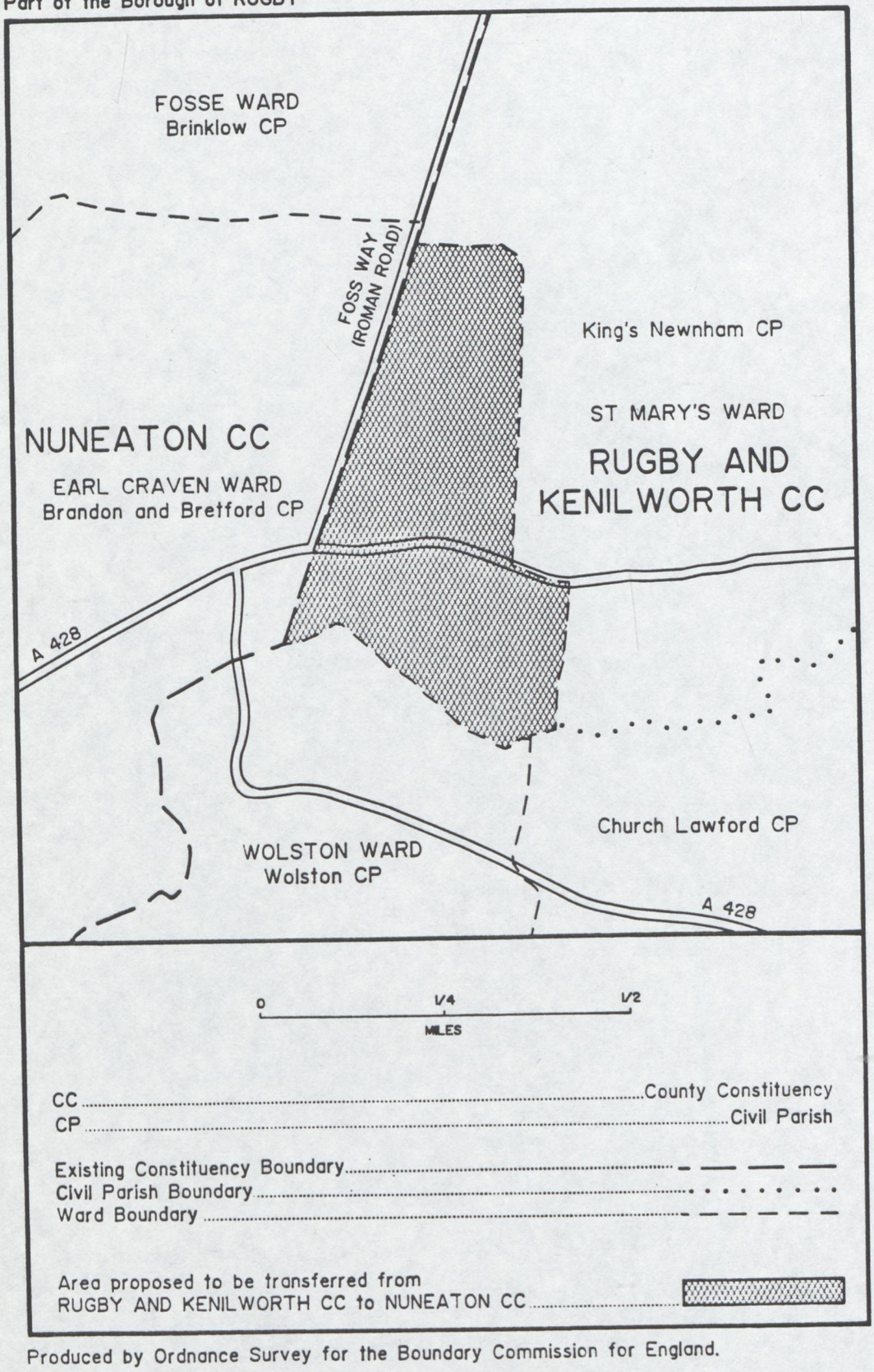
Part of the Borough of RUGBY

MAP No 10



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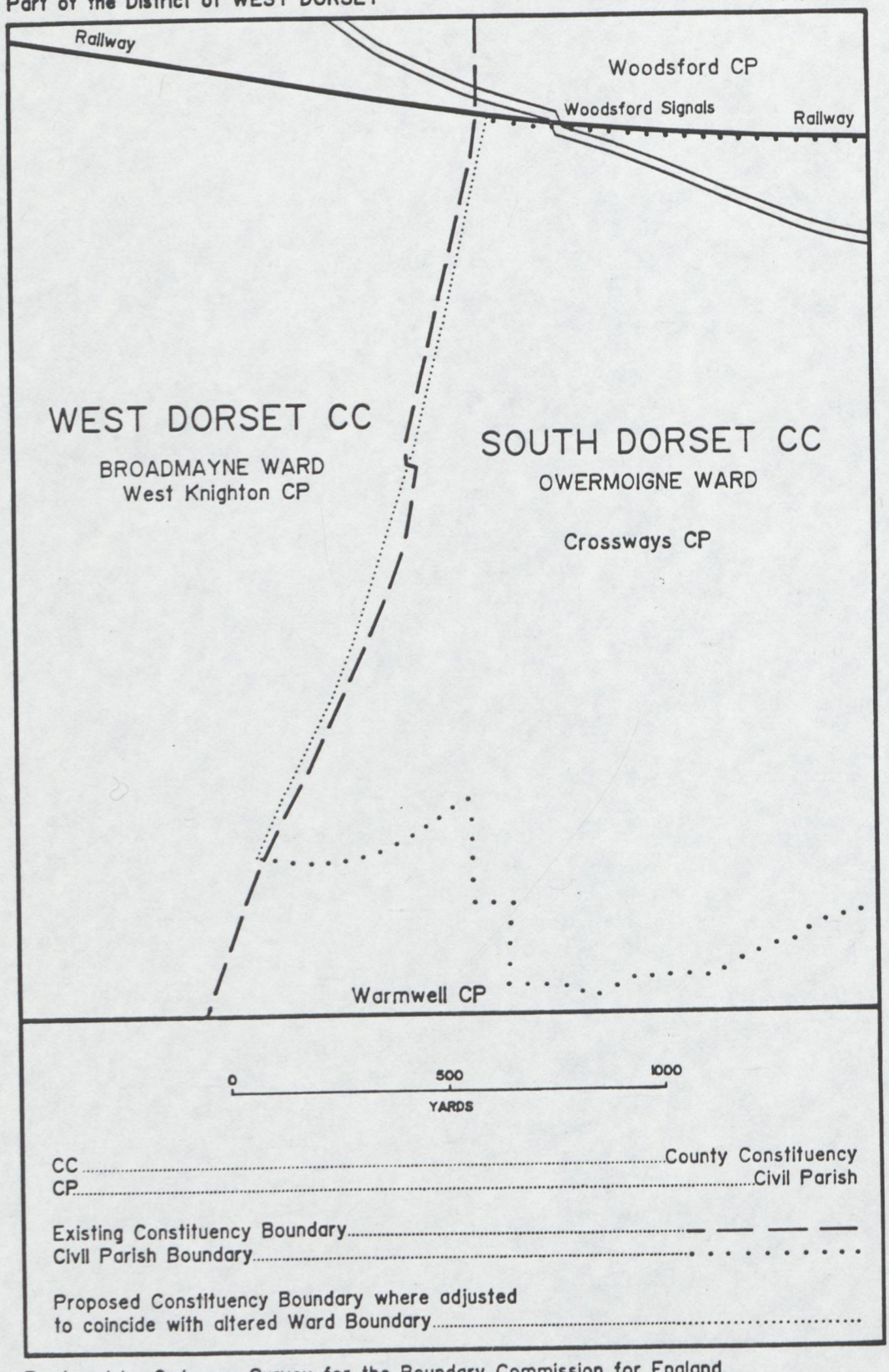
Part of the District of WEST DORSET

MAP No 11



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From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SWIH 9AT

21 February 1985

Dear Mr Beaumont,

The Home Secretary has received from the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Wales a notice dated 18 February, stating its intention to commence an interim review of nine parliamentary constituencies. He has also received a similar notice dated 20 February from the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England, announcing its intention to review a further nineteen constituencies, following the completion of its 1984 interim review.

These reviews are primarily intended to realign the parliamentary boundaries with altered local government boundaries, although the Commissions may recommend more radical changes if they consider such changes necessary, for example, to reduce the disparity of electorates between the constituencies concerned.

The Home Secretary proposes to announce the receipt of the Commissions' notices by way of a Parliamentary Question for Written Answer tomorrow.

I enclose a copy of the draft Question and Answer. I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to the Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister, the Lord President and the Secretary of State for Wales.

Yours sincerely,
Christine Heald.

MRS C J HEALD

W A Beaumont, Esq, OBE, AE

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER ON

: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Boundary Commissions for England and Wales intend to conduct any interim reviews of parliamentary constituencies and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT REPLY

The Boundary Commissions for England and Wales have informed me that they intend to conduct interim reviews of twenty-eight parliamentary constituencies under the powers provided in section 2(3) of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949. The constituencies concerned are as follows:-

ENGLAND

County	Constituencies
Cambridgeshire	North East Cambridgeshire CC
Cambridgeshire	South East Cambridgeshire CC
Cambridgeshire	South West Cambridgeshire CC
Cornwall	Falmouth and Camborn CC
Cornwall	St Ives CC
Cornwall	South East Cornwall CC
Cornwall	Truro CC
Hampshire	Basingstoke CC
Hampshire	East Hampshire CC
Hampshire	Eastleigh BC
Hampshire	Fareham CC
Hampshire	Havant BC
Hampshire	North West Hampshire CC
Hampshire	Romsey and Waterside CC
Hampshire	Winchester CC
North Yorkshire	Skipton and Ripon CC
Somerset	Bridgwater CC
Somerset	Taunton CC
West Yorkshire	Keighley CC

WALES

County	Constituencies
Clwyd	Alyn and Deeside CC
Clwyd	Clwyd North West CC
Clwyd	Clwyd South West CC
Clwyd	Delyn CC
Clwyd	Wrexham CC
Gwynedd	Caernarfon CC
Gwynedd	Conwy CC
Gwynedd	Meirionnydd Nant Conwy CC
Powys	Montgomery CC

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Box

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SWIH 9AT

20 June 1984

1) Mr Flesher
2) Mr Allan MA 21/6
3) Prime Minister

PA To note. MS

DMB 20/6

Dear David,

The Home Secretary has received from the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England a notice dated 4 June informing him that it has decided, as it is entitled to, to commence an interim review of twenty three Parliamentary constituencies under the powers provided in section 2(3) of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949.

The review is primarily intended to realign the Parliamentary boundaries with altered local government boundaries, although the Commission may recommend more radical changes if it considers such changes necessary. For example, to reduce the disparity of electorates between the constituencies concerned.

The Home Secretary proposes to announce the receipt of the Commission's notice by way of a Parliamentary Question for Written Answer on 22 June.

I enclose a copy of the draft Question and Answer. I am also sending a copy to the Private Secretaries to the Speaker of the House of Commons and to the Lord President of the Council.

Yours ever,

Christine.

MRS C J HEALD

David Barclay, Esq.

DRAFT PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER ON FRIDAY, 22 JUNE

: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Boundary Commission for England intends to conduct any interim review of Parliamentary constituencies and if he will make a statement.

DRAFT REPLY

The Commission has informed me that under the powers provided in section 2(3) of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 it intends to conduct an interim review of twenty three Parliamentary constituencies. The relevant details are as follows:-

COUNTY	CONSTITUENCIES
Avon	Bristol East BC
"	Kingswood BC
"	Wansdyke CC
"	Weston-Super-Mare CC
"	Woodspring CC
Cambridgeshire	Peterborough BC
"	Huntingdon CC
Dorset	South Dorset CC
"	West Dorset CC
Essex	Basildon BC
"	Castle Point BC
Humberside	Brigg and Cleethorpes CC
"	Glanford and Scunthorpe BC
Merseyside	Knowsley North CC
"	Knowsley South CC
Somerset	Wells CC
Staffordshire	Newcastle-under-Lyme BC
"	Stafford CC
"	Stoke-on-Trent North BC
Warwickshire	Nuneaton CC
"	Rudby and Kenilworth CC
Wiltshire	Devizes CC
"	Swindon BC

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL. LONDON SW1A 2AT

28 March 1984

Dear Leon

B 3973

REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND ON EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCIES

Thank you for your letter of 22 March inviting any comments by Monday 26 March on your proposal to go ahead with publication of this report. I appreciate the need to move quickly on this occasion in order to ensure that the new constituencies are in force by the June elections. I understand that there have been no objections from colleagues to your proposal to publish the report as received from the Commission, and you may take it that you have H Committee approval to go ahead as proposed.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of H Committee, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours

The Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP

Parliament : The Boundary Commission Feb. 81

HOME SECRETARY

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

22 March 1984

R Willis,

23/3

REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND ON EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCIES

... I enclose herewith a copy of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England's report on its 1983 review of European Parliament constituencies.

... An analysis of the recommendations is attached as an Annex to this letter.

As I explained in my letter of 28 February about the Welsh report I am required to lay this report as soon as may be, together with the draft of an Order in Council giving effect to the Commission's recommendations, with or without modifications. The issues to be decided are also the same as before:

a. whether to make any modifications to the Commission's proposals; and

b. when to lay the draft Order and arrange the ensuing debates.

Modifications

Representations for modifications to the Commission's recommendations are set out in paragraph 11 of the attached Annex. I have carefully considered all these representations and have decided not to make any modifications, for the following reasons:

a. Parliament should have the opportunity to discuss the Commission's recommendations as submitted to me;

/b. however

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw, CH, MC

b. however strong the case, any proposed modifications should in fairness be published and representations invited; to do this would delay implementation of all the other recommendations and would effectively rule out any prospect of fighting this year's elections on new boundaries;

c. the representations about the proposed Derbyshire, London South and Surrey East, London South West, Oxford and Buckinghamshire, Suffolk and Wiltshire constituencies are similar to objections considered and rejected by the Commission during the review.

Timing

I propose to lay the report and draft Order on Wednesday 28 March. I also suggest that the debate be arranged as soon as the Order has been cleared by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments.

Unless I hear to the contrary by noon on Monday 26 March I shall assume that colleagues are content with the proposals in this letter.

I am copying this letter to the other members of H, to the Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

L.R.

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND - ANALYSIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

Paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 1 to the European Assembly Elections Act 1978 provides that there shall be 66 European Parliament constituencies in England. The Commission has no power to vary that number.

Background

2. The Commission had to review the present European constituencies as soon as the new parliamentary constituencies came into force in March 1983. The existing European seats were created by the European Assembly Constituencies (England) Order 1978, which implemented, without modifications, the Commission's recommendations for 66 constituencies based on 1977 electorates. The electorates of those constituencies had ranged from 466,393 (9.7% below the 1977 electoral quota of 516,436) to 570,173 (10.4% above that quota). By February 1983, however, the electorate of the country as a whole had risen by 1½ million, while some urban areas, most notably Greater London, had lost large numbers of electors.

3. The result of these changes was an increase in the range of electorates of the present European Parliament constituencies from 456,956 (15.2% below the 1983 electoral quota of 539,155) in Liverpool to 622,241 (15.4% above the electoral quota) in Hampshire West. The need to reduce this disparity and to align the existing European constituency boundaries with those of the new parliamentary constituencies (119 of which were divided between European constituencies) made substantial changes inevitable in some parts of the country.

Overall view

4. The Commission's proposals leave the Hereford and Worcester, London East and London North East constituencies unchanged and make a minor boundary alteration, involving no electors, to the Cornwall and Plymouth, and Devon constituencies.

5. Twenty-two other constituencies are altered slightly or retain a substantial part of their present area and electorate, namely:-

L.R.

Bristol	Norfolk
Cumbria (renamed Cumbria and Lancashire North)	Northumbria
Durham	Salop and Stafford (renamed Shropshire and Stafford)
Essex North East	Sheffield
Essex South West	Somerset (renamed Somerset and Dorset West)
Hertfordshire	Suffolk
Kent East	Surrey (renamed Surrey West)
Kent West	Sussex East (renamed East Sussex)
London South East	Sussex West (renamed West Sussex)
London South Inner	The Cotswolds
Midlands Central	Yorkshire West

The remaining 39 constituencies have been modified to a much greater extent, although some new seats, such as Humberside, still contain a nucleus of electors from the present constituency.

6. The table on page 40 of the Report shows that these changes will increase the number of constituencies with electorates within 6% of the electoral quota from 48 (73% of the total number of seats) to 61 (92% of the total). The recommended constituencies which lie outside this range are Bristol, Essex North East, Cheshire East, London South West and Surrey West, which have electorates of 572,939 (6.3% above the electoral quota), 573,681 (6.4% above), 499,418 (7.4% below), 505,396 (6.3% below) and 505,541 (6.2% below) respectively.

County analysis

7. The Commission tried to avoid fragmenting counties where this was possible without causing difficulties elsewhere. However, the electorates of most counties were not of an appropriate size to form one or more whole European constituencies without the addition of electors from adjoining areas (page 2, paragraph 11). The Commission has, therefore, recommended that Norfolk, East Sussex and West Sussex should form separate seats and that Essex and Kent should each contain two whole constituencies.

8. The extent to which the Commission has succeeded in reducing the division of counties and other local government areas between European Parliament

constituencies is illustrated by the following table:

	Present constituencies						Proposed constituencies				
	Not divided	Divided between					Not divided	Divided between			
		two	three	four	five	eight		two	three	four	five
Metropolitan counties	-	-	1	2	2	1	-	-	4	1	1
Non-metropolitan counties	10	17	5	5	2	-	16	14	8	1	-
London boroughs	27	5	-	-	-	-	30	2	-	-	-
Non-metropolitan districts	251	43	3	-	-	-	258	39	-	-	-
Metropolitan districts	11	17	6	2	-	-	26	10	-	-	-
Total	299	82	15	9	4	1	330	65	12	2	1

The only non-metropolitan counties which are divided between more than two European constituencies are Surrey, which is divided between four seats, and Derbyshire, Hampshire, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire, which are each divided between three seats. The metropolitan counties are also divided between three seats, with the exception of West Midlands and Greater Manchester, which are divided between four and five seats respectively.

Greater London

9. The decline of 79,529 in the electorate of Greater London between 1977 and 1983, together with the increase in the electoral quota of 22,719 over the same period, meant that the capital was too small to form 10 whole constituencies, as at present. The Commission therefore proposed the creation of nine whole constituencies and one which crossed the GLC boundary with Surrey. As the result of representations from the London Borough of Croydon, it now recommends the creation of eight whole seats and two, London South West and London South and Surrey East, which include parts of Surrey.

E.R.

Contentious areas

10. The radical re-drawing of so many constituencies made the English Commission's review fairly contentious. However, the small number of representations received by the Commission in respect of its revised recommendations for some areas, such as Avon, Dorset, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Somerset, West Sussex and Wiltshire, suggest that parts of the report will be uncontroversial. Nevertheless, the fact that the Commission rejected all or some of the recommendations of five assistant Commissioners who held local inquiries into its provisional recommendations may lead to strong criticism from the areas concerned (Areas 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9). Contentious issues remaining are likely to be:

a. the division of the City of Newcastle between the constituencies of Northumbria and Tyne and Wear;

b. the inclusion of Staffordshire Moorlands CC, Ashfield CC, South Derbyshire CC and North West Leicestershire CC in constituencies not containing any other parts of the counties of Staffordshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire respectively;

c. the replacement of Harwich CC in the present Suffolk constituency with South East Cambridgeshire CC from the present Cambridgeshire constituency; and

d. the inclusion of Epsom and Ewell BC in the London South West constituency.

MODIFICATIONS

11. The following representations seeking modifications have been received:

a. (21) Derbyshire: Derby and South Derbyshire Social Democratic Area Party objects to the Commission's rejection of the assistant Commissioner's recommendations. This point is dealt with in Chapter Three, paragraphs 8.21-8.22 of the Report.

b. (63) London South and Surrey East/(64) London South West: Surrey County Council, who object to the division of the county between four constituencies and submit a counter-proposal for these two constituencies. Epsom and Ewell

Constituency Liberal Association objects to the proposed inclusion of Epsom and Ewell BC and Sutton and Cheam BC in separate constituencies and submits another counter-proposal. Epsom Ratepayers and Residents Society (Town Ward) and four individuals object to the inclusion of Epsom and Ewell in the London South West constituency. Both counter-proposals and similar objections were considered and rejected by the Commission (Chapter Three, paragraphs 14.15-14.17 of the Report).

c. (38) Oxford and Buckinghamshire/(44)Wiltshire: Vale of White Horse District Council wish these constituencies to be named Wiltshire and Upper Thames, and Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire South respectively. Similar representations were considered and rejected by the Commission (Chapter Three, paragraphs 9.18-9.21 and 11.15).

d. (34) Suffolk: Mid Suffolk District Council press for the retention of Harwich CC in the Suffolk constituency. The Commission recommends its inclusion in the (42) Essex North East constituency. This point is dealt with in Chapter Three, paragraphs 9.14, 9.16 and 9.19 of the Report.

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

16 March 1984

Dear George

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND: REPORT ON REVIEW OF EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 8 March to Leon Brittan enclosing the report on Scottish constituencies. I note that you wish to go ahead with laying it and a draft Order before Parliament on 22 March, and I understand that Leon Brittan will not be raising any objections of substance. Unless any other members of H Committee raise any objections by Monday 19 March, you may take it that you have agreement to proceed. The arrangements for debate can be considered when your Report has been published - by which time I hope we shall be clearer about the timing of the English report.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the members of H Committee, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Chief Whip and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours

Lilian

The Rt Hon George Younger TD MP

PARLIAMENT: Boundary Commission

Feb '81

CONFIDENTIAL

HOME SECRETARY

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

14 March 1984

Dear Willie,

Thank you for your letter of 5 March about the Parliamentary Boundary Commissions' reviews of European Parliament constituencies.

I am presently working on the assumption that the English Commission will confirm its revised recommendations as its final recommendations and submit its report between 19 and 23 March, three weeks after the closing date for making representations about these recommendations. I would then aim to lay the report and draft Constituencies Order on Wednesday, 28 March at the latest in order to allow sufficient time for the draft Order to be scrutinised by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments and to be debated in both Houses before the Privy Council meeting on 11 April.

This means that there will be very little time for consultation, but I hope to be able to circulate the report and draft Order to colleagues early in the week beginning 19 March.

You will now have seen George Younger's letter about the implementation of the Scottish Commission's recommendations, which were submitted on 7 March.

I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours,

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw, CH., MC.

CONFIDENTIAL

4 MAR 1984

SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

The Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department
Home Office
Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
SW1H 9AT

8 March 1984

8/3.

Dear Leon,

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND: REPORT ON REVIEW OF EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES

In your letter of 28 February to Willie Whitelaw about your proposals for handling the report of the Boundary Commission for Wales you referred to your understanding that the Scottish and English Commissioners were unlikely to report before 19 March at the earliest. I have now seen his reply of 5 March agreeing to your proposals and enquiring about the timetable for dealing with the reports for England and Scotland.

I am glad to say that I have now received the report of the Scottish Commission and I plan to lay it before Parliament, with a draft Order, on Thursday 22 March. Printing is in hand to meet this timetable. I also plan to announce the receipt of the report in an arranged PQ next week. In the meantime I enclose a typed version of the report.

Subject to the views of colleagues, I propose, for reasons similar to those set out in your letter, to proceed on the basis of the Commission's recommendations. I also enclose a brief analysis of those recommendations. The only areas where there may be contention concern the placing of the North Tayside parliamentary constituency in the North East Scotland EAC and the allocation of certain Strathclyde parliamentary constituencies among three Assembly constituencies. On the first of these, the Commission's decision to adhere to their provisional recommendation will not be welcome to Mr Bill Walker MP; on the second, the Commission's final recommendations for the 3 Assembly constituencies in question adopted counter-proposals to their provisional recommendations that were put forward by the Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee. For my part, I see no justification for departing from the recommendations for any area.

When the timing of the submission of the report of the English Commission is known we shall need to consider whether the Scottish and English Orders should be debated separately a week apart, or taken together in the first week in April; the aim would be to catch the Privy Council meeting on 11 April.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Lord President of the Council, the members of H Committee, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Chief Whip and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,

George.

Encs

- 8 MAR 1984

ANNEX A

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND

REPORT ON 1983 REVIEW OF EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES

ANALYSIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

Paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 1 to the European Assembly Elections Act 1978 provides that there shall be 8 European Assembly constituencies (EACs) in Scotland. The Boundary Commission has no power to vary that number.

Background

2. The Commission were required to review the existing EACs established in 1979 as soon as the new parliamentary constituencies came into force in March 1983. Leaving aside the Highland and Islands, where special geographical considerations apply, the 1983 electorates of the present Assembly constituencies ranged from 470,584 (4.3% below the average) in the South of Scotland to 565,472 (15% above the average) in Mid Scotland and Fife, ie a range of 19.3%. The electorate of the Highland and Islands EAC was 314,309 (36.1% below the average). The boundaries of all 8 Assembly constituencies had to be realigned with those of the new Parliamentary constituencies.

Overall Review

3. In general the Commission's final recommendations make the minimum changes to the boundaries of the present seats in order to meet the statutory requirements that each should comprise 2 or more whole parliamentary constituencies and have an electorate as near the electoral quota as is practicable having regard, where appropriate, to special geographical considerations. The electoral quota (average electorate on 26 April 1983 when notice of the review was published) is 491,929.

4. Leaving aside the Highland and Islands, the electorates of the proposed Assembly constituencies range from 1% below the electoral quota to 11.6% above, ie a range of 12.6%. These figures are a considerable improvement on those achieved under the Commission's recommendations in 1978, which varied from almost 6% below the electoral quota to more than 17% above, ie a range of some 23%; and they are also an improvement on the 1983 figures for the present seats which, as noted in paragraph 2 above, vary from some 4% below to 15% above the electoral quota, ie a range of some 19%.

Contentious Areas

5. No objections were made to the Commission against their proposals for Glasgow and Lothian EACs. An objection was made in respect of the Highland and Islands by Mrs Winnie Ewing, MEP for the seat, but was later withdrawn. There were, however, 4 contentious areas - one in Tayside Region and 3 in Strathclyde Region in which local inquiries were held.

i. North Tayside:

Perth and Kinross District Council (supported by Mr Bill Walker, MP for the constituency) wished the North Tayside constituency to be included in Mid Scotland and Fife instead of in North East Scotland as under the Commission's proposal. About 60% of the electorate of North Tayside is in the present Mid Scotland and Fife EAC but the transfer of the whole constituency would result in an electorate in Mid Scotland and Fife more than 18% above the electoral quota. After holding an inquiry the Commission accepted the recommendation of the assistant Commissioner to adhere to the provisional recommendation, which results in an electorate less than 8% above the electoral quota. The District Council's proposal received little support at the inquiry and it is unlikely that the matter will be pursued in Parliament, except perhaps by Mr Walker.

ii. Cunninghame South

iii. Kilmarnock and Loudoun

iv. Strathkelvin and Bearsden Parliamentary Constituencies

The Commission accepted a counterproposal put forward by the Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee, as the assistant Commissioner recommended. The Commission's original proposals (a) produced electorates in these 3 EACs which ranged from parity to 2.2% above the electoral quota; (b) divided 2 districts between EACs (Hamilton, and Bearsden and Milngavie); and (c) placed the whole of Kilmarnock and Loudoun constituency, more than four-fifths of the electorate of Cunninghame South constituency and almost two-thirds of the electorate of Strathkelvin and Bearsden constituency, in different EACs from those in which they currently vote. The counter-proposal (a) produces electorates which range from 1% below the electoral quota to 2.5% above; (b) divide 3 districts between EACs (Cunninghame and Strathkelvin, as well as Hamilton); and (c) keep the electorates referred to in (c) above in the same EACs as they are at present.

After holding an inquiry the Commission (and the assistant Commissioner) took the view that the difference in the balance of electorates between the original and the revised recommendations was not significant (given that an EAC must contain whole Parliamentary constituencies and that the average electorate for a parliamentary constituency is some 55,500) and that the balance of advantage lay in preserving continuity in the electorates of Asssembly constituencies rather than in keeping districts intact (see paragraphs 62 and 63 of the report). Following representations against the revised recommendations the Commission declined to hold a further public inquiry (see paragraph 71). The Commission's revised (and final) recommendations for these 3 EACs, and their decision not to hold a further inquiry, may be raised in Parliament by the Scottish Group of Labour MPs, who unanimously supported the Commission's original proposals.

Scottish Office
March 1984

Pam Feb 81 Boundary
CMn

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND

REPORT

1983 REVIEW OF EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES

CONSTITUTION OF COMMISSION

IN ACCORDANCE with Part I of the First Schedule to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949, as amended by paragraph 1 of the Schedule to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1958, the Commission was constituted as follows:

Ex-officio Member

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, *Chairman*

And three other Members

THE HONOURABLE LORD ROSS, *Deputy Chairman - appointed by the Lord President of the Court of Session*

MR ANDREW A. L. EVANS - *appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland*

PROFESSOR URLAN A. WANNOP - *appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland (from 6 June 1983)*

Assessors

THE REGISTRAR GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ORDNANCE SURVEY

Secretary

MR A.SIMMEN - *appointed by the Secretary of State for Scotland*

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MAPS ILLUSTRATING THE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND

REPORT

on the 1983 Review of European Assembly Constituencies in Scotland
to the Right Honourable George Younger, M.P.,
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Scotland

1. We, the Boundary Commission for Scotland, constituted in accordance with the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Acts 1949 to 1979, have the honour to submit in terms of paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the European Assembly Elections Act 1978, as amended by section 1(1) of the European Assembly Elections Act 1981, our supplementary report on European Assembly constituencies for Scotland.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

2. As a consequence of the creation of new parliamentary constituencies in 1983, the Commission were required to review the European Assembly constituencies which were established in 1979. This chapter gives the statutory background to that requirement and describes the procedures followed during the review.

3. Under paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the 1978 Act, as originally enacted, the Commission were charged with the duty of submitting to the Secretary of State for Scotland, as soon as might be after the passing of the Act, a report showing the European Assembly constituencies into which the Commission recommended that Scotland should be divided in order to give effect to the provisions of paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 1 and Part II of Schedule 2 to the Act. These provisions lay down that Scotland shall be divided into eight European Assembly constituencies and set out the requirements to be observed by the Commission in formulating their recommendations. The European Assembly Elections Act 1978 received Royal Assent on 5 May of that year and on 26 May we gave notice in the Edinburgh Gazette of our intention to consider the making of the necessary report. Our recommendations for the initial division of Scotland into eight Assembly constituencies were contained in the report which we submitted to the Secretary of State on 25 September 1978 (Cmnd 7336) and were given effect to by the European Assembly Constituencies (Scotland) Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/1911) which came into operation on 3 January 1979. The first general election in the United Kingdom of representatives to the European Assembly was subsequently held on 7 June 1979.

4. Under paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 to the 1978 Act, as amended by the 1981 Act, if an Order in Council has been made under section 3 of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 giving effect, with or without modifications, to the recommendations contained in a report which we have submitted to the Secretary of State under section 2(1) of the 1949 Act, we are required to proceed to consider the representation of Scotland in the European Assembly and, as soon as may be after that time, submit to the Secretary of State a supplementary report. Under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the 1978 Act, as amended, the supplementary report must either:

(a) show the Assembly constituencies into which the Commission recommend that Scotland should be divided in order to give effect to the provisions of paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 1 and Part II of Schedule 2 to the 1978 Act; or

(b) state that, in the opinion of the Commission, no alteration is required to be made in the Assembly constituencies in Scotland in order to give effect to those provisions.

The requirements for a supplementary report are set out in Appendix A.

5. The Parliamentary Constituencies (Scotland) Order 1983 (S.I. 1983/422), made on 16 March 1983 under section 3 of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949, gave effect, without modifications, to the recommendations for 72 parliamentary constituencies in Scotland contained in our Third Periodical Report (Cmnd 8794) which we had submitted to you on 18 February 1983 under section 2(1) of the 1949 Act. In terms of the Order, the new parliamentary constituencies came into operation for the next general election held after 30 March 1983. On 19 April we gave formal notice to you of our intention to consider the making of a supplementary report and to commence forthwith a general review of the eight Assembly constituencies in Scotland. The statutory notice was published in the Edinburgh Gazette on 26 April 1983. Our aim was to complete the review and submit our report in time to enable our recommendations, if accepted, to be implemented for the next European Assembly elections due to be held in June 1984.

6. The Commission's explanatory leaflet on the review forms Appendix B to this report. Appendix C sets out the contents and electorates in February 1977, 1979 and 1983 of the existing Assembly constituencies in terms of the former parliamentary constituencies. Appendix D lists the written representations which were made to us on our provisional and revised recommendations. The contents and electorates of the eight Assembly constituencies which we submit as our final recommendations are set out in Appendix E. Appendix F gives the electorates in 1983 of the existing and recommended Assembly constituencies and the percentage variation from the electoral quota. The list of parliamentary constituencies in Appendix G indicates in which recommended Assembly constituency each is located. Three maps illustrating our final recommendations accompany this report. The main map (scale 1:1,000,000 or about 16 miles to 1 inch) shows our recommended Assembly constituency boundaries in blue, the existing Assembly constituency boundaries in red and the new parliamentary constituency boundaries in green. Two enlargements (scale 1:250,000 or about 4 miles to 1 inch) show in greater detail Lothians Assembly constituency and the three Assembly constituencies in the West of Scotland.

Procedure

7. The statutory provisions require us to conduct our review of Assembly constituencies on the basis of the parliamentary electorate existing when we announced our intention to carry out the review, ie 26 April 1983. This date thus became the enumeration date for the review. We were supplied by the Electoral Registration Officers in Scotland with details of the electorates on that date of the new parliamentary constituencies. We take this opportunity to thank them for their co-operation in providing this information. We were also supplied with a map showing the boundaries of the new parliamentary constituencies and those of the existing Assembly constituencies. The map showed that several new parliamentary constituencies were divided between two or more Assembly constituencies, and it was clear that alterations were required to be made in all eight Assembly constituencies in order to give effect to the statutory provisions which are set out in Appendix A.

8. As in the case of a review of parliamentary constituencies, we are not statutorily required to enter into consultations with Members of the European Parliament (M.E.P.s), Members of Parliament, the political parties, local authorities or other bodies before formulating our provisional recommendations. Indeed we considered that these provisional recommendations could best be arrived at without regard to conflicting suggestions made to us beforehand. We were thus in a position to be wholly impartial when making these recommendations.

9. We were required by statute to follow procedures during this review which are broadly similar to those which applied to the recent general review of parliamentary constituencies. We published our provisional recommendations for the eight Assembly constituencies in Scotland in the Aberdeen Press and Journal, Dundee Courier, Glasgow Herald, Scotsman, Scottish Daily Express and the Daily Record, inviting any person wishing to do so to make representations to us about our proposals. The advertisement was supplemented by a press release describing, with the help of outline maps, the general effect of our recommendations. Copies of our proposals for each Assembly constituency, illustrative maps and the explanatory leaflet were made available for inspection by the public in at least one local authority office or public library in each parliamentary constituency within the Assembly constituency. The addresses of the premises where the documents could be inspected were included in the press notice. We are grateful to the local authorities and their officers for their co-operation in these arrangements. We also took care that the national headquarters of the political parties in Scotland were made aware of our proposals by sending copies of the notice and other documents to them at the time of issue. In addition, the Members representing the eight Assembly constituencies in Scotland, and all Members of Parliament for Scottish constituencies, were individually informed of our provisional recommendations, and copies of the notice, maps and leaflet were deposited in the library of the House of Commons and the library of the House of Lords for inspection there.

10. On 9 May it was announced that the next parliamentary general election would be held on 9 June 1983. We published our provisional recommendations on 28 July. We recognised that the statutory period of one month for representations might in some cases allow too little time, particularly during the holiday period, for detailed consideration to be given to the recommendations. In fact, we took account of all representations received including any received after the statutory period.

11. We have held six meetings since the notice to commence our review was published on 26 April 1983. These were all held under the Chairmanship of our Deputy Chairman but we have kept our ex officio Chairman, Mr Speaker, informed of our progress.

Local inquiries

12. Unlike the position in the initial review of Assembly constituencies in 1978, when there was no requirement to hold local inquiries, we were obliged in this review to arrange for a local inquiry to be held into our provisional recommendations where objections were received from an interested local authority or from a body of electors numbering more than 500, before we made the recommendation to the Secretary of State. As in the case of a review of parliamentary constituencies, we are not obliged, however, to hold a local inquiry in respect of objections to revised recommendations, but we may do so if we consider it necessary to obtain more information or local opinion on certain matters.

13. As a result of objections two local inquiries were held into our provisional recommendations. One inquiry related to two Assembly constituencies (North East Scotland, and Mid Scotland and Fife); the other related to three Assembly constituencies (South of Scotland, Strathclyde East and Strathclyde West). At our request you appointed Mr John T. Cameron, Q.C., as assistant Commissioner for both inquiries. We refer later to Mr Cameron's reports but we should like to record here our thanks to him for the careful way in which he conducted both inquiries, and for submitting so promptly his full and informative reports which we found of great assistance in reaching our conclusions.

14. Notices advertising the holding of the local inquiries were published in the same newspapers as the notices advertising our provisional recommendations. Copies of the representations received by the Commission were sent to the headquarters of the political parties and to the local authorities in each of the Assembly constituencies concerned for public inspection at the same premises as before. In addition, a summary of the representations was sent to all those who had made representations. Members of the European Parliament and Members of Parliament were individually informed of the holding of local inquiries affecting their particular constituencies and a summary of the representations was also sent to them. Copies of the representations were deposited in the libraries of the House of Commons and the House of Lords for inspection there. Statements explaining the Commission's reasons for their provisional recommendations were also sent to all these parties and were made available for public inspection before, and at, the inquiries themselves. The assistant Commissioner also received a full set of papers for each inquiry. The inquiries were not restricted to those who had made written representations and it was open to anyone who wished to do so to make a statement. Shorthand writers were engaged to provide a transcript of the proceedings.

15. We decided to follow the practice which we had adopted during the review of parliamentary constituencies of not being represented at local inquiries to put the case for our provisional recommendations. This was because we would have to decide later whether to accept or reject the assistant Commissioner's recommendations. Instead, we prepared for each inquiry a statement which set out the criteria which we had to apply and the factors which we had taken into account. This statement was issued before each inquiry and was read out by the assistant Commissioner at the start of the proceedings.

16. We decided, after considering the report on one of the local inquiries, to revise our recommendations. In that case it was necessary under the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1958, as applied to this review, for the revised recommendations to be published in exactly the same way as the provisional recommendations. Copies of the assistant Commissioner's report were deposited for local public inspection with the revised recommendations and a map, and a copy of these documents was sent to those who had made representations and to the other interested parties. In the other case, in which we decided to adhere to our provisional recommendations, copies of the assistant Commissioner's report were made available for local public inspection, and were sent to those who had made representations and to the other interested parties, when we announced our decision following the inquiry.

Discussion with the political parties

17. We followed the procedure which we had adopted during the review of parliamentary constituencies when we arranged meetings with representatives nominated by the political parties in Scotland which currently had Members of Parliament in the House of Commons. We held a meeting with the representatives of the political parties on 3 October 1983 to discuss our provisional recommendations and the arrangements for any public inquiries which were necessary. We found this discussion on our proposals and procedure most helpful. At the meeting the political parties were unanimous in hoping that the Commission would complete the review in time for their recommendations to come into operation for the European Assembly elections in June 1984. We, for our part, confirmed that we would do our best to complete the review in time for this to be achieved.

CHAPTER TWO

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF THE REVIEW

18. In making our provisional recommendations for European Assembly constituencies we are under a statutory duty to apply the provisions of the European Assembly Elections Acts 1978 and 1981, which in turn apply provisions of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Acts 1949 and 1958. The statutory requirements are set out in Appendix A. The Acts provide that:-

(i) there shall be eight Assembly constituencies in Scotland;

(ii) each Assembly constituency shall consist of an area that includes two or more parliamentary constituencies;

(iii) no parliamentary constituency shall be included partly in one Assembly constituency and partly in another; and

(iv) the electorate of any Assembly constituency shall be as near the electoral quota as is reasonably practicable having regard, where appropriate, to special geographical considerations.

19. As we indicated in paragraph 7 above, we are required to base our recommendations on the numbers of parliamentary electors on the register of electors on the date on which notice of our intention to commence this review was published, ie 26 April 1983. The electoral quota is calculated by dividing the total Scottish parliamentary electorate on that date (3,935,429) by the number of Assembly constituencies in Scotland (8). This produces an electoral quota of 491,929.

20. We are not statutorily required to take into account in this review any other considerations, such as the crossing of regional or district boundaries or the breaking of local ties which apply in a general review of parliamentary constituencies. So far as is reasonably practicable, nearness to the electoral quota is therefore the overriding consideration having regard, where appropriate, to special geographical considerations. Thus the low density of population in the Highlands and Islands was accepted as being an outstanding geographical consideration in the initial review of Assembly constituencies in 1978. Subject to the statutory requirements as to parity of Assembly constituency electorates and the integrity of parliamentary constituencies being met, we thought it sensible so far as possible (a) to respect the boundaries of local authority areas, especially regional boundaries, (b) to leave the boundaries of the existing Assembly constituencies undisturbed in view of their relatively recent establishment in 1979 and (c) to take account of local ties and community of interest. As regards (a) we recognised that in a situation where Scotland has to be divided into eight Assembly constituencies with reasonably equal electorates it would be impossible to avoid splitting some of the nine Regions. So far as Districts are concerned many, including Angus, Bearsden and Milngavie, Cunninghame, Hamilton, Kyle and Carrick, Perth and Kinross, and Strathkelvin were already divided by the new parliamentary constituencies in order to achieve balanced electorates. As regards (b) we noted in paragraph 7 above that the boundaries of all the existing Assembly constituencies required some alteration following the creation of new parliamentary constituencies. As regards (c) given an electoral quota of almost 500,000 for an Assembly constituency, we thought it unlikely that arguments on the grounds of local ties and community of interest could be everywhere satisfied.

CHAPTER THREE

THE REVIEW AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS

21. In this chapter we describe in detail our review of each Assembly constituency and set out our final recommendations and our conclusions on the review. The contents and electorates of the existing Assembly constituencies in 1977, 1979 and 1983 are set out in Appendix C. The contents and electorates of the recommended Assembly constituencies in terms of the new parliamentary constituencies are set out in Appendix E. We deal first with those Assembly constituencies where no objections were made to our provisional recommendations, and then deal with those where objections were made and local inquiries were necessary. In this chapter Assembly constituencies are generally referred to as E.A.C.s.

GLASGOW

22. The present Assembly constituency comprises the 13 former Glasgow parliamentary constituencies which were wholly within the City of Glasgow District. The electorate in February 1983 was 520,107 (5.8% above the average). It excludes the former Rutherglen constituency and the part of the former Bothwell constituency within the District, both of which are in the present Strathclyde East E.A.C. The new Glasgow Rutherglen parliamentary constituency lies wholly within the District and the part of the former Bothwell constituency within the District now forms part of the new Glasgow Shettleston constituency. To include the new Glasgow Rutherglen constituency (electorate 60,082) with the other 10 new parliamentary constituencies in the City would produce a Glasgow E.A.C. with an electorate of 586,671 (19.3% above the electoral quota). Clearly this would not comply with the statutory requirement that the electorate of any Assembly constituency shall be as near the electoral quota as is reasonably practicable.

23. Our provisional recommendation was that Glasgow E.A.C. should comprise the following 10 parliamentary constituencies in Glasgow: Cathcart, Central, Garscadden, Govan, Hillhead, Maryhill, Pollok, Provan, Shettleston, and Springburn, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 526,589 (7% above the electoral quota). Glasgow Central Constituency Labour Party registered their support for the proposed boundary changes. No objections were received. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendation for Glasgow E.A.C.

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

24. The present Assembly constituency comprises the three former parliamentary constituencies which were wholly within Highland Region (Caithness and Sutherland, Inverness, and Ross and Cromarty), two which were partly in Highland Region (Moray and Nairn, and Argyll), one which was wholly in Grampian Region (Banff), Orkney and Zetland constituency, and the Western Isles constituency. The total electorate in February 1983 was 314,309 (36.1% below the average). Highland Region now comprises three new parliamentary constituencies (Caithness and Sutherland; Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber; and Ross, Cromarty and Skye). The new Moray constituency is in Grampian Region, as is the new Banff and Buchan constituency, and the new Argyll and Bute constituency is in Strathclyde Region. The boundaries of the Orkney and Shetland constituency and the Western Isles constituency are unchanged.

25. As in 1978 we accepted that special geographical considerations apply in this Assembly constituency and justify a much smaller electorate than elsewhere in Scotland. We noted that the electorate of the three new parliamentary constituencies in Highland Region, combined with that of Orkney and Shetland constituency and the Western Isles constituency, amounted to less than 198,000 (almost 60% below the electoral quota). We considered that the new Argyll and Bute constituency in Strathclyde Region and the new Moray constituency in Grampian Region would be the most appropriate constituencies to be included in the Highlands and Islands E.A.C.

26. Our provisional recommendation was that the Highlands and Islands E.A.C. should comprise the following seven parliamentary constituencies: Caithness and Sutherland; Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber; and Ross, Cromarty and Skye in Highland Region; Argyll and Bute in Strathclyde Region; Moray in Grampian Region; Orkney and Shetland; and the Western Isles, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 307,543 (37.5% below the electoral quota). Highland Regional Council resolved to raise no objections or representations on the proposals. Mrs Winifred Ewing, Member of the European Parliament for the present Highlands and Islands seat, objected to the loss of part of Banffshire from the Assembly constituency, but she subsequently withdrew her objection. No other representations were received. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendation for the Highlands and Islands E.A.C.

LOTHIANS

27. The present Assembly constituency comprises the former seven Edinburgh parliamentary constituencies and the former Midlothian and West Lothian constituencies. The electorate in February 1983 was 557,340 (13.3% above the average). It excludes the former Berwick and East Lothian parliamentary constituency, the majority of which was situated in East Lothian District, and which is in the present South of Scotland E.A.C. The new East Lothian parliamentary constituency (electorate 63,283) comprises that District and lies wholly within Lothian Region. To include it with the six new parliamentary constituencies in Edinburgh and the new Linlithgow, Livingston and Midlothian constituencies, thereby making the Assembly constituency co-terminous with the Region, would increase the electorate to almost 592,000 (more than 20% above the electoral quota). This was clearly unacceptable.

28. Our provisional recommendation was that Lothians E.A.C. should comprise the six new Edinburgh parliamentary constituencies (Central, East, Leith, Pentlands, South, and West), and the new Linlithgow, Livingston and Midlothian parliamentary constituencies, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 528,480 (7.4% above the electoral quota). Lothian Regional Council, the City of Edinburgh District Council and West Lothian District Council informed us that they had noted the proposals but they offered no comments. East Lothian District Council, for their part, also noted the boundary changes which exclude the District from Lothians E.A.C. No objections were received. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendation for Lothians E.A.C.

MID SCOTLAND AND FIFE
NORTH EAST SCOTLAND

29. We deal with these two Assembly constituencies together because of our decision to hold one local inquiry into our provisional recommendations for both seats.

30. The present Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. comprises the following former nine parliamentary constituencies: Central Fife, Dunfermline, East Fife, and Kirkcaldy (in Fife Region); Clackmannan and East Stirlingshire, and Stirling, Falkirk and Grangemouth (in Central Region); Perth and East Perthshire (in Tayside Region); Kinross and West Perthshire (which was divided between Central and Tayside Regions); and West Stirlingshire (which was divided between Central and Strathclyde Regions). The electorate in February 1983 was 565,472 (15% above the average).

31. The present North East Scotland E.A.C. comprises the following former eight parliamentary constituencies: Aberdeen North, Aberdeen South, East Aberdeenshire, and West Aberdeenshire (in Grampian Region); Dundee East, Dundee West, and South Angus (in Tayside Region); and North Angus and Mearns (which was divided between Grampian and Tayside Regions). The electorate in February 1983 was 505,248 (2.7% above the average).

Provisional recommendations

32. In making our provisional recommendations for the new Assembly constituencies we noted that:-

(i). the boundaries of the present Assembly constituencies divide a number of the new parliamentary constituencies (including Banff and Buchan, North Tayside, and Perth and Kinross) and therefore could not remain unaltered;

(ii). the addition of Banff and Buchan parliamentary constituency (electorate 61,194) to the four constituencies in Grampian Region and the three in Tayside Region (which are in the present North East Scotland E.A.C.) to form a new Assembly constituency would result in an electorate of 496,378 (only 1% above the electoral quota); and

(iii). the addition of North Tayside parliamentary constituency (electorate 52,462) to Perth and Kinross parliamentary constituency, the four constituencies in Central Region and the five constituencies in Fife Region, to form a new Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. would result in an electorate of 582,071 (18.3% above the electoral quota); but that

(iv). the addition of Banff and Buchan parliamentary constituency and North Tayside parliamentary constituency to the four constituencies in Grampian Region and the three constituencies in Tayside Region (already in the present North East Scotland E.A.C.) to form a new Assembly constituency would result in an electorate of 548,840 (11.6% above the electoral quota);
and

(v). a Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. consisting of Perth and Kinross parliamentary constituency, the four constituencies in Central Region and the five constituencies in Fife Region would result in an electorate of 529,609 (7.7% above the electoral quota).

33. We accordingly determined to recommend provisionally as follows:-

(1) Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. comprising the 10 parliamentary constituencies of Clackmannan, Falkirk East, Falkirk West, Stirling, Central Fife, Dunfermline East, Dunfermline West, Kirkcaldy, North East Fife, and Perth and Kinross, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 529,609 (7.7% above the electoral quota); and

(2) North East Scotland E.A.C. comprising the nine parliamentary constituencies of Aberdeen North, Aberdeen South, Banff and Buchan, Gordon, Kincardine and Deeside, Angus East, Dundee East, Dundee West, and North Tayside, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 548,840 (11.6% above the electoral quota).

Representations on the provisional recommendations

34. Following the publication of our provisional recommendations we received two representations objecting to our proposals and about two dozen representations which supported or accepted them. Perth and Kinross District Council lodged objections on the basis that North Tayside parliamentary constituency should be included in the new Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. and Stirling parliamentary constituency should be included in the new Strathclyde West E.A.C. The District Council's objection was supported by Mr Bill Walker, M.P. (Member for North Tayside). On the other hand, Central and Fife Regional Councils, and Stirling and Angus District Councils supported our proposals and opposed the counter-proposal put forward by Perth and Kinross District Council. The Scottish Council of the Labour Party were reasonably satisfied with the proposals and saw no reason to lodge objections. Representations approving the proposals were received from Mr David Marshall, M.P. (on behalf of the Scottish Group of Labour M.P.s) and Mr Dennis Canavan, M.P. (Member for Falkirk West), both of whom also opposed the counter-proposal to transfer Stirling parliamentary constituency to Strathclyde West, Mr Ernie Ross, M.P. (Member for Dundee West) and from nine Constituency Labour Parties, including those for North Tayside and Stirling. The Scottish Liberal Party expressed their support for the inclusion of Banff and Buchan parliamentary constituency in the proposed North East Scotland E.A.C. A local branch of North Tayside Liberal Association and a Perth and Kinross district councillor objected to the District Council's proposal to include North Tayside parliamentary constituency in Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. Grampian and Tayside Regional Councils, and the City of Aberdeen, Clackmannan, and Kirkcaldy District Councils informed us that they had no representations to make on our proposals. No representations were received at that stage from the Member of the European Parliament for either seat. In view of the objection from Perth and Kinross District Council we were obliged to hold a local inquiry.

Local inquiry

35. The Inquiry was held by the assistant Commissioner whom you appointed, Mr John T. Cameron, Q.C., in the Lesser City Hall, Perth on 7 November 1983. At the Inquiry statements were made on behalf of Perth and Kinross District Council, Central Regional Council, Stirling District Council, the Scottish Council of the Labour Party, and Kirriemuir Branch of North Tayside Liberal Association, and by Mr Bill Walker, M.P. (Member for North Tayside) and Mr John Purvis, Member of the European Parliament for Mid Scotland and Fife.

36. The assistant Commissioner reported to us that only one alternative proposal was put forward at the Inquiry, namely that North Tayside parliamentary constituency should form part of Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. rather than of North East Scotland E.A.C. This proposal was put forward by Perth and Kinross District Council and was supported at the Inquiry by Mr Bill Walker, M.P. and Mr John Purvis, M.E.P. It was appreciated that the effect of this change by itself would be to increase the electorate of Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. from 529,609 (7.7% above the electoral quota) to 582,071 (18.3% above the electoral quota). In order to compensate for this increase the District Council proposed that Stirling parliamentary constituency (electorate 56,938) should be transferred from Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. to the proposed Strathclyde West E.A.C. This latter proposal was vigorously opposed at the Inquiry by Central Regional Council and by Stirling District Council which was represented by Counsel.

37. The main argument put forward in support of the proposal by Perth and Kinross District Council was that North Tayside parliamentary constituency, or at least the greater part of it, has its natural links with Perth and, through Perth, with Mid Scotland and Fife. It was claimed that North Tayside is physically separated from the remainder of the proposed North East Scotland E.A.C. by the Grampian Mountains and that all its economic connections are with the south and west rather than with the north and east. Mr Walker drew attention to the size of the North Tayside constituency and the communication problems within it, and the way in which Perth forms the focal point of such communications. He said that in economic matters particular importance has to be given to agriculture and tourism, the former being particularly important when European Community matters are under consideration. In both these major respects Mr Walker considered that the links of North Tayside constituency are with Perth.

38. The major difficulty which the assistant Commissioner found in the proposal of Perth and Kinross District Council was that all the kinds of argument which could be put forward for linking North Tayside with Mid Scotland and Fife could be put forward with at least equal, and possibly greater, force in relation to Stirling constituency. In the submissions for Central Regional Council and Stirling District Council it was pointed out that natural physical features separate Stirling constituency from Strathclyde West, and that the Stirling area naturally looks north and east to the Forth Valley where all its communications and economic links are.

39. The effect of the submissions at the Inquiry was, in the assistant Commissioner's view, that no reason could be put forward for adding North Tayside parliamentary constituency to Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. which could not also be advanced as a reason against removing Stirling parliamentary constituency from that E.A.C. In these circumstances the numerical balance was, in his view, the determining factor. He pointed out that the effect of adding North Tayside to Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. would be to make a very significant increase in the amount of the excess of the electorate in that Assembly constituency over the electoral quota. The amount of that excess (more than 18%) was, he suggested, unacceptable, particularly having regard to the provisions of the relevant statutes which do not require the Commission to take account of local ties, and which place primary importance upon achieving, as nearly as practicable, a numerical balance. In his view no good reason had been advanced for altering our provisional proposals and he recommended that they should be confirmed.

Consideration of the assistant Commissioner's report

40. We had little difficulty in accepting the assistant Commissioner's recommendation to adhere to our provisional recommendations. We recalled that one of the considerations which we had in mind in making our provisional recommendation for Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. was that the addition of North Tayside parliamentary constituency would result in an electorate 18.3% above the electoral quota (paragraph 32(iii)). We had rejected this move in favour of placing North Tayside in North East Scotland E.A.C. in order to improve the balance of electorate between the two Assembly constituencies. In addition, we noted that the electorate of the part of Angus District in North Tayside parliamentary constituency accounts for about 40% of the total electorate of the constituency, and that part is already in the present North East Scotland E.A.C. As regards the suggested transfer of Stirling constituency to Strathclyde West E.A.C., we accepted the assistant Commissioner's findings, noting also that the transfer would detach the constituency from the rest of Central Region and would increase the electorate of the proposed Strathclyde West E.A.C. to about 12% above the electoral quota if no other change was made.

Final recommendations

41. On 13 December 1983 we informed all those who had made representations and other interested parties that, having considered the assistant Commissioner's report on the Inquiry, we had decided not to revise our provisional recommendations for Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. and North East Scotland E.A.C. as published on 28 July, and that we proposed to include these recommendations as our final recommendations in our report. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our provisional recommendations as follows:-

1. Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C. comprising the 10 parliamentary constituencies of Clackmannan, Falkirk East, Falkirk West, Stirling, Central Fife, Dunfermline East, Dunfermline West, Kirkcaldy, North East Fife, and Perth and Kinross, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 529,609 (7.7% above the electoral quota); and

2. North East Scotland E.A.C. comprising the nine parliamentary constituencies of Aberdeen North, Aberdeen South, Banff and Buchan, Gordon, Kincardine and Deeside, Angus East, Dundee East, Dundee West, and North Tayside, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 548,840 (11.6% above the electoral quota).

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND
STRATHCLYDE EAST
STRATHCLYDE WEST

42. We deal with these three Assembly constituencies together because of our decision to hold one local inquiry into our provisional recommendations for these three seats.

43. The present South of Scotland E.A.C. comprises the following former eight parliamentary constituencies: Ayr, Central Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, and Lanark (in Strathclyde Region); Dumfries, and Galloway (in Dumfries and Galloway Region); Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles (in Borders Region); and Berwick and East Lothian (which was divided between Lothian and Borders Regions). The electorate in February 1983 was 470,584 (4.3% below the average).

44. The present Strathclyde East E.A.C. comprises the following former eight parliamentary constituencies in Strathclyde Region: Bothwell, Coatbridge and Airdrie, East Kilbride, Hamilton, Kilmarnock, Motherwell and Wishaw, North Lanarkshire, and Rutherglen. The electorate in February 1983 was 483,708 (1.6% below the average).

45. The present Strathclyde West E.A.C. comprises the following former eight parliamentary constituencies in Strathclyde Region: Bute and North Ayrshire, Central Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, Greenock and Port Glasgow, East Renfrewshire, West Renfrewshire, and Paisley. The electorate in February 1983 was 517,452 (5.2% above the average).

Provisional recommendations

46. In making our provisional recommendations for the new Assembly constituencies we noted that:-

(i). the boundaries of the present Assembly constituencies divide a number of the new parliamentary constituencies (including Argyll and Bute, Clydesdale, Cumbernauld and Kilsyth, Cunninghame North, Cunninghame South, and Strathkelvin and Bearsden), and therefore could not remain unaltered;

(ii). a new South of Scotland E.A.C. comprising the new parliamentary constituencies of Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; and Clydesdale in Strathclyde Region; the four constituencies in Borders and Dumfries and Galloway Regions; and East Lothian (all in the present South of Scotland E.A.C. except for Musselburgh and small areas in Clydesdale constituency and Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale constituency) would have an electorate of 437,460 (11.1% below the electoral quota). The addition of Cunninghame South (electorate 49,370) which is mostly in the present South of Scotland E.A.C. would increase the electorate to 486,830 (1% below the electoral quota) but would divide Cunninghame District between the South of Scotland E.A.C. and Strathclyde West E.A.C.

(iii). a new Strathclyde West E.A.C. comprising the new parliamentary constituencies of Clydebank and Milngavie, Dumbarton, Eastwood, Greenock and Port Glasgow, Paisley North, Paisley South, Renfrew West and Inverclyde (all in the present E.A.C.), and Cunninghame North (mostly in the present E.A.C. with a part in the present South of Scotland E.A.C.) would have an electorate of 442,587 (10% below the electoral quota). The addition of Cunninghame South (mostly in the present South of Scotland E.A.C., with a small part in Strathclyde West E.A.C.) would produce an electorate of 491,957 (virtual parity) and would keep intact the whole of Cunninghame District in the same Assembly constituency;

(iv). a new Strathclyde East E.A.C. comprising the new parliamentary constituencies of East Kilbride, Hamilton, Kilmarnock and Loudoun, Monklands East, Motherwell North, Motherwell South, and Rutherglen (all or mostly in the present E.A.C.); Monklands West, and Strathkelvin and Bearsden (both partly in the present E.A.C.); and Cumbernauld and Kilsyth (divided between the present Mid Scotland and Fife, and Strathclyde West E.A.C.s) would have an electorate of 564,951 (almost 15% above the electoral quota); and

(v). the addition of Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituency (62,249), which is in the present Strathclyde East E.A.C., to the proposed South of Scotland E.A.C., rather than the addition of Cunninghame South, would result in the electorate of the latter E.A.C. being much nearer the electoral quota (1.6% above instead of 11.1% below)if no other change was made .

47. We accordingly determined to recommend provisionally as follows:-

1. South of Scotland E.A.C. comprising the nine parliamentary constituencies of Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Clydesdale; Kilmarnock and Loudoun; Dumfries; Galloway and Upper Nithsdale; East Lothian; Roxburgh and Berwickshire; and Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 499,709 (1.6% above the electoral quota).

2. Strathclyde East E.A.C. comprising the nine parliamentary constituencies of Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; East Kilbride; Glasgow Rutherglen; Hamilton; Monklands East; Monklands West; Motherwell North; Motherwell South; and Strathkelvin and Bearsden, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 502,702 (2.2% above the electoral quota).

3. Strathclyde West E.A.C. comprising the nine parliamentary constituencies of Clydebank and Milngavie; Cunninghame North; Cunninghame South; Dumbarton; Eastwood; Greenock and Port Glasgow; Paisley North; Paisley South; and Renfrew West and Inverclyde, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 491,957 compared with the electoral quota of 491,929.

48. We noted that while our proposals would include the whole of Cunninghame District in Strathclyde West E.A.C. and the whole of Strathkelvin District in Strathclyde East E.A.C., they would divide Bearsden and Milngavie District between Strathclyde East (the part in Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency) and Strathclyde West (the part in Clydebank and Milngavie parliamentary constituency).

Representations on the provisional recommendations

49. Following the publication of our provisional recommendations we received seven objections to our proposals and 14 representations which approved or accepted them.

50. Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council objected to the proposed inclusion of Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituency (which comprises the District) in the new South of Scotland E.A.C. and argued for its retention in Strathclyde East E.A.C. The Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee objected to the proposals for all three Assembly constituencies and proposed that (1) Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency be taken from the proposed Strathclyde West E.A.C. and added to the proposed South of Scotland E.A.C.; (2) Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituency be taken from the proposed South of Scotland E.A.C. and added to the proposed Strathclyde East E.A.C.; and (3) Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency be taken from the proposed Strathclyde East E.A.C. and added to the proposed Strathclyde West E.A.C. These amendments produced revised electorates of 486,830 (South of Scotland), 503,407 (Strathclyde East) and 504,131 (Strathclyde West), all nearer to the electoral quota of 491,929 than the other five Assembly constituencies in Scotland. The Committee felt that these amendments would cause least further disturbance by retaining more electors in the Assembly constituencies in which they currently vote than did the Commission's recommendations. They also felt that where an adjustment could be made to reduce, albeit marginally, the electorate of the South of Scotland E.A.C. this would compensate for the very wide geographical spread of that constituency. The Committee's letter stated that the representations had the support of the 27 United Kingdom parliamentary constituency associations within the three Assembly constituencies. This representation was supported in writing by the South of Scotland Conservative Euro-Constituency Council and Strathclyde West Conservative Euro-Constituency Council. It was also supported by Bearsden and Milngavie District Council in so far as it suggested the inclusion of Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency in Strathclyde West E.A.C., thus keeping the District intact (the part of the District in Clydebank and Milngavie parliamentary constituency already being included in that proposed Assembly constituency). Mr Adam Fergusson, Member of the European Parliament for Strathclyde West, asked the Commission to consider seriously retaining the status quo of 1979 so far as possible in relation to Strathclyde West E.A.C. The Scottish Liberal Party commented that the inclusion of Dumbarton parliamentary constituency and Clydebank and Milngavie parliamentary constituency in Strathclyde West was unfortunate since the River Clyde is a natural boundary. They suggested that an exchange of those constituencies with, say, Hamilton and East Kilbride might make for more convenient and compact Assembly constituencies. (This point was not pursued at the subsequent local inquiry.)

51. The Scottish Council of the Labour Party, for their part, were reasonably satisfied with the proposals for these Assembly constituencies and they saw no reason to lodge objections. Mr David Marshall, M.P. (on behalf of the Scottish Group of Labour M.P.s) informed us that his colleagues unanimously supported our proposals and that they could see no logic or rationale in the counter-proposals which had been put forward. Mr David Lambie, M.P. (Member for Cunninghame South) and the Labour Group on Kyle and Carrick District Council also wrote in support of the proposals for these three Assembly constituencies. East Lothian Constituency Labour Party registered their support for the proposed South of Scotland E.A.C. Strathkelvin District Council and Strathkelvin and Bearsden Constituency Labour Party supported the proposals in that the whole of the District should be in one Assembly constituency, namely Strathclyde East. Cunninghame District Council supported the Commission's proposal to include Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency in Strathclyde West, and Mr Hugh McCartney, M.P. (Member for Clydebank and Milngavie) and the Constituency Labour Party supported the Commission's recommendation for Strathclyde West E.A.C. Four District Councils (Cumnock and Doon Valley, East Lothian, Roxburgh, and Tweeddale) noted the proposals but made no observations. No representations were made at that stage by the Members of the European Parliament for the South of Scotland or Strathclyde East seats.

52. In view of the objections from Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council and the Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee we were obliged to hold a local inquiry.

Local inquiry

53. The Inquiry was held by the assistant Commissioner, Mr John T. Cameron, Q.C., in the Burgh Court Hall, Glasgow on 2 November 1983. At the Inquiry statements were made on behalf of Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council, the Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee, South of Scotland Conservative Euro-Constituency Council and Strathclyde West Conservative Euro-Constituency Council, the Scottish Council of the Labour Party, the Scottish Liberal Party, and by Mr Adam Fergusson, M.E.P. for Strathclyde West, and Mr Alasdair Hutton, M.E.P. for the South of Scotland.

54. The assistant Commissioner reported to us that representations against our proposals were made at the Inquiry by Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council which suggested that Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituency should remain, as it presently is, in Strathclyde East E.A.C. This proposal was put forward as an independent proposal and a number of reasons in its favour were advanced, for the most part concerning the character of the District and its affinities with the Central Belt of Scotland. The assistant Commissioner noted that the effect of transferring Kilmarnock and Loudoun, without making other changes, would be to reduce the South of Scotland electorate to 437,460 (11% below the electoral quota), and increase the electorate of Strathclyde East to 564,951 (almost 15% above the electoral quota). Not only were these divergencies from the electoral quota substantial, and probably unacceptable, in themselves, but also they would give rise to a very sharp disparity between adjacent Assembly constituencies. In his view, therefore, the proposal of Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council could only be considered, if at all, as part of a wider re-arrangement of constituencies.

55. The other major proposal put forward at the Inquiry was that of the Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee, supported by the South of Scotland Conservative Euro-Constituency Council and Strathclyde West Conservative Euro-Constituency Council, details of which are given in paragraph 50 above. Briefly, the counter-

proposal was to retain Kilmarnock and Loudoun in Strathclyde East instead of placing it in South of Scotland, place Cunninghame South in South of Scotland instead of in Strathclyde West, and place Strathkelvin and Bearsden in Strathclyde West instead of in Strathclyde East. The assistant Commissioner noted that the total effect of these changes taken together would be to produce electorates which would not diverge from the electoral quota to any significantly greater extent than did the Commission's own proposals. Under the Commission's proposals the electorates of the proposed South of Scotland, Strathclyde East and Strathclyde West E.A.C.s would be, respectively, 1.6% above, 2.2% above, and virtually equal to the electoral quota. Under the counter-proposal the figures were 1% below, 2.3% above, and 2.5% above the electoral quota. The assistant Commissioner also noted that although the counter-proposal would have the effect of perpetuating the division of Cunninghame District between the South of Scotland and Strathclyde West E.A.C.s and dividing Strathkelvin District, it would avoid the division of Bearsden and Milngavie District under the Commission's proposals.

56. In putting forward the counter-proposal it was argued that it was legitimate to take account of matters such as local ties and community of interest and that, where the numerical requirements could be satisfied by more than one grouping of parliamentary constituencies, some basis of choice must be adopted. Three reasons were advanced at the Inquiry for preferring the counter-proposal to the Commission's proposal. Firstly it would allow a greater continuity of electorate between the existing and the new Assembly constituencies. Under the Commission's proposals the whole electorate of Kilmarnock and Loudoun District and almost the whole electorate of Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency would be moved to different Assembly constituencies. Under the counter-proposal, on the other hand, these electorates would remain in the same Assembly constituencies in which they presently are, as also would more than half of the electorate of Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency. It was submitted that it was desirable to maintain continuity in the electorates of Assembly constituencies when many electors' perceptions of the European Parliament and the significance of Assembly constituencies were only beginning to form. Secondly, it was submitted that there is a natural affinity between the area of Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency and the rest of the existing South of Scotland E.A.C., while there is no natural affinity between Kilmarnock and Loudoun District and the area of the South of Scotland E.A.C. Thirdly, it was submitted that under the Commission's proposal Strathclyde West E.A.C. would be unbalanced, being composed of seven parliamentary constituencies to the south of the River Clyde and two to the north, and there might be difficulties for the M.E.P. in coping with a constituency so constituted.

57. The assistant Commissioner also reported that the submissions made to the Inquiry by Mr Alasdair Hutton and Mr Adam Fergusson, and on behalf of Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council, tended to support the counter-proposal, or some aspect of it. Mr Hutton, M.E.P. for the present South of Scotland seat, emphasised the importance of maintaining the stability of existing Assembly constituencies. He also referred to the size of the existing South of Scotland E.A.C. and to the difficulties of communication within it. Mr Hutton considered that Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency could more easily be integrated with the rest of the South of Scotland E.A.C., and better served by the Member, than could Kilmarnock and Loudoun District. He had not experienced, and was not aware of, any problems arising from the division of Cunninghame District between the two present Assembly constituencies. He suggested that, in view of its size and relatively thinly spread population, the area of the South of Scotland was one where special geographical considerations arise. Mr Fergusson, M.E.P. for the present Strathclyde West seat, also emphasised the importance of the factor

of continuity, particularly in view of the short time which had elapsed since Assembly constituencies were first set up. He therefore urged that the status quo should be retained as nearly as possible. On behalf of Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council it was submitted that the natural associations of the area are all with the north. The problems of the District are those common to the Central Belt of Scotland and are shared with adjoining areas such as Motherwell, Hamilton and East Kilbride. They are not the problems associated with areas such as Dumfries and Galloway, or the Borders.

58. On the other hand, the Commission's proposals were supported at the Inquiry by the Scottish Council of the Labour Party and by the Scottish Liberal Party. The Scottish Council of the Labour Party submitted that it would be illogical to divide Cunninghame District and place Cunninghame South constituency alone in the South of Scotland E.A.C. It was also submitted that Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency consists almost entirely of the old East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire constituencies, and the rest of these former constituencies were included within the proposed Strathclyde East E.A.C. The assistant Commissioner referred to the fact that these points had also been made in the written submission by Mr David Marshall, M.P., who also expressed the view that the division of Cunninghame District between two Assembly constituencies would be inconvenient both for the District Council and for the M.E.P. It was further stated on behalf of the Scottish Council of the Labour Party that there were a number of respects in which objections might have been taken to the Commission's proposals, but that it had been decided that no objections should be made because it was recognised that the proposals overall were reasonable and that any suggestion for a change in one place would require further consequential changes. Similar views were expressed on behalf of the Scottish Liberal Party who also stressed that it was extremely important, in view of the imminence of elections for the European Parliament, that the constituencies should be settled as soon as possible. The assistant Commissioner also referred in his report to the written representations which had been received from the District Councils, Members of Parliament, Constituency Labour Parties and others mentioned in paragraph 51 above.

59. The assistant Commissioner reported that in considering all the submissions made to him he was not inclined to place great weight on arguments concerning the presence or absence of local ties or community of interest between different areas. There was no statutory requirement to take such matters into account and in view of the size of Assembly constituencies it appeared inevitable that, in most cases, they would include areas of quite diverse character and circumstances. It did, however, appear to him that there was a great deal of force in the argument that continuity of electorates should be preserved where possible. Given that there were to be territorial Assembly consitituencies on the present model, he accepted that there must be some basis for choosing between different arrangements which give a similar numerical result. In his view the counter-proposal of the Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee did give an arrangement of constituencies which preserved continuity to a greater extent than did the Commission's proposals. In addition, the arguments concerning local affinities, so far as they went, pointed in the same direction. It was true that, as noted in paragraph 55 above, the counterproposal would have the effect of perpetuating the division of Cunninghame District and dividing Strathkelvin District; and that was a disadvantage which had to be balanced against the advantage of maintaining a greater continuity of electorates in Assembly constituencies. The assistant Commissioner recognised that there might well be differences of opinion as to the balance of advantage and disadvantage but, having considered the submissions at the Inquiry, he came to the view that the balance should favour the counter-proposal.

60. With reference to a disagreement in the submissions to the Inquiry as to how far continuity of electorates would be preserved if Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency were made part of Strathclyde West E.A.C., the assistant Commissioner explained in his report that the constituency consists of Electoral Division 45 and District Ward 5 in Bearsden and Milngavie District and Electoral Division 46 in Strathkelvin District, all of which were in the former East Dunbartonshire parliamentary constituency (and therefore in the present Strathclyde West E.A.C.), together with Electoral Division 47 in Strathkelvin District which was partly in the former West Stirlingshire parliamentary constituency (and therefore in the present Mid Scotland and Fife E.A.C.) and partly in the former North Lanarkshire parliamentary constituency (and therefore in the present Strathclyde East E.A.C.). On the basis of 1983 electorate figures he said that a little over 60% of the electorate of Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency is included in the existing Strathclyde West E.A.C.

61. In all the circumstances the assistant Commissioner recommended that the Commission's provisional recommendations should be modified so as to give effect to the counter-proposal, namely to retain Kilmarnock and Loudoun in Strathclyde East E.A.C., to place Cunninghame South in South of Scotland E.A.C., and to place Strathkelvin and Bearsden in Strathclyde West E.A.C.

Consideration of the assistant Commissioner's report

62. We noted the assistant Commissioner's view that the total effect of the changes under the counter-proposal produces electorates which do not diverge from the electoral quota to any significantly greater extent than do our provisional recommendations (paragraph 55). Given the requirement that an Assembly constituency must consist of whole parliamentary constituencies, and the fact that the average electorate in 1983 of a parliamentary constituency is about 54,650, we accept that view.

63. We also noted the assistant Commissioner's view that no great weight should be placed on arguments concerning the presence or absence of local ties or the community of interest between different areas; that the continued division of Cunninghame District and the division of Strathkelvin District under the counter-proposal is a disadvantage but that it is outweighed by the advantage, as he saw it, of maintaining a greater continuity of the present Assembly constituencies, an argument in which he thought there was a great deal of force. We recalled that in drawing up our provisional recommendations for these three Assembly constituencies we had tended to give more weight to maintaining district boundaries than to maintaining continuity of electorates of the present Assembly constituencies. On that basis our provisional recommendations produced electorates from parity to 2.2% above the electoral quota. Arising from the division of certain Districts between parliamentary constituencies, our provisional recommendations divided two Districts between Assembly constituencies, namely Bearsden and Milngavie District between Strathclyde East and Strathclyde West, and Hamilton District between South of Scotland and Strathclyde East. At the same time the whole electorate of Kilmarnock and Loudoun District (which makes up that constituency) and almost the whole electorate of Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency would be moved to different Assembly constituencies. On the other hand, while the counter-proposal would perpetuate the division of Cunninghame District between South of Scotland and Strathclyde West and would divide Strathkelvin District between Strathclyde East and Strathclyde West (and leave Hamilton District divided as under our original proposals), under it the electorate of Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituency, almost the whole electorate of Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency and more than 60% of the electorate

of Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency would remain in the same Assembly constituency as they are at present. In considering the balance of advantage between keeping Districts intact and preserving continuity in the electorate of Assembly constituencies, we noted the following factors. Firstly, both Cunninghame District and Strathkelvin District are at present divided between Assembly constituencies. So far as Cunninghame District is concerned we noted that at the Inquiry Mr Hutton, M.E.P. for the South of Scotland, stated that he had not experienced, and was not aware of, any problems arising from the present division of Cunninghame District between two Assembly constituencies. We considered that some weight should be given to the experience of the present Member of the European Parliament representing part of the area. We also noted that Strathkelvin District is at present divided among three Assembly constituencies, namely Mid Scotland and Fife, Strathclyde East and Strathclyde West. Secondly, we estimated that under the counter-proposal approximately five-sixths of the total 1983 electorate of the three parliamentary constituencies involved would remain in their present Assembly constituency.

64. In all these circumstances we decided to accept the assistant Commissioner's recommendation that we should modify our provisional recommendations to give effect to the counter-proposal.

Revised recommendations

65. On 15 December 1983 we published our revised recommendations which differed from our provisional recommendations published in July in that

(a) the proposed South of Scotland E.A.C. would include Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency in place of Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituency, resulting in an electorate of 486,830 (1% below the electoral quota);

(b) the proposed Strathclyde East E.A.C. would include Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituency instead of Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency, resulting in an electorate of 503,407 (2.3% above the electoral quota);

(c) the proposed Strathclyde West E.A.C. would include Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency instead of Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency, resulting in an electorate of 504,131 (2.5% above the electoral quota).

Representations on the revised recommendations

66. Representations welcoming the revised recommendations were received from Mr Adam Fergusson, M.E.P. for Strathclyde West, Mr Alasdair Hutton, M.E.P. for the South of Scotland, the Scottish Conservative Party, the Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee, Strathclyde West Conservative Euro-Constituency Council, and Kilmarnock and Loudoun Conservative and Unionist Association. More than 30 objections were received, from the Scottish Council of the Labour Party, almost 20 Constituency Labour Parties (among them those for Cunninghame South, and Strathkelvin and Bearsden), and other Labour groups (including Strathclyde Regional Labour Party and Cunninghame District Labour Party), five Labour M.P.s (including Mr George Foulkes and Mr David Lambie) three District Councils (Clydebank, Cunninghame and Strathkelvin) two Constituency Associations of the Scottish National Party, a local branch of the Post Office Engineering Union, and four individual objectors, one from Stevenston and three from Cumnock.

67. Most of the objections related to the revised proposals as they would affect Cunninghame South, and Kilmarnock and Loudoun parliamentary constituencies, and sought a return to our provisional recommendations. Several objectors, notably Cunninghame District Council and Cunninghame South Constituency Labour Party, submitted detailed statements. Cunninghame District Council represented strongly that Cunninghame South and Cunninghame North parliamentary constituencies should both be in Strathclyde West as originally recommended by the Commission. The Council complained that while the assistant Commissioner was not inclined to place weight on arguments concerning the presence or absence of local ties or community of interest because there was no statutory requirement to take such matters into account, he did place considerable weight on the argument that continuity of electorates should be preserved where possible, although there was not a statutory requirement to take that matter into account. In the Council's view the statutory requirement that the electorate of an Assembly constituency should be as near the electoral quota as is reasonably practicable having regard, where appropriate, to special geographical considerations was relevant in this case, and special geographical considerations plainly include such considerations as local ties and community of interest. Moreover, the Council did not accept that putting Cunninghame South constituency into South of Scotland would achieve continuity of electorates. They pointed out that Cunninghame South is significantly different from the former Central Ayrshire constituency. Even the revised recommendations involve the transfer of the electorates of Beith, Dalry and Kilbirnie from the South of Scotland to Strathclyde West, and the electorate of Stevenston from Strathclyde West to the South of Scotland. The main points made by Cunninghame South Constituency Labour Party against the revised recommendations were that Cunninghame District would be divided between Assembly constituencies and it was better to have one M.E.P. than two; the differences between the electorates and the electoral quota were marginally worse under the revised recommendations than under the original proposals; the links with Cunninghame North in social, economic and political terms are much stronger than those with the parliamentary constituencies in the Borders and Dumfries and Galloway Regions and the South of Scotland E.A.C.; there was a possible conflict of interest between the needs of an industrial Assembly constituency, such as Strathclyde West, containing a New Town, and those of a rural agrarian area, especially in considering the division of E.E.C. funds. The Constituency Labour Party accepted that Kilmarnock and Loudoun may have natural affinities with the north, but all the arguments put forward by Kilmarnock and Loudoun to avoid being put into South of Scotland are much more valid as far as Cunninghame District is concerned. On the question of continuity of electorates the Constituency Labour Party suggested that the logical solution would be to take out the Stevenston part of Cunninghame South and put it into Strathclyde West. Mr David Lambie, M.P. (Member for Cunninghame South) represented that to divide Cunninghame District between Strathclyde West and the South of Scotland in order to transfer Kilmarnock and Loudoun District back to Strathclyde East was illogical and took no account of local ties and community of interest. He pointed out that Cunninghame South is an urban constituency made up solely of Irvine New Town and Stevenston, and its affinities were with the rest of Cunninghame District and industrial West Central Scotland, not with the rural areas of the South of Scotland. On the other hand, Kilmarnock and Loudoun District was a more rural area whose ties were more with South Ayrshire than with industrial Lanarkshire. Mr George Foulkes, M.P. (Member for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley) considered that by dividing Cunninghame District between two Assembly constituencies, the Commission had unnecessarily breached one of the principal criteria which, he said, they must take into account, ie the integrity of local authority boundaries, when a satisfactory numerical solution could be achieved by having Kilmarnock and Loudoun, rather than Cunninghame South, in the South of Scotland E.A.C. Several of these points were also made in the other representations we received concerning the placing of these two parliamentary constituencies in Assembly constituencies.

68. Strathkelvin District Council, the Scottish Council of the Labour Party, Strathkelvin and Bearsden Constituency Labour Party and several other Constituency Labour Parties, and two Constituency Associations of the Scottish National Party, objected to the exclusion of Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency from Strathclyde East and to its inclusion in Strathclyde West, arguing that the whole of Strathkelvin District should be in Strathclyde East, as under the Commission's original proposals. The Scottish Council of the Labour Party reiterated the point made at the Inquiry that Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency predominantly comprises the former parliamentary constituencies of East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire. As the rest of these former parliamentary constituencies were included in the proposed Strathclyde East E.A.C. it would be unrealistic to take Strathkelvin and Bearsden out of that Assembly constituency. Strathkelvin and Bearsden Constituency Labour Party suggested that as the adjacent constituencies of Cumbernauld and Kilsyth, and Monklands West were included in the proposed Strathclyde East E.A.C., it would be in the interests of the local communities to leave all three parliamentary constituencies in Strathclyde East, as under the Commission's original proposals.

69. About 20 of the objectors requested, or demanded, a further public inquiry to enable those affected by the revised recommendations to voice their objections. These included the Scottish Council of the Labour Party, Strathclyde Regional Labour Party, Cunninghame District Council, Mr David Lambie M.P., Cunninghame North and Cunninghame South Constituency Labour Parties, and Strathkelvin and Bearsden Constituency Labour Party.

70. We examined all these representations carefully but came to the conclusion that they did not raise any new points which constituted sufficient grounds for altering our revised recommendations. It seemed to us that many of the objections were based on the misunderstanding that the statutory requirements for determining the boundaries of Assembly constituencies are the same as those for determining the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies, and therefore include having regard to the boundaries of local authority areas and to the breaking of local ties. We referred in Chapter Two to our intention, however, to have regard as far as possible to these factors, as well as to the boundaries of the existing Assembly constituencies. It is the case, as Cunninghame District Council suggested in their submission, that the requirement that the electorate of an Assembly constituency should be as near the electoral quota as is reasonably practicable having regard, where appropriate, to special geographical considerations is relevant. However, in our view, geographical considerations are balanced fairly equally as between our provisional and revised recommendations and, as already noted, neither the assistant Commissioner, nor we, regarded the difference in the balance of electorates between the two sets of recommendations as significant. The assistant Commissioner accepted that the division of Cunninghame District is a disadvantage but, having considered the submissions at the Inquiry, he concluded that this disadvantage was outweighed by the advantage in preserving continuity of Assembly constituency electorates. As already indicated above, we had accepted his conclusion and we saw no good reason to alter our view in the light of the representations. As regards the continuity of electorates in Cunninghame District, the transfer of the electorates of Beith, Dalry and Kilbirnie from the South of Scotland to Strathclyde West results from their inclusion in the new Cunninghame North parliamentary constituency and is not affected by the revised recommendations. The transfer of the electorate of the Stevenston area (some 8,200) in Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency from Strathclyde West to the South of Scotland under the revised recommendations means that less than one fifth (17%) of the electorate of Cunninghame South would be in a different Assembly constituency from the one they are presently in, but the remaining

four-fifths of the electorate of Cunninghame South would remain in the South of Scotland E.A.C. We noted the view of Cunninghame South Constituency Labour Party regarding a possible conflict of interest between the needs of Assembly constituencies which differ in character, particularly as regards the division of E.E.C. funds, but we did not consider that this was a factor which we could be expected to take into account. We also noted that the removal of the Stevenston area of Cunninghame South to Strathclyde West, which the Constituency Labour Party suggested, would be contrary to the statutory provisions. As regards Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency, we recognised that the division of Strathkelvin District is a disadvantage but we had accepted the assistant Commissioner's view that the counter-proposal should be preferred on the ground that it would better maintain continuity of electorates. We estimated that almost two-thirds of the electorate of the constituency would remain in Strathclyde West if it was included in that Assembly constituency. In all the circumstances we decided to adhere to our revised recommendations.

71. As explained in Chapter One, we are not statutorily required to hold a local inquiry into revised recommendations but we may do so if we consider it necessary to obtain more information or local opinion on certain matters. At the Inquiry held in November 1983 not only had statements been made in support of our recommendations but detailed statements had been made in support of the counter-proposal eventually accepted by us. The existence of the counter-proposal had been made widely known before the Inquiry, in particular by intimation to all who had written to us about the provisional recommendations, including the political organisations and others who had represented in support of those recommendations. Following publication of the revised recommendations in December, local opinion on the recommendations as they affected Cunninghame South parliamentary constituency and Strathkelvin and Bearsden parliamentary constituency had been fully and clearly voiced in the objections made to us in writing from these and other areas, all of which we had carefully considered. We felt therefore that from all these sources we were supplied with adequate information and expression of opinion to enable us to reach a judgement in the matter. Accordingly, we concluded that a further local inquiry was not justified.

Final recommendations

72. On 1 February we informed all those who had made representations and other interested parties that, following our consideration of the representations made to us, we had decided not to hold a second local inquiry and not to make any alterations to our revised recommendations published on 15 December, and that we accordingly proposed to adopt these revised recommendations as our final recommendations in our report. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our revised recommendations as follows:-

1. South of Scotland E.A.C. comprising the nine parliamentary constituencies of Ayr; Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley; Clydesdale; Cunninghame South; Dumfries; Galloway and Upper Nithsdale; East Lothian; Roxburgh and Berwickshire; and Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 486,830 (1% below the electoral quota).

2. Strathclyde East E.A.C. comprising the nine parliamentary constituencies of Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; East Kilbride; Glasgow Rutherglen; Hamilton; Kilmarnock and Loudoun; Monklands East; Monklands West; Motherwell North; and Motherwell South, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 503,407 (2.3% above the electoral quota).

3. Strathclyde West E.A.C. comprising the nine parliamentary constituencies of Clydebank and Milngavie; Cunninghame North; Dumbarton; Eastwood; Greenock and Port Glasgow; Paisley North; Paisley South; Renfrew West and Inverclyde; and Strathkelvin and Bearsden, with a total electorate in April 1983 of 504,131 (2.5% above the electoral quota).

CONCLUSIONS

73. The contents and electorates of the eight Assembly constituencies which we have recommended are set out in Appendix E.

74. The electorates of four of the original Assembly constituencies which our predecessors recommended on the basis of the 1977 register of electors exceeded the then electoral quota, and ranged from 2.7% above in Strathclyde West E.A.C. to 17.2% above in Glasgow E.A.C. The electorate of one Assembly constituency, North East Scotland, was virtually the same as the electoral quota, and the electorates of three Assembly constituencies at that time were below the electoral quota: 2.2% below in Strathclyde East, 5.9% below in the South of Scotland, and 37.4% below in the Highlands and Islands. As Appendix F shows, the electorates of five of these present Assembly constituencies now exceed the electoral quota and range from 2.7% above in North East Scotland to 15% above in Mid Scotland and Fife, while the electorates of three remain below the electoral quota: 1.6% below in Strathclyde East, 4.3% below in the South of Scotland and 36.1% below in the Highlands and Islands.

75. Appendix F shows that the electorates of six of the recommended Assembly constituencies exceed the electoral quota and range from 2.3% above in Strathclyde East E.A.C. to 11.6% above in North East Scotland E.A.C. The electorates of the remaining two recommended Assembly constituencies are below the electoral quota and are 1% below in the South of Scotland E.A.C. and 37.5% below in the Highlands and Islands E.A.C. The fact that the electorate of the Highlands and Islands E.A.C. is so far below the electoral quota means that the average electorate of the remaining Assembly constituencies must exceed the quota.

76. Leaving aside the Highlands and Islands, the electorates of the original Assembly constituencies on the basis of the 1977 electoral register ranged from 5.9% below the electoral quota to 17.2% above, ie a range of 23.1%. On the basis of the electoral register for 1983 the figures were 4.3% below to 15% above, ie a range of 19.3%. The effect of our recommendations, if accepted, is to produce Assembly constituencies, leaving aside the Highlands and Islands, with electorates in April 1983 which range from 1% below to 11.6% above the electoral quota, ie a range of 12.6%.

77. We received no representations about the names which we proposed for the Assembly constituencies, which are the same as the present names. We therefore recommend that the present names be adopted for the new Assembly constituencies.

78. This concludes our supplementary report on our review of the boundaries of European Assembly constituencies in Scotland following the creation in 1983 of new parliamentary constituencies.

79. We have received considerable assistance from Dr. C. M. Glennie who, as Registrar General for Scotland, served as an assessor to the Commission. We have also had much help from Major G. P. G. Robinson, Royal Engineers, who, as Regional Controller for Ordnance Survey in Scotland, represented the Director

General of Ordnance Survey as an assessor to the Commission until 2 September 1983, and from his successor as the Director General's representative, Mr. A. Macdonald, Director of Surveys and Map Production, Ordnance Survey. We also wish to record our appreciation of the services of our Secretary, Mr. A. Simmen. His assistance, advice and guidance have been invaluable.

DONALD M. ROSS
(Deputy Chairman)

A. A. L. EVANS

URLAN A. WANNOP

A. SIMMEN
Secretary

7th March 1984

REQUIREMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS ACT 1978,
AS AMENDED BY THE EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS ACT 1981

SCHEDULE 1

Assembly Constituencies

1. -(2) There shall be a total of 79 Assembly constituencies, of which-

(a) 66 shall be in England;
(b) 8 shall be in Scotland;
(c) 4 shall be in Wales;
(d) 1 shall be that of Northern Ireland.

SCHEDULE 2

Part II

Division of Great Britain into Assembly Constituencies

9. In Great Britain-

(a) each Assembly constituency shall consist of an area that includes two or more parliamentary constituencies; and

(b) no parliamentary constituency shall be included partly in one Assembly constituency and partly in another.

10. The electorate of any Assembly constituency in Great Britain shall be as near the electoral quota as is reasonably practicable having regard, where appropriate, to special geographical considerations.

Part III

Interpretation

12. In Part II of this Schedule and this paragraph in their application to a part of Great Britain for which there is a Boundary Commission-

"electoral quota" means the number obtained by dividing the electorate of that part of Great Britain by the number of Assembly constituencies specified for that part in paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 1 to this Act;

"electorate" means-

(a) in relation to an Assembly constituency, the number of persons whose names appear on the relevant registers for that Assembly constituency in force on the enumeration date;

(b) in relation to that part of Great Britain, the number of persons whose names appear on the relevant registers for that part of Great Britain in force on the enumeration date;

"enumeration date" means, in relation to any supplementary report of a Boundary Commission under this Schedule, the date on which the notice with respect to that report is published in accordance with section 2(4) of the 1949 Act.

"the relevant registers" means the following registers under the Representation of the People Acts, namely-

(a) in relation to an Assembly constituency, the registers of parliamentary electors to be used at an Assembly election in that Assembly constituency;

(b) in relation to that part of Great Britain, the registers of parliamentary electors for the parliamentary constituencies in that part.

TEXT OF THE COMMISSION'S EXPLANATORY LEAFLET

1983 REVIEW OF EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES

This leaflet describes the procedures to be followed in this review of European Assembly constituencies. The provisions under which the Commission operate are set out in the European Assembly Elections Act 1978, as amended by the European Assembly Elections Act 1981.

Following the making of an Order in Council to establish new parliamentary constituencies the Boundary Commission are required to proceed on a review of the European Assembly constituencies (EACs) and to make a supplementary report with their recommendations to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

2. In terms of the Parliamentary Constituencies (Scotland) Order 1983 made on 16 March, new parliamentary constituencies came into operation for the next general election held after 30 March 1983. The Commission's formal notice to the Secretary of State of their intention to review the EACs was published in the Edinburgh Gazette on 26 April 1983. This latter date thus became the "enumeration date" for the EAC review, ie the number of parliamentary electors on the electoral register on that date became the basis of the Commission's review.

3. The Commission are required to recommend eight EACs within Scotland. These EACs must comprise whole parliamentary constituencies and have electorates which are as near the electoral quota (ie the average electorate of the EACs in Scotland) as is reasonably practicable having regard, where appropriate, to special geographical considerations. The electoral quota for this review is 491,929.

4. The Commission are required by statute to follow procedures during this EAC review which are similar to those of the recent general review of parliamentary constituencies. They publish their provisional recommendations in newspapers, listing at least one place within each parliamentary constituency at which the details and maps illustrating their effect are open to public inspection. These places are usually local council offices and libraries.

5. Representations may be made to the Commission about their recommendations within one month after the first publication of the notice. The Commission may, if they think fit, hold a local inquiry in respect of any constituency or constituencies. If any regional, islands area or district council, or any body of electors numbering five hundred or more, objects to the Commission's recommendations, the Commission must hold a local inquiry into the constituency concerned before proceeding further. A local inquiry is always conducted by an independent assistant Commissioner, appointed by the Secretary of State, who reports his findings to the Commission with any recommendations he wishes to make.

6. If the Commission decide that they should revise their proposals in any way, their new proposals are published in the newspapers as before. Once again the notices list places at which the details can be studied and state that representations about the recommendations may be made to the Commission within one month of publication. The Commission are not obliged in any circumstances to hold a second local inquiry into their recommendations for the constituencies, but they may do so if they consider that one is justified.

7. When the Commission are satisfied that no (further) revisions of their provisional recommendations are necessary, they report to the Secretary of State with their final recommendations. He is required to lay the report before Parliament together with a draft Order in Council giving effect to the proposals. However, if he considers that the Commission's recommendations should be modified, he must also present a statement of the reasons for modifying them with the draft Order in Council. If both Houses of Parliament approve the draft Order in Council, and Her Majesty in Council makes an Order in the terms of the draft, the new constituencies come into being at the next general elction of representatives to the European Assembly.

APPENDIX C

CONTENTS AND ELECTORATES IN 1977, 1979 AND 1983 OF EXISTING EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES
(AS AT 16 FEBRUARY)

Contents	Electorates		
	1977	1979	1983
HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS	296,473	301,427	314,309
Orkney and Zetland	27,748	29,167	30,399
Western Isles	22,642	22,566	23,020
Caithness and Sutherland	29,541	29,906	30,660
Ross and Cromarty	33,136	33,181	35,332
Inverness	61,999	63,130	66,022
Moray and Nairn	44,818	46,360	50,965
Banff	33,141	33,178	33,405
Argyll	43,448	43,939	44,506
NORTH EAST SCOTLAND	473,419	487,230	505,248
East Aberdeenshire	52,072	55,073	59,455
West Aberdeenshire	63,509	68,867	77,756
Aberdeen North	65,154	65,679	65,954
Aberdeen South	66,177	66,143	66,682
North Angus and Mearns	40,738	43,632	47,245
South Angus	56,610	58,071	59,672
Dundee East	64,531	65,059	64,963
Dundee West	64,628	64,706	63,521
MID SCOTLAND AND FIFE	532,851	543,646	565,472
Central Fife	60,721	62,236	65,728
Dunfermline	63,533	65,530	69,383
East Fife	58,887	59,999	62,214
Kirkcaldy	61,186	61,772	62,484
Clackmannan and East Stirlingshire	66,171	67,328	70,097
West Stirlingshire	56,249	58,175	61,206
Stirling, Falkirk and Grangemouth	66,060	66,998	67,760
Kinross and West Perthsire	37,920	39,011	41,979
Perth and East Perthshire	62,124	62,597	64,621
LOTHIANS	534,256	541,903	557,340
Midlothian	96,254	102,697	106,514
West Lothian	83,514	86,445	92,736
Edinburgh Central	39,417	37,911	38,014
Edinburgh East	58,125	58,002	57,915
Edinburgh Leith	38,283	37,442	37,228
Edinburgh North	46,303	45,573	46,066
Edinburgh Pentlands	59,270	59,231	60,419
Edinburgh South	58,358	59,181	60,838
Edinburgh West	54,732	55,421	57,610

Contents	Electorates		
	1977	1979	1983
SOUTH OF SCOTLAND	445,540	455,131	470,584
Berwick and East Lothian	60,502	61,602	64,280
Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles	59,283	60,368	61,161
Dumfries	63,887	64,986	67,909
Galloway	40,903	41,536	42,825
South Ayrshire	51,454	51,454	52,373
Ayr	54,169	55,337	56,700
Central Ayrshire	64,911	68,028	71,540
Lanark	50,431	51,820	53,796
STRATHCLYDE EAST	462,962	468,736	483,708
Bothwell	61,104	62,160	64,556
East Kilbride	72,548	74,140	76,834
Kilmarnock	61,151	60,920	62,243
Hamilton	51,546	52,331	53,431
North Lanarkshire	55,979	57,174	61,088
Rutherglen	48,807	49,979	51,557
Coatbridge and Airdrie	60,298	60,990	62,751
Motherwell and Wishaw	51,529	51,042	51,248
STRATHCLYDE WEST	486,087	500,575	517,452
East Renfrewshire	63,526	65,147	67,951
West Renfrewshire	73,316	79,339	85,066
Greenock and Port Glasgow	61,630	62,360	61,915
Paisley	64,004	64,294	63,962
East Dunbartonshire	69,045	74,197	79,799
Central Dunbartonshire	49,794	49,850	50,477
West Dunbartonshire	54,541	54,987	57,003
Bute and North Ayrshire	50,231	50,401	51,279
GLASGOW	554,463	538,371	520,107
Glasgow Cathcart	49,730	49,103	47,215
Central	21,011	19,984	17,909
Craigton	44,512	44,855	44,293
Garscadden	52,762	52,895	50,500
Govan	28,157	25,113	24,178
Hillhead	40,885	40,085	39,795
Kelvingrove	37,153	33,806	32,447
Maryhill	50,846	50,768	51,010
Pollok	59,808	59,514	59,828
Provan	55,243	53,117	48,674
Queen's Park	36,278	34,580	33,013
Shettleston	33,873	32,139	31,013
Springburn	44,205	42,412	40,232

LIST OF WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED ON THE COMMISSION'S PROVISIONAL AND REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Provisional recommendations for all EACs published on 28 July 1983.

(a) Objections

Local Authorities	Political Parties	Others
District Councils		
Bearsden and Milngavie Kilmarnock and Loudoun Perth and Kinross	Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee South of Scotland Conservative Euro-Constituency Council Strathclyde West Conservative Euro-Constituency Council Scottish Liberal Party (in relation to Strathclyde East and Strathclyde West EACs only; see also below).	*Mrs Winifred Ewing, MEP for Highlands and Islands. Mr Adam Fergusson, MEP for Strathclyde West. Mr Bill Walker, MP for North Tayside.

*Mrs Ewing's objection was subsequently withdrawn.

(b) Representations expressing agreement or indicating that the proposals had been noted

Local Authorities	Political Parties	Others
Regional Councils		
Central * Fife * Grampian Highland Lothian Tayside	The Labour Party (Scottish Council)* and the following Constituency Labour Parties:- Central Fife* Clydebank and Milngavie* East Lothian* Falkirk East* Falkirk West* Glasgow Central* Kincardine and Deeside* Kirkcaldy* North East Fife* North Tayside* Perth and Kinross* Stirling* Strathkelvin and Bearsden*	Mr Dennis Canavan, MP for Falkirk West.* Mr David Lambie, MP for Cunninghame South.* Mr Hugh McCartney, MP for Clydebank and Milngavie.* Mr David Marshall, MP (on behalf of the Scottish Group of Labour MPs).* Mr Ernie Ross, MP for Dundee West.* Councillor D Skene, * Pitlochry.
District Councils		
Angus* City of Aberdeen City of Edinburgh Clackmannan Cumnock and Doon Valley Cunninghame* East Lothian Kirkcaldy Roxburgh Stirling* Strathkelvin* Tweeddale West Lothian	Labour Group on Kyle and Carrick District Council* Scottish Liberal Party (in relation to all EACs except Strathclyde East and Strathclyde West; see also above).* Kirriemuir Branch, North Tayside Liberal Association*	

*These representations supported the Commission's proposals.

2. Revised recommendations for South of Scotland, Strathclyde East and Strathclyde West EACs published on 15 December 1983.

(a) Objections

Local Authorities	Political Parties	Others
District Councils		
Clydebank Cunninghame Strathkelvin	The Labour Party (Scottish Council) and the following Constituency Labour Parties:- Ayr Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley Cunninghame North Cunninghame South Dumfries East Lothian Greenock and Port Glasgow Hamilton Motherwell South Paisley North Renfrew West and Inverclyde Strathkelvin and Bearsden Cunninghame District Labour Party Girdle Toll and Bourtreehill Labour Party, Irvine Gourock Labour Party Saltcoats Labour Party Strathclyde Regional Labour Party East Lothian District Council Labour Group Scottish National Party, Cumbernauld East Branch Scottish National Party, Strathclyde East Euro-Constituency Association	Dr Jeremy Bray, MP for Motherwell South. Mr George Foulkes, MP for Carrick Cumnock and Doon Valley. Mr David Lambie, MP for Cunninghame South. Mr George Robertson, MP for Hamilton. Mr John Home Robertson, MP for East Lothian. Post Office Engineering Union, Greenock Branch. Mr A McLatchie, Stevenston. E Paterson, Logan, Cumnock. W Paterson, Logan, Cumnock. A Winslow, Logan, Cumnock.

(b) Representations supporting the revised recommendations

Scottish Conservative Party Scottish Conservative Euro-Committee Strathclyde West Conservative Euro-Constituency Council Kilmarnock and Loudoun Conservative and Unionist Association	Mr Adam Fergusson, MEP for Strathclyde West. Mr Alasdair Hutton, MEP for the South of Scotland.

NOTE: The City of Glasgow District Council and Wigtown District Council agreed to make no representations on the revised recommendations. These amended proposals did not affect the Glasgow EAC or the allocation of Wigtown District as part of Galloway and Upper Nithsdale parliamentary constituency in the South of Scotland EAC.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES

European Assembly Constituency	Contents in terms of Parliamentary Constituencies	Electorate as at 26 April 1983
HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS		307,543
	Argyll and Bute	48,101
	Caithness and Sutherland	31,203
	Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber	64,277
	Moray	61,657
	Ross, Cromarty and Skye	48,883
	Orkney and Shetland	30,401
	Western Isles	23,021
NORTH EAST SCOTLAND		548,840
	Aberdeen North	63,811
	Aberdeen South	58,091
	Banff and Buchan	61,194
	Gordon	66,259
	Kincardine and Deeside	60,325
	Angus East	59,868
	Dundee East	63,482
	Dundee West	63,348
	North Tayside	52,462
MID SCOTLAND & FIFE		529,609
	Clackmannan	48,193
	Falkirk East	52,668
	Falkirk West	49,924
	Stirling	56,938
	Central Fife	55,088
	Dunfermline East	50,459
	Dunfermline West	49,633
	Kirkcaldy	53,649
	North East Fife	51,018
	Perth and Kinrosos	62,039
LOTHIANS		528,480
	Edinburgh Central	57,373
	Edinburgh East	51,605
	Edinburgh Leith	61,044
	Edinburgh Pentlands	59,983
	Edinburgh South	63,071
	Edinburgh West	61,719
	Linlithgow	58,661
	Livingston	53,854
	Midlothian	61,170
SOUTH OF SCOTLAND		486,830
	Ayr	65,828
	Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	56,785
	Clydesdale	61,123
	Cunninghame South	49,370
	Dumfries	58,285
	Galloway and Upper Nithsdale	52,445
	East Lothian	63,283
	Roxburgh and Berwickshire	42,176
	Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale	37,525

European Assembly Constituency	Contents in terms of Parliamentary Constituencies	Electorate as at 26 April 1983
STRATHCLYDE EAST		503,407
	Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	44,873
	East Kilbride	62,466
	Glasgow Rutherglen	60,082
	Hamilton	62,388
	Kilmarnock and Loudoun	62,249
	Monklands East	49,883
	Monklands West	51,135
	Motherwell North	57,332
	Motherwell South	52,999
STRATHCLYDE WEST		504,131
	Clydebank and Milngavie	51,605
	Cunninghame North	53,889
	Dumbarton	58,105
	Eastwood	60,287
	Greenock and Port Glasgow	60,387
	Paisley North	51,104
	Paisley South	52,855
	Renfrew West and Inverclyde	54,355
	Strathkelvin and Bearsden	61,544
GLASGOW		526,589
	Glasgow Cathcart	51,683
	Glasgow Central	51,749
	Glasgow Garscadden	51,281
	Glasgow Govan	52,401
	Glasgow Hillhead	57,495
	Glasgow Maryhill	52,537
	Glasgow Pollok	54,089
	Glasgow Provan	48,566
	Glasgow Shettleston	52,658
	Glasgow Springburn	54,130

ELECTORATES IN 1983 OF EXISTING AND RECOMMENDED EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCIES, AND PERCENTAGE VARIATION FROM THE ELECTORAL QUOTA

Constituency	Existing Constituency		Recommended Constituency	
	Electorate	% Variation	Electorate	% Variation
Highlands and Islands	314,309	-36.1	307,543	-37.5
North East Scotland	505,248	+ 2.7	548,840	+11.6
Mid Scotland and Fife	565,472	+15.0	529,609	+ 7.7
Lothians	557,340	+13.3	528,480	+ 7.4
South of Scotland	470,584	- 4.3	486,830	- 1.0
Strathclyde East	483,708	- 1.6	503,407	+ 2.3
Strathclyde West	517,452	+ 5.2	504,131	+ 2.5
Glasgow	520,107	+ 5.8	526,589	+ 7.0
Total	3,934,220*		3,935,429*	

*The difference of 1,209 arises from the February 1983 date taken for the existing constituencies (ie the date of publication of the 1983 electoral register) and the April 1983 date taken for the recommended constituencies (ie the enumeration date for the review). Accordingly, the electoral quota differs slightly: 491,778 for the existing constituencies, and 491,929 for the recommended constituencies.

LIST OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES AND THE RECOMMENDED EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY

Parliamentary Constituency	European Assembly Constituency
Aberdeen North	North East Scotland
Aberdeen South	North East Scotland
Angus East	North East Scotland
Argyll and Bute	Highlands and Islands
Ayr	South of Scotland
Banff and Buchan	North East Scotland
Caithness and Sutherland	Highlands and Islands
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	South of Scotland
Central Fife	Mid Scotland and Fife
Clackmannan	Mid Scotland and Fife
Clydebank and Milngavie	Strathclyde West
Clydesdale	South of Scotland
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	Strathclyde East
Cunninghame North	Strathclyde West
Cunninghame South	South of Scotland
Dumbarton	Strathclyde West
Dumfries	South of Scotland
Dundee East	North East Scotland
Dundee West	North East Scotland
Dunfermline East	Mid Scotland and Fife
Dunfermline West	Mid Scotland and Fife
Eastwood	Strathclyde West
East Kilbride	Strathclyde East
East Lothian	South of Scotland
Edinburgh Central	Lothians
Edinburgh East	Lothians
Edinburgh Leith	Lothians
Edinburgh Pentlands	Lothians
Edinburgh South	Lothians
Edinburgh West	Lothians
Falkirk East	Mid Scotland and Fife
Falkirk West	Mid Scotland and Fife
Galloway and Upper Nithsdale	South of Scotland
Glasgow Cathcart	Glasgow
Glasgow Central	Glasgow
Glasgow Garscadden	Glasgow
Glasgow Govan	Glasgow
Glasgow Hillhead	Glasgow
Glasgow Maryhill	Glasgow
Glasgow Pollok	Glasgow
Glasgow Provan	Glasgow
Glasgow Rutherglen	Strathclyde East
Glasgow Shettleston	Glasgow
Glasgow Springburn	Glasgow
Gordon	North East Scotland
Greenock and Port Glasgow	Strathclyde West

Parliamentary Constituency	European Assembly Constituency
Hamilton	Strathclyde East
Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber	Highlands and Islands
Kilmarnock and Loudoun	Strathclyde East
Kincardine and Deeside	North East Scotland
Kirkcaldy	Mid Scotland and Fife
Linlithgow	Lothians
Livingston	Lothians
Midlothian	Lothians
Monklands East	Strathclyde East
Monklands West	Strathclyde East
Moray	Highlands and Islands
Motherwell North	Strathclyde East
Motherwell South	Strathclyde East
North East Fife	Mid Scotland and Fife
North Tayside	North East Scotland
Orkney and Shetland	Highlands and Islands
Paisley North	Strathclyde West
Paisley South	Strathclyde West
Perth and Kinross	Mid Scotland and Fife
Renfrew West and Inverclyde	Strathclyde West
Ross, Cromarty and Skye	Highlands and Islands
Roxburgh and Berwickshire	South of Scotland
Stirling	Mid Scotland and Fife
Strathkelvin and Bearsden	Strathclyde West
Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale	South of Scotland
Western Isles	Highlands and Islands

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL. LONDON SW1A 2AT

5 March 1984

nb pm Mmb SJB

Dear Leon

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCIES - WALES

Thank you for your letter of 28 February in which you propose that you should go ahead on 6 March with publication of the Boundary Commission for Wales' report and an Order in Council.

I share your view that is is best to lay the report as submitted by the Commission, and you may take it that you have H Committee's approval to do so. I note that reports for England and Scotland are not expected until mid to late March. I imagine that means you will not be able to give colleagues much time for comment on those, so that if they do have any objections there will hardly be time to decide what to do about them. I note that your arguments for not modifying the Welsh proposals rested largely on general principles (which I would endorse); but I expect that in due course colleagues will want a few days in which to consider whether there are any local issues for which the English and Scottish Commissions have not done full justice. I would be grateful if you could let me know the latest time by which the relevant Orders in Council must be laid and whether it be at all feasible to fit in such consultation.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, to members of H Committee, to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours

Willie

The Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP

PARLIAMENT: Boundary Commission

Feb '82

Y SWYDDFA GYMREIG
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switsfwrdd)
01-233 6106 (Llinell Union)
Oddi wrth Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Cymru

WELSH OFFICE
GWYDYR HOUSE
WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2ER
Tel. 01-233 3000 (Switchboard)
01-233 6106 (Direct Line)
From The Secretary of State for Wales

The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP

2. iii. 84

16pm Dub 5/3

Dear Secretary of State,

Thank you for copying me your letter of 28 February to Willie Whitelaw about the report of the Boundary Commission for Wales on the Review of European Assembly Constituencies.

I am content with your proposals to lay the report and a draft order accepting the proposals without modification before Parliament on Tuesday, 6 March.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Willie Whitelaw, Geoffrey Howe and the other members of H.

Yours sincerely,

Leighton Davies.

Approved by the Secretary
of State and signed in his absence

The Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

CONFIDENTIAL

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

24 February 1984

Dear Willie,

I am circulating herewith a copy of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Wales' report on its 1983 review of European Parliament constituencies. Attached as an Annex to this letter is an analysis of the recommendations.

The House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949, as applied by Schedule 2 to the European Assembly Elections Act 1978, requires me to lay a report of a Parliamentary Boundary Commission before Parliament as soon as may be after receiving it, together with the draft of an Order in Council giving effect, with or without modifications, to the report's recommendations. The report is published when it is laid before Parliament. Two issues have to be decided:

a. whether to make any modifications to the Commission's proposals, and

b. how quickly to lay the draft Order and when to arrange the ensuing debates.

Modifications

No representations have been made to the Commission or to me since 25 January 1984, when the Commission announced that it had no plans to revise its provisional recommendations. I may, however, receive representations about the division of the Borough of Neath and the County of West Glamorgan referred to in paragraph 5 of the attached Annex. Much would depend on the nature of any representations but in general I would not favour making modifications at this stage for the following reasons:

a. Parliament should have the opportunity to discuss the Commission's recommendations as submitted to me;

b. however strong the case, any proposed modifications should in fairness be published and representations invited; to do this would delay implementation of all the other recommendations;

c. this particular issue was fully considered by the assistant Commissioner and the Commission.

/Timing

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw, CH, MC

CONFIDENTIAL

Timing

I propose to lay the report and the draft Order on Tuesday 6 March. The draft Order will then have to be approved by both Houses and made by Her Majesty in Council. If the new constituencies are to be in force at the election on 14 June then the Order in Council must be made at the Privy Council meeting on 11 April. I understand that the English and Scottish Commissions are unlikely to report before 19 March at the earliest. This means that those report will have to be turned round quickly and debates on the draft Orders in Council held equally swiftly if they are to be ready for the Privy Council meeting on 11 April. There is no reason, however, to delay debating the Welsh report and draft Order and I suggest that the debate be arranged as soon as the Order has been cleared by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments.

Unless I hear to the contrary by 2 March I shall assume that colleagues are content with the proposals in this letter.

I am copying this letter to the other members of H, to the Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

E.R.

ANNEX

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES:
ANALYSIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

Paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 1 to the European Assembly Elections Act 1978 provides that there shall be four European Parliament constituencies in Wales. The Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Wales has no power to vary that number.

Background

2. The Commission was required to review the existing European constituencies as soon as the new parliamentary constituencies came into force in March 1983. The electorates of the present European constituencies ranged from 508,448 (4.9% below the electoral quota) in Mid and West Wales to 561,266 (4.9% above the electoral quota) in South-East Wales but the boundaries of three of the existing seats had to be aligned with those of the new parliamentary constituencies.

Overall view

3. The Commission's proposals reflect the fact that it tried to create as little disturbance as possible to the present seats. They leave the existing North Wales constituency unchanged and make the minimum number of changes necessary to the other three constituencies in order to meet the statutory requirements that each should comprise two or more whole parliamentary constituencies and have an electorate as near the electoral quota as is reasonably practicable having regard, where appropriate, to special geographical considerations.

4. The boundary of the present South-East Wales constituency has been altered slightly by including the remaining parts of 5 parliamentary constituencies currently contained in the European constituencies of Mid and West Wales and South Wales and by transferring parts of three others to the South Wales constituency. The only major alteration is to the boundary between the Mid and West Wales and South Wales constituencies, which currently divides the parliamentar constituency of Neath. The Commission propose that this parliamentary constituency should be placed in Mid and West Wales to produce electorates closer to the electoral quota, thereby dividing the County of West Glamorgan and the Borough of Neath between two European constituencies.

E.R.

Contentious areas

5. There was a fair measure of support for the Commission's original proposals (now final recommendations) at the local inquiry in November 1983. This may well be reflected in the debates on the Commission's report. However, there may also be complaints about the Commission's rejection of a counter-proposal intended to avoid the division of the Borough of Neath and the County of West Glamorgan between constituencies. This counter-proposal produced electorates closer to the electoral quota than the Commission's recommendations but was rejected because it failed to take account of special geographical considerations (viz the barrier provided by the Brecon Beacons - see paragraph 41 of the report).

6. The electoral quota (i.e. average electorate on 25 April 1983, when notice of the review was published in the London Gazette) is 534,904. The electorates of the proposed constituencies are as follows:-

North Wales	518,646 (3.0% below the electoral quota)
Mid and West Wales	536,746 (0.3% above the electoral quota)
South East Wales	570,210 (6.6% above the electoral quota)
South Wales	514,012 (3.9% below the electoral quota)

These figures compare favourably with the Commission's recommendations in 1978, based on the 1977 electoral quota of 513,793, which were:-

North Wales	488,731 (4.9% below the electoral quota)
Mid and West Wales	486,916 (5.2% below the electoral quota)
South-East Wales (sic)	546,391 (6.3% above the electoral quota)
South Wales	533,134 (3.8% above the electoral quota)

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SWIH 9AT

5 May 1983

PR
9/5

Dear David,

.... You will wish to see the enclosed copy of Mr Foot's response to the Home Secretary's letter about the proposal to appoint to the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England. Our Departments will doubtless be in touch about the next move.

I am copying this letter and its enclosure to Tim Flesher at No 10.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Pallett

MRS L PALLETT

Temporary Retained GDepe 19/04/16

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

D A Edmonds, Esq

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

From:
Michael Foot MP

4 May 1983

Dear William

Thank you for your letter proposing to appoint to the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England. I regret to say that we do not know and the information you have given us is not sufficient to make a proper judgement about his acceptability. I wonder if you know any more about him.

I am concerned that, if were appointed, all three members would then be from the South of England, indeed almost from London itself. I believe there would be a better balance and greater confidence in the Commission if at least one of the Commissioners was from another part of the country. The appointment of a new Commissioner provides a fine opportunity to achieve this and I should be very glad if you would consider doing so.

Yours ever
Michael

Rt Hon William Whitelaw MP

Temporary Retained GDepo 19/04/16

THIS IS A COPY. THE ORIGINAL IS RETAINED UNDER SECTION 3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS ACT

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Prime Minister 2
cc BI

Parliament
WR
27/4

SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

Willie Rickett Esq
Private Secretary
No 10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

27 April 1983

Dear Willie

My Secretary of State would like you to let the Prime Minister know that the Boundary Commission for Scotland intends to begin its general review of the 8 European Parliament constituencies in Scotland. This follows the making of the Order in Council implementing the Commission's recommendations for Westminster constituencies.

We are arranging for an announcement in Parliament by means of a Written Question and Answer next week; we understand that a similar announcement will be made in relation to the Boundary Commissions for England and Wales.

I am copying this letter to Tony Rawsthorne (Home Office) and David Heyhoe (Lord President's Office).

Yours ever,

A MUIR RUSSELL
Private Secretary

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

Prime Minister 2

LM 22/4

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

21 April 1983

Dear Mr Beaumont,

The Home Secretary has received from the Boundary Commissions for England and Wales notices dated 14 April stating their intention to begin reviews of the European Parliament constituencies in England and Wales. He proposes to announce this by way of Parliamentary Questions for Written Answer on Monday 25 April.

I enclose a copy of the draft Questions and Answers. I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to the Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister, the Lord President of the Council and the Secretary of State for Wales.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Pallett.

MRS L PALLETT

W A Beaumont, Esq, OBE, AE

England

DRAFT QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER ON 25 APRIL

: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Boundary Commission for England intends to begin its review of European Parliament constituencies in England.

DRAFT REPLY

The Commission has informed me that it intends to begin its review of European Parliament constituencies in England now that the Order in Council implementing the recommendations in its Third Periodical Report has been made. The Commission sees no prospect of completing its review in time for its recommendations to be implemented at the 1984 elections.

Wales

DRAFT QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER ON 25 APRIL

: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Boundary Commission for Wales intends to begin its review of European Parliament constituencies in Wales.

DRAFT REPLY

The Commission has informed me that it intends to begin its review of European Parliament constituencies in Wales now that the Order in Council implementing the recommendations in its Third Periodical Report has been made. The Commission is still unable to estimate how long the review is likely to take.

Parliament
Boundary Commission Rpt

PARLIAMENT

PRIME MINISTER

cc Mr. Howe

Boundary Commission for Scotland

– see attached folder.

Attached is a short summary of the report of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Scotland which the Secretary of State has now received and which he proposes to lay before the House on 24 February. The Commission proposes 72 constituencies, an increase of one. This of course perpetuates the over-representation of Scotland compared with England and Wales. The electoral quota for England is 66,000, that for Wales 59,000 and for Scotland 54,000.

The recommendations of the Commission are radical. Only 2 constituencies (Orkney and Shetland and the Western Isles) remain unchanged. The main loser is Glasgow which goes down from 14 seats to 11 (which is one more than it should have on a strict application of the quota). The changes will lead to a considerable number of Labour MPs having to seek selection against each other.

22 February 1983

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND

SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

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59
54

CONFIDENTIAL

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw CH MC MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
SW1H 9AT

21 February 1983

Dear Willie,

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND

When I wrote to you on 10 February I indicated that I hoped to receive the Scottish report shortly and aimed to lay the draft Scottish Order in time for it to be considered by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments on 1 March. I am glad to say that I have now received the report. I now plan to lay it with a draft constituencies order on Thursday 24 February. Printing is in hand to meet this timetable.

In my letter I said that I proposed to proceed on the basis of the Commission's recommendations, and the Constituencies Order is drafted accordingly. I enclose a brief analysis of the Commission's recommendations together with a note on the various representations made, all of which have been considered by the Commission, from whose recommendations I see no good reason to depart.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to members of the Cabinet, the Lord Advocate, the Attorney General, the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,

George.

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND

ANALYSIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

The Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Scotland have recommended 72 constituencies, one more than at present. (The Commissions for England and Wales have recommended 523 and 38 constituencies, ie 7 and 2 more, respectively, than at present.)

The number of seats

The Commission's recommendation for an additional seat arose out of their consideration of the report of the local inquiry into their original proposals for 10 seats in the City of Glasgow District. They decided to accept the Assistant Commissioner's recommendation for 11 seats in order to accord more closely with the Rules in the Schedule to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949, as amended. The recommendation for 11 seats in Glasgow is likely to prove contentious, in view of their rejection of claims for additional seats in Grampian, Highland and Tayside Regions and especially because they have limited Grampian Region to 6 seats despite the recent and continuing growth in electorate. The chief gain in seats falls to Fife Region, where the number of seats recommended is 5 instead of the present 4, partly because of Glenrothes New Town.

Overall view

The Commission's proposals for new constituencies are radical. Only the 2 islands area constituencies (Orkney and Shetland, and Western Isles) remain completely unchanged in either electorate size or area. The main reason is the change in local authority areas following the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. Under the Rules, the Commission must have regard to the boundaries of local authority areas. They decided to adhere to the new regional boundaries in all cases. In addition population shifts have led to electoral disparities, resulting in large electorates in the areas with New Towns and small electorates in some city constituencies in Edinburgh and Glasgow; these cities accordingly lose one seat and 3 seats respectively. Almost one third of the existing constituencies have electorates within a margin of 10% above or below the 1978 electoral quota of 53,649 (on which the recommendations are based) and more than a further quarter are within 20% above or below. More than a half (57%) of the recommended constituencies are within the 10% margin above or below the quota, and a further third are within 20% above or below.

ANNEX A

CONTENTIOUS AREAS

General: The increase in the number of seats from 71 to 72, particularly arising from the allocation of 11 seats to Glasgow instead of 10 as the Commission originally proposed.

Central Region:

(i) The removal from the proposed Stirling constituency of ED13 in Stirling District and its inclusion, as recommended by the Assistant Commissioner, in the proposed Clackmannan constituency; and the Commission's refusal to hold a further inquiry.

(ii) The splitting of Stenhousemuir between 2 constituencies.

Grampian Region:

(i) The allocation of 6 rather than 7 constituencies (and 2 instead of 3 for Aberdeen City) despite recent and continuing growth in the electorate. The proposed Gordon constituency, which includes parts of Aberdeen City, had a 1982 electorate of 64,200.

(ii) The loss of the present Banff constituency (1978 electorate 33,176) and the use of the name "Moray county" for the new constituency, which contains much of the former county of Banff.

Highland Region:

(i) The allocation of 3 rather than 4 constituencies despite the electoral and geographical size of one of the proposed constituencies (Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber, which also includes Badenoch and Strathspey, with a 1978 electorate of almost 62,000).

(ii) The removal of ED41A, in the former burgh of Inverness, from the present Inverness seat and its inclusion with 2 other EDs in Inverness District in the proposed Ross, Cromarty and Skye constituency.

Lothian Region:

The inclusion in the proposed Edinburgh West constituency, as recommended by the Assistant Commissioner following a second local inquiry, of ED26 (Moat/Stenhouse) instead of in Edinburgh Central.

Strathclyde Region:

(i) The allocation of 11 seats to Glasgow, as recommended by the Assistant Commissioner, instead of 10 as originally proposed, and the boundaries of some of the proposed 11 seats, especially Hillhead.

(ii) The inclusion of Larkhall (in Hamilton District) in the proposed Clydesdale constituency instead of Hamilton constituency.

(iii) The inclusion of South Lenzie in the proposed Monklands West constituency (which includes parts of Airdrie and Coatbridge) instead of in Strathkelvin and Bearsden constituency with the rest of Lenzie.

(iv) The name "Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley" instead of "South Ayrshire".

Tayside Region:

Continued division of Dundee into Dundee East and Dundee West instead of into Dundee North and Dundee South.

Tayside and Grampian:

The allocation of only 11 seats to Tayside and Grampian, taken together, instead of 12 including one that would straddle regional boundaries.

Parliament : Brandt Commission : Feb 81

RESTRICTED

Parliament

HOME SECRETARY

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SWIH 9AT

17 February 1983

Dear George

21/2

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND

Thank you for your letter outlining the proposed timetable for handling the report of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Scotland. It may be helpful if I summarise where we stand on the various reports.

I received the Welsh Report on 24 January and after considering representations laid it before Parliament on 7 February together with a draft Constituencies Order implementing its recommendations without modifications. As you will know, the draft Order was debated in the Commons yesterday and debate will continue next Monday, 21 February. Debate in the Lords has been fixed for 28 February.

I received the Report of the English Commission on 11 February. I considered representations over the week-end but decided to make no modifications to the Commission's final recommendations. On 14 February I laid before Parliament the Report and a draft Constituencies Order implementing its recommendations without modifications. No dates have yet been fixed for the debate but there should be now no difficulty about our meeting the deadline of the Privy Council meeting on 16 March.

Clearly it would be preferable if the Scottish Report could be laid with a draft Constituencies Order on 1 March and no doubt you will do what you can to expedite matters. However, given the uncertainty about its printing timetable, it might be sensible for the business managers to press on with arranging the debates on the English Order separately.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to members of the Cabinet, the Lord Advocate, the Attorney General, the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

The Rt. Hon. George Younger, M.P.

RESTRICTED

Parl. and : Boundary Commn

PRIME MINISTER

I have incorporated most of this in my note for Cabinet. I felt the note was better than 2. I hope you don't mind.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

You will have read about Roy Hattersley's challenge to the printing of the Boundary Commission Report in which he alleged that the Home Secretary had had the Report printed before he was legally entitled to have received it. The Home Office tell me this is nonsense. The Boundary Commission always present their reports in printed proof form as they did for example with their European Assembly Boundaries Report under the previous Government. The Home Secretary in fact received the Report ten minutes after the House of Lords ruling and it was the Boundary Commission themselves who made all the arrangements for printing, proof-reading, etc. The fact, however, that the Speaker will not give his ruling until tomorrow will mean that the debate on the Report cannot be until the week after next. This does not matter, however, given that the deadline of the 16 March Privy Council is some way away.

T.J.F.

16 February 1983

REPORT OF THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND: MR. HATTERSLEY'S POINT OF ORDER

E.

Printing of the Commission's Report

It is the practice of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England to submit its Report to the Home Secretary in the form of a printed proof. This was done for the Second Periodical Report (Cmnd 4084), the European Assembly Constituencies Report (Cmnd 7348) and the interim review of constituencies in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (HC 25 of 16 December 1975).

2. On 17 December 1982 the Commission put in a printing requisition and this was approved by Home Office officials on 21 December 1982. All the subsequent printing arrangements, including the proof reading, were made by the Commission direct with HMSO. On 25 January 1983 the Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal against the decision of the Divisional Court concerning the Boundary Commission's recommendations. Counsel for the Commission told the Court of Appeal that the Commission's Report was ready for signature and would be signed that week. The Court noted this and granted a stay preventing the submission of the Report pending the outcome of a possible application by the plaintiffs for leave to appeal to the House of Lords. The Commission signed a proof copy of the Report on 1 February and with the approval of Home Office officials HMSO had final copies printed and warehoused. The Commission submitted their signed Report to the Home Secretary after leave to appeal had been refused on 11 February.

Printing of the draft Parliamentary Constituencies (England) Order 1983

3. The House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Acts 1949 and 1958 oblige the Commission to publish its recommendations for constituencies and also to publish any changes which it makes to these recommendations. On 2 December 1982 the Commission sent out the last of its letters to Counties, Districts, London Boroughs, and other interested parties including the Home Office, stating that it had decided not to make any further changes to its last published proposals - in this case for Salford and Wigan. The Commission's latest recommendations for the whole of England were therefore known from 2 December 1982. A draft Parliamentary Constituencies (England) Order could be drafted knowing that if the Commission subsequently altered its recommendations it would have to publish the alterations. A draft was accordingly prepared on a contingency basis and sent to the printers on 17 January. The Commission submitted its report on 11 February; the draft Order was checked against the Commission's recommendations; the Home Secretary considered the report together with representations that had been made to him on the Commissioner's latest recommendations and decided not to modify the draft order; and, on 14 February, as required by section 2(5) of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949, the Commission's report was presented to Parliament together with the draft Order.

Home Office
16 February

16 FEB 1983

E.R.

PRESS NOTICE

REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

Changes to 468 of the 516 existing constituencies in England and a net increase of 7 to a total of 523 are proposed by the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England whose report is published today. A draft Order in Council giving effect to the Report's recommendations without modifications is also laid today.

The draft Order must be approved by both Houses of Parliament and by The Queen in Council. The new constituencies then come into force at the next General Election. They do not affect any by-elections held meanwhile.

Constituency Review

The review has taken just under 7 years to complete. (Progress was delayed in 1978 to await the outcome of proceedings against the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.) The Report was submitted to the Home Secretary on February. The last review was in 1969.

Effect of the Recommendations

The Commission's proposals represent one of the most radical changes in parliamentary boundaries ever seen in England. Only 48 constituencies remain unchanged in either electorate size or area. There are two main reasons for this: changes in local government areas and movements in population. The local government reforms of 1972-74 created new districts, some new counties and 6 wholly new metropolitan counties. These changes meant that when the review began, 49 existing constituencies crossed county boundaries and many more cut across the new district wards and new wards of London Boroughs. The Commission's decision to use district and London Borough wards as building blocks for new constituencies (Chapter 2, paragraph 18) was bound to involve changes to almost every existing constituency.

At the same time the electorate had increased, chiefly through the lowering of the voting age from 21 to 18 in 1969, and shifted. These movements in population are reflected in the Commission's final recommendations which reveal a drop in seats in the large cities, and the allocation of extra seats to the non-metropolitan counties, the latter containing many new towns and expanding areas, to which special provision is made in the Commission's proposals. The continuing movement from

E.R.

large cities to more rural areas is illustrated by the Commission's comment that 7 non-metropolitan counties (Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Humberside, North Yorkshire, West Sussex and Wiltshire) would be entitled to an extra seat if 1982 figures were used (Chapter 5, paragraph 11). This growth in the electorate in non-metropolitan counties has made electoral inequality more marked, with 13 seats wholly in these counties having over 100,000 electors in 1982, whereas 15 constituencies wholly in metropolitan counties have fewer than 40,000 electors.

More generally, on the 1976 electorates used by the Commission for its review, 165/existing constituencies have electorates more than 20% higher or lower than the electoral quota (65,753).

All the recommended constituencies are contained within county boundaries and only 17 have electorates more than 20% away from the electoral quota.

The largest and smallest existing constituencies are Buckingham, with 122,036, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne Central with 24,574 electors respectively in 1982. The largest and smallest recommended constituencies are the Isle of Wight and Surbiton with 94,768 and 47,313 electors respectively in 1982.

County Analysis

The table attached shows for each county the number of existing constituencies and parts of constituencies, the theoretical entitlement and the number of recommended constituencies.

Gainers and Losers

It is difficult to identify accurately which counties have gained or lost seats in the proposals because the alterations to county boundaries since the last review mean that like cannot always be compared with like. Clear gainers would appear to be: Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hampshire, Hereford and Worcester, Hertfordshire, Kent, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, and Suffolk. Clear losers would appear to be: Greater Manchester, Tyne and Wear, West Yorkshire and Greater London. The cities of Birmingham, Gateshead, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Salford have all lost seats. Overall the non-metropolitan counties gain 20 seats and the metropolitan counties and the GLC lose 13 seats.

E.R.

Greater London is the greatest loser, dropping from 92 to 84 seats; but it is strictly entitled to only 80 seats, if taken as a whole. The over-representation stems largely from the statutory requirement that, so far as is practicable, constituencies should be contained within borough boundaries and the Commission's decision, approved by the representatives of the Conservative, Labour and Liberal parties, to observe these boundaries (Chapter 2, paragraphs 12-14 and Chapter 3, paragraphs 1-5). Camden, Hackney, Haringey, Harrow, Islington, Lambeth, Wandsworth and Westminster are the boroughs which each lose one constituency.

The Commission allocated Cumbria, Lancashire and Northumberland one more constituency than each was theoretically entitled, because of special geographical considerations. Without these additional seats, all 3 counties would have lost seats.

E.R.

Table showing for each county existing constituencies, constituency entitlements and the number of constituencies recommended by the Commission.

County	Existing constituencies (and parts)	Theoretical entitlement	Recommended constituencies
Non-metropolitan counties			
Avon	7 (+ 3)	10.29	10
Bedfordshire	5	5.08	5
Berkshire	5 (+ 4)	7.01	7
Buckinghamshire	4 (+ 1)	5.47	6
Cambridgeshire	5	5.93	6
Cheshire	7 (+ 6)	9.86	10
Cleveland	5 (+ 3)	6.13	6
Cornwall	4 (+ 1)	4.67	5
Cumbria	6 (+ 2)	5.42	6
Derbyshire	10 (+ 1)	10.08	10
Devon	10 (+ 1)	10.50	11
Dorset	6 (+ 2)	6.68	7
Durham	5 (+ 4)	6.88	7
East Sussex	7 (+ 1)	7.82	8
Essex	14	15.78	16
Gloucestershire	5 (+ 1)	5.43	5
Hampshire	12 (+ 2)	15.38	15
Hereford and Worcester	6	6.55	7
Hertfordshire	9	10.28	10
Humberside	6 (+ 5)	9.42	9
Isle of Wight	1	1.35	1
Kent	15	16.06	16
Lancashire	13 (+ 9)	15.47	16
Leicestershire	8 (+ 1)	9.22	9
Lincolnshire	4 (+ 3)	5.82	6
Norfolk	7 (+ 1)	7.57	8
Northamptonshire	5	5.50	6
Northumberland	2 (+ 3)	3.30	4
North Yorkshire	4 (+ 10)	7.32	7
Nottinghamshire	9 (+ 1)	10.89	11
Oxfordshire	3 (+ 4)	5.50	6
Shropshire	4	3.89	4
Somerset	4 (+ 2)	4.56	5

E.R.

Staffordshire	10	10.95	11
Suffolk	4 (+ 1)	6.21	6
Surrey	10 (+ 1)	11.21	11
Warwickshire	3 (+ 2)	5.09	5
West Sussex	6 (+ 2)	7.25	7
Wiltshire	4 (+ 2)	5.43	5
Total		307.25	310

Metropolitan counties

Greater Manchester	27 (+ 10)	29.69	30
Merseyside	14 (+ 7)	17.68	17
South Yorkshire	13 (+ 4)	14.71	15
Tyne and Wear	12 (+ 5)	13.48	13
West Midlands	31 (+ 2)	30.30	31
West Yorkshire	20 (+ 8)	22.92	23
Total		128.78	129
Greater London	92	79.97	84
Grand Total		516	523

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E.R.

BACKGROUND BRIEFING

REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

Section 2(5) of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 states:

> "As soon as may be after a Boundary Commission have submitted a report to the Secretary of State under this Act, he shall lay the report before Parliament together, except in a case where the report states that no alteration is required to be made in respect of the part of the United Kingdom with which the Commission are concerned, with the draft of an Order in Council for giving effect, whether with or without modifications, to the recommendations contained in the report."

No definition is given of the meaning of "as soon as may be". In 1954 the English Report was submitted on 10 November and laid on 18 November. In 1969 the English Report was submitted on 21 April, presented to Parliament on 19 June with a Bill designed to give effect to only some of the Commission's recommendations. The Bill was heavily amended in the Lords. On 20 October proceedings were opened in the High Court against the Home Secretary to compel him to lay draft Orders in Council. On 28 October the Home Secretary laid 4 draft Orders for giving effect without modifications to the recommendations of all 4 Boundary Commissions.

In 1982 the Northern Ireland Report was submitted on 27 October and laid on 17 November. In 1983 the Welsh Report was submitted on 21 January and laid on 7 February.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Why has the Report been laid so quickly?

The Home Secretary thought that after the long drawn out legal proceedings and the publicity given to the likely content of the report, it was important that Parliament should see the report as soon as possible.

Has the Home Secretary considered representations?

Representations made to the Commission before its last meeting on 1 February were considered by the Commission before the Report was submitted. All representations received in the Home Office or in the Commission after that date were considered by the Home Secretary after the Report was received and before its laying.

E.R.

How could the draft Constituencies Order be prepared so quickly?

A draft was prepared on the basis of the Commission's last published recommendations. As soon as the report was received this draft was checked against the Commission's final recommendations.

Why has only one draft Constituencies Order been laid?

This follows the precedents. In 1945 (as an interim measure for the 1945 General Election) the English Commission recommended divisions of 20 abnormally large constituencies into 45 and its recommendations were implemented by one Order in Council. In 1948 the Commission's recommendations, following a general review, were enacted as a Schedule to the Representation of the People Act 1948. In 1969 the then Labour Government laid one draft Order for each part of the United Kingdom. Those Orders were voted down in November 1969. In October 1970 the then Conservative Government moved the same 4 Orders which were then approved. On only one occasion has a multiplicity of draft Orders been laid: in 1954 52 draft Orders were laid, 39 for England, 3 for Wales and 10 for Scotland.

2

SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

Prime Minister

CONFIDENTIAL

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw CH MC MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
Queen Anne's Gate
LONDON
SW1H 9AT

10 February 1983

Dear Willie,

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND

Since you minuted on 27 January and Cabinet discussed the procedure for implementing the reports of the Boundary Commissions, I have been looking carefully at the prospects for the Scottish report and I write to let you know how matters stand.

The Commission for Scotland have not yet completed their report but I understand that they hope to do so on Monday 14 February. It should be in my hands later that week. Passages are being sent for printing once they are agreed but it seems very doubtful whether supplies of the report can be available before Tuesday 1 March. We shall try to expedite this timing because I should like to aim at laying the draft Scottish Order in time for it to be considered on 1 March by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments, and it does not seem acceptable to lay the draft Order until the Report from which it derives is available to Members. A draft of the Order is being prepared and sent for printing.

If this timetable can be achieved, it would mean that the period from 2 March onwards would be available for debating the Scottish report. No doubt the Business Managers will wish to consider whether this would most conveniently be done separately or along with at least one of the other reports. I must, however, warn that despite all efforts it may not be possible to achieve the timetable at which I am aiming; in this event we should presumably have to await the Joint Committee's meeting on 8 March before being free to debate the Scottish Report. That would reduce the period in which the debates could be held before the Privy Council meeting on 16 March; but it should still be possible.

While it would be premature for me to decide, until I receive the Scottish Commission's report, whether to make any modifications to their recommendations, I am inclined on the basis of the proposals which they have already published not to make any modifications, broadly for the same reasons as you mentioned in your minute of 27 January, namely -

(a) Parliament should have the opportunity to discuss the Commission's recommendations as submitted;

(b) any proposed modifications should be published and time should be given for their consideration; to do so would delay implementation of all the other recommendations;

(c) the various representations made to the Commission will have been considered by them before they make their final recommendations.

Accordingly, on the assumption that, after the submission of the report, no further representations are made to me that raise questions of substance which I consider to require further examination, I would propose to proceed on the basis of the Commission's recommendations.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to members of the Cabinet, the Lord Advocate, the Attorney General, the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,

George

110 FFR 1983

This assumes that the party machinery can also be set up in time.

FERB
4.2.

2

PRIME MINISTER

Boundary Commission Reports and General Election Dates

I commissioned the attached note from the Home Office to clear up what seemed to me a certain amount of confusion about the time needed between the Order in Council enacting the new boundaries and the time at which you could call an election on those boundaries. The key paragraphs in the note are 4,5 and 6. The conclusion is that if next week the House of Lords refuse to hear the Labour Party's Appeal and the Orders are taken at the Privy Council meeting on 16 March the earliest an election could be held would be on 5 May. If the House of Lords decided to hear the Appeal and does so within about a month the Orders could be taken at the Privy Council in late April and an election held on 16,23 or 30 June.

The assumption that we have been making all along therefore that if the House of Lords chose to hear the Labour Party's Appeal a June election would be ruled out is wrong. The only thing which would impede a June election would be if the House of Lords heard the Appeal and found in favour of the Labour Party which is extraordinarily unlikely.

4 February 1983

E.R. GENERAL ELECTION DATES CONFIDENTIAL

This note deals with the timing of any General Election in relation to the progress of the 3 Parliamentary Boundary Commissions' reports. The steps which have to be gone through for each report are:

a. lay draft Constituencies Order and report;
b. draft Constituencies Order considered by Joint Committee;
c. debate draft Constituencies Order and have it approved in both Houses;
d. Constituencies Order made by HM in Council;
e. Order designating returning officers for new constituencies made and considered by Joint Committee;
f. registration officers adapt electoral registers to new constituencies;
g. Constituencies Order comes into operation;
h. Designation Order comes into operation.

Constituencies Orders

2. The Welsh report and draft Constituencies Order are to be laid on 7 February. Provided the English and Scottish reports are received in good time the draft Constituencies Orders can be considered by the Joint Committee and debated and approved in both Houses in time to be made at the Privy Council meeting on 16 March. They will come into operation 14 days later. Once made, an Order requires electoral registration officers to adapt their registers to the new constituencies. It is difficult to say how long this will take. It depends in each case on the extent of the changes, how the existing register is ordered and whether it is computerised. But at least 2 weeks should be allowed for this if complaints from registration officers (who are also returning officers) are to be avoided. More time should be allowed if Bank Holidays or the Easter break intervene.

Designation Order

3. A Designation Order is needed for England and Wales only. A draft Designation Order will be sent to returning officers on the day the relevant draft Constituencies Order is laid and comments will be sought in time for the Designation Order to be ready to be made on 16 March. The Designation Order must be in operation before the General Election machinery can start because the writs have to be sent to returning officers. The Designation Order cannot come into operation, however, until after the Constituencies Orders come into operation, because it is only then that the constituencies it refers to will actually exist.

CONFIDENTIAL

E.R.

So the earliest the Designation Order could come into operation is 15 days after the Constituencies Orders are made. This 2 week period should also give sufficient time for electoral registers to be re-arranged before any General Election is announced (see paragraph 2).

4. To summarise: on the fastest timetable, which assumes that all 3 draft Constituencies Orders are approved in time for the Privy Council meeting on 16 March, the electoral machinery could be ready for an announcement of a General Election in early April. Political parties will, however, need time to reorganise constituency parties and choose candidates for the new constituencies.

General Election timetable

5. The present timetable for calling a General Election provides that the Royal Proclamation must be issued 16 days before, not counting Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday breaks. This means that if a General Election is to be held on a Thursday in May or June the Royal Proclamation must be issued on the following dates:-

Royal Proclamation	General Election
8 April	5 May
15 April	12 May
22 April	19 May
4 May	26 May
6 May	2 June
13 May	9 June
20 May	16 June
1 June	23 June
8 June	30 June

(5 May is local elections day and legislation would be needed - as in 1979 - if local elections were to be combined with a General Election).

6. If the target of the Privy Council meeting on 16 March is met it would, in theory, be possible to hold a General Election as early as 5 May. If the 16 March meeting was missed there is likely to be a Privy Council meeting in late April. This would rule out a May election but not one in June.

CONFIDENTIAL

2

Pre Munster

HOME SECRETARY

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

2 February 1983

2/2

Dear Michael

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

Following the decision at Cabinet last week that the report of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England should be laid before Parliament as soon as possible after receipt I am writing to let you know how I intend to proceed.

Our aim is to have all three draft Constituencies Orders (for England, Wales and Scotland) debated and approved by both Houses in time for submission to the Privy Council meeting on 16 March. I do not know when I will receive the English report, but this timetable may of itself dictate that it be laid (together with the draft Constituencies Order) very quickly.

I therefore propose to make preparations for laying the report and draft Order within 24 to 48 hours of receipt (72 hours if received on a Friday). A draft Constituencies Order has been prepared on the basis of the last published recommendations of the Commission and will be checked against the report's recommendations when it is received. I have also asked officials to ensure that any representations or other possible modifications are brought to my attention as soon as the report is received so that I can consider them overnight or over the weekend with the report. These arrangements will ensure that any criticisms, eg that I did not consider possible modifications or that I had insufficient time to produce a draft Constituencies Order, can be rebutted.

I would welcome your assurance that what I propose to do will not leave my action open to challenge in the courts.

Yours Willie

The Rt Hon Sir Michael Havers, QC, MP

CONFIDENTIAL

Parliament,
Feb 81,
Boundary Commission.

12 FEB 1983

Parliament

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

31 January 1983

Dear Lesley,

The Prime Minister has now seen the Home Secretary's minute of 27 January about the arrangements for the handling of the report of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Wales. Mrs. Thatcher has, subject to the views of colleagues, agreed to the arrangements set out in the Home Secretary's minute.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of Cabinet, and to the Attorney General, the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,

Tim. Flesher.

TIM FLESHER

Mrs Lesley Pallett
Home Office

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Wales

Attached is the report of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Wales together with a minute by the Home Secretary proposing:-

i. to accept the report in its entirety

ii. to lay the draft order before the House on Monday 7 February

iii. as discussed in Cabinet, to arrange a debate on the Welsh, Scottish and, if possible, English reports before 16 March, the date of the Privy Council meeting.

At Flag A is a brief summary of the report. Broadly, the Commission proposes an increase in the number of seats in Wales from 36 to 38. At the last election the 36 were divided 21 Labour (3 of them now Social Democrat), 11 Conservative, 2 Plaid Cymru, 1 Liberal and the Speaker. The Commission's proposals were highly controversial, leaving only 3 constituencies unchanged. This was the product of the local government reorganisation of Wales. Particular casualties of the revision of constituencies are Michael Foot's seat at Ebbw Vale and Neil Kinnock's seat at Bedwellty.

Do you agree to the Home Secretary's proposals for the handling of the report?

Yes no

28 January 1983

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

report in folder attached to file

THIRD PERIODICAL REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

I have now received the Third Periodical Report of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Wales containing its recommendations for constituencies in Wales. Attached as an Annex to this minute is an analysis of the recommendations.

The House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 requires me to lay a report of a Parliamentary Boundary Commission before Parliament as soon as may be after receiving it, together with the draft of an Order giving effect, with or without modifications, to the report's recommendations. H Committee agreed on 1 November 1982 that only one draft Order should be laid for each part of the United Kingdom and that as little time as possible should elapse between receipt of a report and the laying of the relevant draft Order (H(82)18th). It falls to me to decide whether to make any modifications to the Commission's proposals, and how quickly to lay the draft Order and when to arrange the ensuing debates.

Possible modifications to the Commission's recommendations are set out in paragraph 7 of the attached Annex. I propose to make no modifications, for the following reasons:-

(a) Parliament should have the opportunity to discuss the Commission's recommendations as submitted to me;

(b) however strong the case, any proposed modifications should in fairness be published and representations invited; to do this will delay implementation of all the other recommendations;

(c) the points made in the representations about Clwyd and Dyfed were considered by the Welsh Commission before making final recommendations for those areas.

As to timing, I would propose to lay the draft Order on Monday, 7 February. This will cut down the scope for legal challenge and for making representations. The draft Order will then have to be approved by both Houses and made by Her Majesty in Council. There is a Privy Council meeting on 16 March. The timing of the debates on the Welsh draft Constituencies Order must depend in part on when we receive the English and Scottish Reports. I understand that the Scottish Commission is unlikely

CONFIDENTIAL

to report before mid-February. I would recommend, therefore, that we try to arrange for all three draft Constituencies Orders to be debated in both Houses before the Privy Council meeting on 16 March. If the English Report is delayed beyond the end of February I would further recommend that we arrange to debate the Welsh and Scottish draft Constituencies Orders together before the Privy Council meeting on 16 March.

Unless I hear to the contrary from colleagues before mid-day on 2 February I shall assume I have agreement to proceed as proposed.

I am copying this minute and enclosure to all members of Cabinet, the Attorney General, the Chief Whip and Sir Robert Armstrong.

27 January 1983

E.R.

ANNEX

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES: ANALYSIS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

The Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Wales has recommended 38 constituencies, 2 more than at present.

Background

2. The Commission deferred the start of its review until 1981, when it decided that it could wait no longer for the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales to re-ward all the districts in the principality if it was to report by 1984.

Overall view

3. The Welsh Commission's proposals for new constituencies are radical: only 3 constituencies remain unchanged in either electorate size or area. The main reason is the change in local authority areas following the Local Government Act 1972, which mean that 12 of the existing 36 constituencies cross county boundaries. Population shifts have also led to electoral disparities: nearly ⅔ of existing constituencies have electorates more than 15% higher or lower than the electoral quota. As a result, some of the well-known South Wales valley constituencies, for example, will disappear under the Commission's proposals to be replaced by constituencies more closely linked to the new districts and contained within the new county boundaries.

4. The Commission used district wards as its building blocks, but because of the slow progress of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales in completing its special community reviews and its district electoral reviews, most of the wards used are those created provisionally in 1973. This means that when new wards are, in time, created some are bound to cross the new constituency boundaries.

5. The chief gainers in Wales are the Counties of Gwynedd and Powys. Each was allocated one more seat than it was strictly entitled to following a local inquiry: in the first case, in order to avoid creating a constituency which contained Bangor and the Isle of Anglesey and in the second, because of the large sparsely populated area of the county. No county has lost seats.

Contentious areas

6. The inevitably radical re-drawing of constituencies made the Welsh Commission's review highly contentious. However, the final recommendations in many cases take account of points made at local inquiries and the allocation of extra seats to Gwynedd and Powys, in particular, should mean that some parts of the report will find acceptance. Contentious issues remaining are likely to be: in Mid-Glamorgan and Gwent, the disappearance of such well-known constituencies as Ebbw Vale and Bedwellty (which cross county boundaries); in Dyfed, the disappearance of the boundary between the old (pre-1972) counties of Pembroke and Cardigan as the boundary between the constituencies of those names; in Clwyd, the placing of Rhyl and Prestatyn in two separate constituencies; and, in South Glamorgan, the splitting of the Vale of Glamorgan into 2 constituencies.

MODIFICATIONS

7. Representations seeking modifications have been received in respect of:

a. Clwyd: the Rhyl Ratepayers & Tenants Association objects to the placing of Rhyl and Prestatyn in two separate constituencies. This point has been considered by the Commission and rejected (paras 47 and 54-57).

b. Dyfed: Preseli District Council have asked for a meeting with the Home Secretary to discuss objections to the division of the present Pembroke constituency and the proposed inclusion of part of that seat (and Preseli District) in the Ceredigion and Pembroke North constituency. This point has been considered by the Commission and rejected (paras 68-71).

Parliament

Ref. A083/0286

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet: Parliamentary Affairs: Recommendations of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for England

BACKGROUND

The House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 requires the Secretary of State to lay each Parliamentary Boundary Commission's report before Parliament, together with a draft Order or Orders in Council giving effect to its recommendations with or without modifications, "as soon as may be" after it has been submitted. The Home and Social Affairs Committee (H) agreed in November that the reports of the English, Scottish and Welsh Commissions should be laid before Parliament as soon as possible after receipt. H Committee envisaged a period of eight days between receipt and laying as the minimum necessary to avoid the charge that no consideration could have been given to the possibility of modifying the Commission's recommendations. On 11 November 1982 the Cabinet noted H Committee's decision when agreeing that the report of the Northern Ireland Commission should be laid forthwith.

2. The Court of Appeal yesterday upheld the Divisional Court's dismissal of the Leader of the Labour Party's application for an injunction to prevent the English Commission from forwarding its report to the Home Secretary. But an injunction temporarily restraining the Commission from doing so was continued, so as to follow a petition to the House of Lords for leave of appeal.

3. It is possible that the House of Lords may decide the petition on 3 February. The Home Secretary is considering whether to lay the English report at once upon receipt, without waiting for eight days. He would then be open to criticism for allowing no time for consideration or representations, but he would much reduce the scope for the Labour Party to seek an injunction preventing him from laying the report.

4. The Government's stated aim is to have the new constituency boundaries in force in time for a General Election in the autumn of 1983. With some administrative difficulty they could still probably be ready, if necessary, for a June Election, but that would be in jeopardy if proceedings were started against the Home Secretary.

5. The Northern Ireland Commission's report has already been approved by Parliament. No difficulties have so far arisen over the Welsh and Scottish reports: the Welsh report has been received and the Home Secretary proposes to lay it on 7 February; the Scottish report is expected in mid-February.

HANDLING

6. After the Home Secretary has explained the problem, you may wish to invite the Attorney General's view on the propriety of laying the draft Order immediatley on receipt of the Commission's report, and on the risk of further delay arising as a result of proceedings by the Labour Party against the Home Secretary. The Lord Chancellor may wish to comment. The Lord President, the Lord Privy Seal and the Chief Whip may be able to assess the likely Parliamentary reaction to immediate laying of the draft Order.

CONCLUSION

7. Subject to the course of the discussion, the Cabinet might either agree that the Home Secretary should lay the draft English Order immediately on its receipt from the Boundary Commission (in which case there would be no further opportunity for the Cabinet to consider it); or agree that there should be an interval of eight days between receipt and laying (in which case there would be time for the Home Secretary to report further to the Cabinet after the report is received).

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

26 January 1983

1.310 From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TC DH FM 2

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SWIH 9AT

Prime Minister:
The appeal will, I understand, be heard on 12 January.

23 DEC 1982

MS

Dear Tim,

TF 23/12

LITIGATION AGAINST THE PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

Further to our conversation about this, I enclose for your information a note summarising the judgements delivered on Wednesday on the two cases brought against the English Commission.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Pallett.

MRS. L. PALLETT

Tim Flesher, Esq.

E.R.

LITIGATION AGAINST THE PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

The proceedings brought by the Rt Hon Michael Foot and others, and by Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council and others were dismissed by Lord Justice Oliver and Mr Justice Webster on 21 December. Both parties intend to appeal and arrangements have been made for these appeals to be heard on Wednesday, 12 January 1983. The Commission has informed the Court that it will not report to the Home Secretary before this date.

2. The judgments were lengthy and took some 3 hours 45 minutes to deliver. Transcripts are not yet available but the Court's reasons for rejecting both applications may be summarised as follows.

Foot and Others

3. The applicants' case was, in essence, that the Commission's own published documents, its procedure in setting up local inquiries and its current proposals for new constituencies in certain areas showed that it had failed to pay proper regard to the rules for the redistribution of seats set out in the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Acts 1949 and 1958 and that no reasonable Commission, properly directed, could have decided to put forward such proposals to the Home Secretary, having regard to the disparities involved.

4. Lord Justice Oliver said that the evidence adduced by the applicants did not support the complaints which they had made and that no case was made out on the merits. He decided the case on three grounds. First that, for the purposes of the rules governing those entitled to challenge the decisions of public bodies, the applicants did not have a sufficient interest to bring the proceedings; (the applicants had not brought the proceedings as representatives of the Labour party). Second that, in the circumstances of the case, the courts should exercise their discretion against granting relief even if a case for relief had been made out (which it was not). His reason for this was that the effect of the relief would be to interfere with the legislative process of Parliament. Third that, the relief sought should not in any event be granted in view of the delay in challenging the various proposals and the resulting delay to the Commission, which would be detrimental to good administration.

5. Mr Justice Webster agreed that the evidence before the court did not support the objections raised and decided that the application should be rejected. He also

E.R.

said that he would have rejected the application on the grounds of the delay in bringing the proceedings in the event that a case for relief had been made out.

Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council and Others

6. The complaint as presented to the court was that the Assistant Commissioner who held the local inquiry into the Commission's proposals for the County of Tyne and Wear did not give proper consideration to a scheme which gave that County 14 constituencies instead of the 13 proposed by the Commission. It was further alleged that the report he produced as a result of that inquiry which did not set out in detail the proposal for 14 constituencies thereby precluded the Commission from giving proper consideration to that alternative proposal. Both Lord Justice Oliver and Mr Justice Webster rejected the application on its merits.

22 December 1982

Parliament
2

MT

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Boundary Commission

This note is to let you know the current state of play on the Labour Party's action against the Boundary Commission. The Divisional Court is now hearing arguments of substance in the case. The decision is expected early next week. If the Labour Party lose, they can appeal to the Court of Appeal; the hearing would be, we believe, in early January. If they lost there, they might be given leave to appeal to the House of Lords, who could be expected to hear the case quickly. In the process, they could apply for an injunction to prevent the Boundary Commission from delivering its report while the case was still before the Courts. They would probably lose; but if they won, the injunction would only bite if the Court proceedings continued beyond the point at which the Commission expects to present its reports, probably late January/early February.

The advice I have from the Home Office is that the Court procedures themselves are unlikely to hold up the timetable which would permit a General Election on the new boundaries. The crucial point is not the procedures, but the decision. If the Court decidesin favour of the Labour Party, I assume that the Boundary Commissioners would wish themselves to appeal; otherwise, they will virtually have to start all over again.

TF

8 December, 1982

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

18 November 1982

Mr Murdo MacLean
12 Downing Street
SW1

WM
18/11

Dear Mr. MacLean,

REPORTS OF THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

At Cabinet on 11 November, our Secretary of State was invited, in consultation with the Lord Privy Seal and the Chief Whip, to arrange for the above Report and the draft Order in Council implementing that Report to be laid before Parliament as soon as possible.

It is now proposed to lay these Reports as a Command paper on Tuesday, 23 November, and I should be grateful if you could confirm that the Chief Whip sees no objection to this timing.

I understand that the Lord Privy Seal's Office have been informally consulted and are content with this proposal.

I am copying this letter to the Lord Privy Seal's Private Secretary and, with a proof copy of the Boundary Commission Reports, to Michael Pattison at No 10 Downing Street.

Yours sincerely.

S C WAGHORN
Parliamentary Clerk

PARLIAMENT

Ref. A082/0050

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet: Parliamentary Affairs: Recommendations for Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland

BACKGROUND

FLAG A

The Home Secretary minuted you on 4 November about the outcome of the discussion in H Committee on the handling of the reports of the four Parliamentary Boundary Commissions. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland minuted you separately on 2 November about the report of the Northern Ireland Commission.

FLAG B

2. H Committee agreed that as a matter of tactics the English, Scottish and Welsh Commissions' reports, which are expected in January or February, should be laid before Parliament as soon as possible after receipt, so as to keep to the minimum the time available for representations for modification of the Commissions' proposals. This would be in line with what was done in 1954, when only eight days elapsed between the receipt and the laying of each report, though in 1969 there was a much longer delay and in the end the Labour Government acted only when faced with imminent court proceedings.

3. Each report, when laid, has to be accompanied by a draft Order (or draft Orders) in Council implementing its recommendations, with or without modification. In 1969, the Labour Government laid one draft Order for each report, and the incoming Conservative Government simply moved debate on the same draft Orders. H Committee agreed that this precedent should be followed for the present reports, rather than reverting to the procedure adopted in 1954 when 52 draft Orders dealing with separate counties in England, Scotland and Wales were laid.

4. After the Orders in Council have been made, the Secretary of State needs to make further Orders designating the returning officers for the new constituencies. The Government's declared aim is to have the new arrangements in force in time for a General Election in the autumn of 1983 or later, but it would probably be possible to be ready in time for an Election in June 1983. The

Labour Party has begun proceedings for an injunction to prevent the Boundary Commissioners for England from submitting their report, and the hearing has been set down for 22 November. The Attorney General thinks that the chances of the action succeeding are slim, and that in the event of an appeal it should be possible to expedite the proceedings and avoid any disruption of the timetable.

5. The report of the Northern Ireland Commission has already been received. It recommends that in accordance with the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1979 (which increases the number of Northern Ireland seats from 12 to 17, subject to the Commission's power to vary the number to 16 or 18) there should be 17 Northern Ireland seats. In their supplementary report, the Commission, in discharge of their functions under the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973, recommend that each of the 17 Parliamentary constituencies should return five members to the Northern Ireland Assembly. This would increase the total membership of the Assembly from the 78 specified in the Constitution Act to 85, but is considered by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland not to conflict with the condition in the Act that the Commission are not to make recommendations whose effect would be "substantially to alter" the figure of 78. Mr Prior, in his minute of 2 November, seeks agreement to early laying of the report before Parliament, together with a single draft implementing Order.

6. H Committee did not dissent from this way of proceeding, which is in line with their own conclusions on the handling of the other three reports, but felt that the political sensitivity of any proposals to vary Northern Ireland representation so soon after the recent Assembly elections required that the Cabinet be given an opportunity to discuss and endorse the Secretary of State's proposal.

HANDLING

7. You will wish to avoid reopening the conclusions reached by H Committee on the handling of the English, Scottish and Welsh Commissions' reports. The Home Secretary can summarise the position reached in H Committee, and the Secretary of State for Northern

Ireland can briefly explain the background to his minute of 2 November. The Cabinet will no doubt agree that there can be no question of modifying the Northern Ireland Commission's recommendations, and that the aim should be to handle them as far as possible in accordance with the precedents which H Committee propose to follow for the Great Britain reports. The Lord President, the Lord Privy Seal and the Chief Whip may be able to assess the likely strength of the Parliamentary opposition to the proposed draft Order, and to say whether it would be helpful for Northern Ireland Ministers to have any preliminary discussion with selected Conservative MPs or Northern Ireland Members before the report and draft Order are laid, or between their laying and the ensuing debate.

CONCLUSION

8. Subject to the course of the discussion, the Cabinet might:

(i) Agree that the Northern Ireland Boundary Commission Report and implementing draft Order should be laid as soon as possible.

(ii) Invite the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in consultation with the Lord President and the Lord Privy Seal, to arrange early debates on the Report and draft Order in both Houses.

(iii) Invite the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to arrange for the Commission's recommendations to be explained to Northern Ireland Members and possible opponents on the Government side in advance of any debate.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

10 November 1982

(2) Publication of Report.

10 DOWNING STREET

~~Robin~~ Willie Thanks. FERB

I imagine you will wish to 9.11
put this to the PM yourself.
She should clearly see it tonight.

My only comment is on the last
paragraph of the statement. I
think this will cause to say
that the PM is considering
Lord Bridge and now first about a
reference to the Security Commission.
(1) I do not see how we can agree
a reference before Thursday.
Unless of course we pull all the
stops out. CDP 9/11

CONFIDENTIAL

File

PARLIAMENT
cc: Cabinet
Chief Whip
Att. Gen.
CO

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 November 1982

The Prime Minister has now seen the Home Secretary's minute of 4 November about the handling of reports of the Parliamentary Boundary Commissions reporting on the outcome of the discussion at the Home and Social Affairs Committee. She has also seen the minute by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland covering the report of the Boundary Commission on Northern Ireland. Mrs. Thatcher has noted the position on the reports of the English, Scottish and Welsh Commissions; she would be grateful if, as the Home Secretary proposes, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland could raise the handling of the Northern Ireland report under Parliamentary Affairs at Cabinet on 11 November.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the members of Cabinet, to the Chief Whip, the Attorney-General and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Timothy Flesher

John Halliday, Esq.,
Home Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister: 1

Mr Pnors minute is attached. Agree to the Home Secretary's proposal that the N.I. Boundary Commission reports should be raised under Parliamentary Affairs at Cabinet?

PRIME MINISTER

HANDLING OF REPORTS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSIONS

wh Tho NI?

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland sent me a copy of his minute to you of 2 November about the report of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland. The handling of the reports of all four United Kingdom Boundary Commissions was discussed by the Home and Social Affairs Committee on Monday, 1 November, and it may be helpful to colleagues in considering the position in Northern Ireland if I summarise the Committee's conclusions.

The House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 requires each Commission's report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament "as soon as may be" after receipt, together with a draft Order (or draft Orders) in Council implementing it, with or without modification. Once approved in Parliament, the Orders are made by The Queen in Council to come into force on a specified day (though they do not take effect until the next General Election). These 'constituency' Orders also require electoral registration officers to prepare new registers in readiness for the next General Election. After the 'constituency' Orders have been made further Orders have to be brought forward to designate returning officers for the new constituencies in England, Wales and Scotland. (In Northern Ireland there is only one returning officer: the Chief Electoral Officer.)

Although the Government have no direct control over the timetable for the preparation of the Boundary Commissions' reports, it is our stated aim to have the new constituency boundaries in force in time for a General Election in the autumn of 1983 or later. As the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has explained, the Northern Ireland Commission has already reported. We expect to receive the reports of the English, Scottish and Welsh Commissions in January or February. On this basis, we should be able to complete all the necessary Parliamentary procedures and administrative preparations in time for an autumn Election. With a little more administrative difficulty, and assuming no delay at any point, we could probably be ready, if necessary, for a June Election.

H Committee agreed that we should follow the precedent of 1970 by laying a single Order for each country, rather than that of 1954, when the recommendations of the English, Welsh and Scottish Commissions were implemented by means of 52 separate Orders. They also agreed that in order to keep the number of representations for modifications of the recommendations to a minimum the English, Scottish and Welsh reports should be laid, together with the related draft Orders, as soon as possible after receipt (there is a precedent from 1954 for allowing no more than eight days between submission of the English Commission's report and the laying of the draft implementing legislation).

CONFIDENTIAL

Although the Committee agreed that the Northern Ireland Commission's report should be handled in broadly the same way as the other three, they recognised that coming so soon after the Northern Ireland Assembly elections the handling of a report which recommends an increase in the number of Northern Ireland M.Ps from 12 to 17 would raise issues of the greatest political sensitivity. They therefore felt it highly desirable that the timing of the next steps on the Northern Ireland Commission's report should be discussed by the Cabinet in the context of the agreement reached on the handling of the other reports. You may feel it appropriate that his issue should be raised by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland under the Parliamentary Affairs item at Cabinet on 11 November.

I am copying this minute to all members of the Cabinet, to the Chief Whip and the Attorney General, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

4 November 1982

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Boundary Commissions

H Committee discussed (minutes attached) the handling of the reports of the Parliamentary Boundary Commissions. Elsewhere in the box there are minutes from the Northern Ireland Secretary and the Home Secretary which comment on the handling of the Northern Ireland Boundary Commission report. For the English, Scottish and Welsh Commissions the timetable envisaged by H was as follows:

February 1983	:	Reports delivered to the relevant Secretary of State
A week later	:	The reports are laid with draft implementing Orders in Council
March 1983	:	The Orders are debated in the House on the same day
Late March/April 1983	:	The Orders are made by The Queen in Council
End of April 1983	:	Orders designating the returning officers for the new constituencies are made
May	:	Local authorities rearrange the electoral registers

Such a timetable would, if there are no hitches, make it just possible to hold a June General Election.

The Attorney General commented on the Labour Party injunction against the Boundary Commissioners which is down for hearing on 22 November. The chances of the action succeeding were slim. In the event of an appeal, it should be possible to expedite proceedings before the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords. It was possible that if the Courts ruled that the plaintiffs had

/no

no locus standi they might ask him (the Attorney) to bring relator proceedings on their behalf. This would to say the least be embarrassing. The timetable outlined above should however not be disturbed.

4 November 1982

2. HANDLING OF REPORTS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSIONS

The Committee considered a Memorandum by the Home Secretary (H(82) 47 (Revise)) about the handling of the reports of the Parliamentary Boundary Commissions.

THE MINISTER OF STATE, HOME OFFICE (Mr Mayhew) said that the Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland had already submitted their report. The English, Welsh and Scottish Commissions hoped to complete their reviews by the end of 1982, and to submit their reports in Janury or February 1983. The House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 required the Secretary of State to lay the reports before Parliament, together with draft Orders in Council (constituency Orders) giving effect to their recommendations with or without modifications, "as soon as may be" after they had been submitted. The Government had already publicly stated their aim of having the new constituency boundaries in force in time for a General Election in the autumn of 1983 or later, but with some administrative difficulty it would probably be possible to be ready in time for a General Election in June 1983. Any alteration to the recommendations would be a massive task which could seriously delay implementation, and although the Governmment would be open to legal challenge if they said in advance that they would not consider representations for changes, the number of representations could in practice be limited by laying each report and the related draft Order or Orders as soon as possible after it was submitted. A single draft Order could be laid for each report, or there could be draft Orders dealing with each county. The latter course would mean the laying of 46 draft Orders for England alone, and the Home Secretary's view was that the precedent from 1970 of laying one Order for each county should be followed. The Northern Ireland report and draft Order would probably have to be laid within the next two or three weeks and debated separately, but it would be convenient for the English, Scottish, and Welsh reports to be laid, with draft Orders, within eight days of receipt, as in 1954 (when, however, the Commissions' proposals were implemented by 52 Orders in Council), and for all

three to be debated on the same day. On this basis, and assuming that there was no delay in the preparation of the three outstanding reports, it should be possible to lay the three draft implementing Orders in Council by the end of February 1983. They could then be debated in both Houses during March, and, if approved, made by The Queen in Council at the end of March or the beginning of April. They would then be in force, but would have no effect until the next General Election. Once these constituency Orders had been made, however, the Secretary of State would need to make further Orders (designation Orders) designating the returning officers for the new constituencies. This required no Parliamentary procedure other than examination by the Statutory Instruments Committee, and it should be possible for these designation Orders to be made by the end of April. The local authorities could then rearrange the electoral registers as necessary during May, making it just possible to hold a General Election in June. He invited the Committee to approve the recommendations set out in H(82) 47 (Revise) accordingly.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said that the Leader of the Labour Party and other senior officers of the Labour Party had begun proceedings for an injunction to prevent the Boundary Commissioners for England from submitting their report. The hearing had been set down for 22 November. The court would probably decide the issue according to precedent, and the chances of the action succeeding were slim. If the plaintiffs lost, they might go to the Court of Appeal and then to the House of Lords. In that event, it should be possible to expedite proceedings, and avoid any disruption of the timetable envisaged by the Home Secretary. It was just possible that the courts would decide that the plaintiffs had no locus standi. In that event, the plaintiffs might ask him to bring relator proceedings, that is proceedings in his name on their behalf. This would clearly place him in a politically embarrassing position. It was desirable that as far as possible the case should be dealt with on its merits, and there was no reason to arrange for members of the Conservative Party to oppose the application by the officers of the Labour Party.

THE MINISTER OF STATE, NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE said that the Northern Irelnd Boundary Commission had recommended an increase in the number of Northern Ireland constituencies to 17. This would be generally welcomed by the

Official Unionists, even though it might result in the election of perhaps two further supporters of Sinn Fein. He recognised that the handling of the report would be a matter of great political sensitivity, especially as it came so close to the recent elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly, and that any extension in Northern Ireland representation at the present time was likely to be criticised by some Members of Parliament. His own view was that the report should be dealt with strictly in accordance with precedent, and that it should be laid before Parliament together with the implementing draft Order as soon as possible. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland intended to bring these issues before the Cabinet for decision in the course of the following week.

THE HOME SECRETARY, summing up the discussion, said that the Committee agreed that the reports of the Parliamentary Boundary Commissions should as far as possible be handled in accordance with the precedents of 1954 (so far as the time allowed for representations was concerned) and 1970. A single draft Order would be laid with each Boundary Commission report. The Committee agreed that action on the Northern Ireland Commission report should proceed independently of the other three; the precise timing would be a matter for decision by the Cabinet. He would lay the reports for England and Wales as soon as possible after they were submitted, together with the related draft Orders. The Secretary of State for Scotland should make similar arrangements for the report of the Scottish Commission. The intention would be for the English, Scottish, and Welsh reports to be debated on the same day, and for all the preparations for the next General Election on revised constituency boundaries to be completed by the end of May. The Committee recognised that although this was a very tight timetable, and that there should be no avoidable delay on the Government's part once the recommendations had been received, there could be no question of the Government appearing to put pressure on any of the Commissions to expedite the preparation of their reports.

The Committee -

1. Took note that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland intended to seek decisions from the Cabinet on the handling of the report of the Northern Ireland Parliamentary Boundary Commission.

2. Agreed that the Parliamentary Boundary Commission reports for England, Scotland and Wales should be handled as proposed in H(82) 47 (Revise).

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

REPORT OF THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION ON NORTHERN IRELAND

I am writing to inform you that I have recently received the report of the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland. A copy is attached. The Commission recommended, in line with the provisions of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1979, that Northern Ireland should be divided into 17 constituencies for elections to Parliament. In a supplementary report, as required by the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973, the Commission also recommend that five members should be returned to the Northern Ireland Assembly from each of the 17 parliamentary constituencies, thereby increasing the total membership of the Assembly from 78 to 85 members.

2. I am satisfied that in arriving at their recommendations, in both the main and the supplementary reports, the Commission complied fully with the requirement of section 1 of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1979 and of section 28 of the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973. Furthermore I am satisfied that all interested persons and organisations in Northern Ireland were given ample opportunity to make representations to the Commission and to local inquiries concerning the Commission's recommendations.

3. I should be grateful for your agreement and that of the Home Secretary to my laying the Boundary Commission's report before Parliament together with a draft Order in Council giving effect to all the Commission's recommendations. Although the recommendations deal with the number of Assembly Members as well as MPs which should represent NI, I do not believe that two debates are necessary and accordingly propose to introduce a single Order in Council.

CONFIDENTIAL

/...

4. I am sending a copy of this minute and enclosure to all members of Cabinet and to Sir Robert Armstrong. If colleagues other than the Prime Minister and Home Secretary do wish to comment, I should be grateful if they would do so by 12 November.

J P

2 November 1982

Parliament 2

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY COMMISSIONS: HANDLING OF REPORTS

The attached H paper by the Home Secretary sets out his proposals for the handling of the Boundary Commissions Reports. The timetable he envisages is as follows:-

November 1982	Northern Ireland Commission reports
January/February 1983	English, Scottish and Welsh Commissions report
April/May 1983	Orders are laid before the House and approved
June/July 1983	Necessary administrative steps to implement the proposals are taken (e.g. designation of Returning Officers, preparation of electoral registers, etc.)

This would of course enable the new boundaries to be in force for any election in the autumn of 1983.

Three factors could prejudice this timetable:-

(i) After the Reports are laid the Home Secretary is obliged to consider any modifications proposed before Orders are laid before the House. The Home Secretary proposes that the draft Orders should be laid as soon as possible after the receipt of the Reports. But in the interim he will of course have to reply to all such representations.

(ii) Parliamentary consideration. In 1970 the then Government gave effect to the proposals of the Commissions by means of one Order each for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In 1954 the proposals were implemented by 52 Orders in Council. To follow the 1954 precedent would inevitably lengthen proceedings considerably. The Home Secretary therefore proposes to follow the 1970 precedent.

/(iii)

(iii) The Labour Party's possible legal challenge to the Commissions approach. The Commissions normally work on the basis that ~~equality of numbers~~ local boundaries in constituencies should take precedence over ~~community ties~~ electoral equality where these clash. Labour may argue that they have mis-directed themselves and that ~~community ties~~ strict numerical equality should take precedence. It is possible that this will prove inadmissible but should it be otherwise the whole timetable will be prejudiced.

21 October 1982

TAKEN FROM HANSARD 25th February 1981 Vol 999 No 55

Column 364

Boundary Commission for Wales

Sir Anthony Meyer asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Boundary Commission for Wales intends to begin its general review of parliamentary constituencies in Wales.

Mr. Whitelaw: The commission has informed me that it intends to begin forthwith a general review of constituencies in Wales. The commission is required to report by May 1984, but I expect it to have completed its work well before that date.

TAKEN FROM HANSARD 25th February 1981 Vol 999 No 55.

Column 364

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Mr. Whitelaw: The commission has informed me that it intends to begin forthwith a general review of constituencies in Wales. The commission is required to report by May 1984, but I expect it to have completed its work well before that date.

2

PRIME MINISTER

Parliamentary Boundary Commission Reports

(See my earlier note elsewhere in the box).

I have discovered a little more about the present position in the Labour Party's court action on the English Boundary Commission's proposals. The writ against the Commission was issued on 4 August 1982 and sought to prevent the Commission from reporting to the Home Secretary on the basis of its most recent recommendations for a wide range of areas. The essence of their case was that the Commission had paid more attention to Rule 4 of the relevant schedule to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act than to Rule 5, i.e. that it had given higher priority to keeping constituency boundaries co-terminus with local government boundaries than to equality of representation. NB This is the reverse of my initial understanding from the Home Office.

The Vacation Judge decided simply that the case was not urgent enough to consider during the vacation and it is now up to the Labour Party to decide whether to reinstate the case.

26 October 1982

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SWIH 9AT

19 FEB 1981

Dear Mike

PRIME MINISTER
To see

The Home Secretary has received from the Boundary Commission for Wales a notice dated 16th February stating its intention to commence a review of the parliamentary constituencies for Wales. The Home Secretary proposes to announce this by way of a Parliamentary Question for Written Answer on 25th February.

I enclose a copy of the draft Question and Answer. I am also sending copies to the Private Secretary to the Speaker, Jim Buckley and John Craig.

Yours ever

Andrew

A. P. JACKSON

M. A. Pattison, Esq.

E.R.

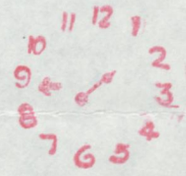
DRAFT QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER ON

: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Boundary Commission for Wales intends to begin its general review of parliamentary constituencies in Wales.

DRAFT REPLY

The Commission has informed me that it intends to begin forthwith a general review of constituencies in Wales. The Commission is required to report by May 1984, but I expect it to have completed its work well before that date.

19 FEB 1981



BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

THIRD PERIODICAL REPORT

on

Parliamentary Constituencies

and

FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

on

The Number of Members

to be returned to the Northern Ireland Assembly

by each of those constituencies

OCTOBER 1982

CONSTITUTION OF COMMISSION

In accordance with Part I of the First Schedule to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949, as amended by the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1958, and section 28(7) of the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973, the Commission was constituted as follows:

Members

The Speaker of the House of Commons, Chairman

The Hon Mr Justice Gibson (now Rt Hon Lord Justice Gibson)	from 1 January 1974 until 16 February 1976	Deputy Chairman appointed by the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland
The Hon Mr Justice Murray	from 17 February 1976	
F C Hopkirk Esq LLB	from 31 July 1973 until 30 June 1978	Appointed by the the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
W T Ewing Esq MA LLB JP	from 31 July 1973	
G P Duffy Esq FCCA FCMA ACIS	from 18 October 1978	

Assessors

Miss D Henderson MBE	until 30 June 1976	Registrar General for Northern Ireland
E Boston Esq	from 1 July 1976 until 30 June 1981	
R McMurray Esq LLB	from 1 July 1982	
J I Jones Esq OBE	until 11 March 1976	Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland
R R Kerr Esq	from 12 March 1976 until 30 April 1980	
P A Bradley Esq BA	from 1 May 1980	
G T Farr Esq FRICS		Commissioner of Valuation for Northern Ireland

Secretaries

Miss T M Simmons	from 14 June 1974 until 22 June 1980	Appointed by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
R A H Miller Esq	from 23 June 1980	

THIRD PERIODICAL REPORT

OF

THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

ON

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

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FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

on

The number of members to be returned to the Northern Ireland Assembly by each parliamentary constituency 51 to 60

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

REPORT

ON

THIRD GENERAL REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

UNDER THE HOUSE OF COMMONS (REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS) ACTS 1949 TO 1979

To The Right Honourable James Prior MP, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Commission's functions

1.1 We, the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland, are constituted under the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Acts 1949 to 1979 to review continuously the distribution of seats for parliamentary elections in Northern Ireland. We are required to make periodical reports showing the constituencies into which we recommend that Northern Ireland should be divided in order to give effect to the Rules for Redistribution of Seats in the Second Schedule to the 1949 Act, as amended by the 1958 and the 1979 Acts. These amended rules, which are set out in Appendix 1, will be referred to as "the Rules" throughout this report.

Timing of third review

1.2 We are required by the legislation to submit such reports to the Secretary of State not less than 10 or more than 15 years from the submission of the last report. The Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland last reported in June 1969 and, accordingly, we are required to submit this third periodical report between June 1979 and June 1984. On 16 February 1976 we gave notice of our intention to commence forthwith a general review of all parliamentary constituencies in Northern Ireland. At that time the Rules provided that Northern Ireland should have 12 constituencies. However, on 23 March 1977 the then Prime Minister announced his intention of referring the question of Northern Ireland's representation at Westminster to a Speakers' Conference. In view of this we decided to suspend our review.

Statutory increase in number of Northern Ireland Constituencies

1.3 On 19 July 1977 Mr Speaker informed the House of Commons that he had agreed to preside over a Conference on Electoral Law to:-

> "consider and make recommendations on the number of parliamentary constituencies that there should be in Northern Ireland".

The outcome, set out in a letter dated 13 February 1978* from Mr Speaker to the Prime Minister, was that the Conference agreed on the following matters:-

> "(a) that the number of constituencies in Northern Ireland should be increased to 17;
> (b) that the Boundary Commission should be given a degree of flexibility to overcome practical difficulties; and
> (c) that the final recommendation of the Conference should be in these words:-
>
> "That the number of parliamentary constituencies in Northern Ireland should be seventeen but that the Boundary Commission should be given power to vary that number, subject to a minimum of sixteen and a maximum of eighteen"

The Government accepted this recommendation which was, inter alia, given statutory effect on 22 March 1979 by the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1979 (the "1979 Act").

Total number of seats

1.4 Thus for the first time since the establishment of the Commission under the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 we have the power to make recommendations not only as to the boundaries of Parliamentary constituencies in Northern Ireland but also as to the total number of such constituencies. The latter power is conferred by s.1(1) of the 1979 Act the effect of which is that the Commission are empowered to recommend a number which is "not greater than 18 or less than 16". However, subsection (2) of the same section immediately limits the Commission's power by providing that we must recommend 17 constituencies -

> "..... unless it appears to the Commission that Northern Ireland shall be divided into 16 or (as the case may be) 18 constituencies."

We consider further in paragraph 3.3 this important matter of our power to recommend 18 or 16 seats instead of 17.

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* Cmnd 7110

Initial representations

1.5 In 1976, at the start of this general review, we invited the general public and political parties to submit representations. A number of written and oral representations was received. Subsequently we also invited the main political parties to meet us and as a result we received a number of additional oral representations.
Following the statutory changes in the total number of seats, political parties were again invited in June 1978 to submit further representations. In the event, however, representations were not received from all parties and we decided not to take into consideration any of these further representations. The reasoning behind our decision was this: the relevant legislation provides specifically for representations being invited when the Commission has provisionally determined to make recommendations and has published those recommendations, but it does not provide for such representations at the initial stage when the Commission are setting out upon their task of preparing their recommendations.

On a reconsideration of the matter we decided, in the words of the Boundary Commission for England "not to consider any ex parte suggestion sent to us prior to the publication of our provisional recommendations": Boundary Commission for England, Second Periodical Report,* ("the Second English Report")

Electorate and electoral quota

1.6 The Rules normally require a Boundary Commission to conduct their review on the basis of the parliamentary electorate existing at the time they announced their intention to do so. However, the 1979 Act made a number of special provisions as to the rules under which we were to frame this report. In effect the electorate we had to work on is defined as being those persons whose names appeared on the register at the passing of the 1979 Act, ie 22 March 1979, and the electoral quota is to be calculated by dividing this electorate (1,040,506 persons) by 17, *whether or not we recommend 17 as the total number of seats*: we were obliged to work on a quota figure ascertained in this way viz 61,206. This is a legal point which appears to have been missed by a number of people who made representations.

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* Cmnd 4084, para 13

Factors taken into account

1.7 In framing recommendations we encountered the problems faced by all Boundary Commissions in endeavouring to reconcile all the relevant considerations which influence the redrawing of constituency boundaries. These problems were accentuated by the substantial increase in the number of seats, which necessitated a completely fresh approach to the Northern Ireland situation, and involved the creation of a high proportion of new constituencies. The size of the electorate was of course a very important factor and we adopted the established objective of having all constituencies within a tolerance of 10% (above or below) of the quota of 61,206. The Rules do not require us to take account of future population movements, and while we were prepared to consider substantial, imminent, changes we did not consider it appropriate to take account of speculative longer term projections. Another important factor which had to be balanced against equality of electorates was the territorial size and, to a slightly lesser extent, the shape of constituencies. The Rules do not make a distinction between the size of electorates for rural and urban constituencies and we endorse the view recorded at paragraph 37 of the Second English Report, that -

> "... the arguments were evenly balanced and that there was no obvious case for deliberately seeking to create constituencies with smaller electorates in the rural areas".

Alongside all these quantitative factors we weighed significant social, historical and geographical ties between groups of electors and had regard to the provisions of section 2(2) of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1958:-

> "It shall not be the duty of a Boundary Commission, in discharging their functions under the said section two, [viz carrying out a general review of all constituencies in their area of the United Kingdom and reporting their recommendations to the Secretary of State] to aim at giving full effect in all circumstances to the rules set out in the Second Schedule to the principal Act, but they shall take account, so far as they reasonably can, of the inconveniences attendant on alterations of constituencies other than alterations made for the purposes of rule 4 of those rules, [ie the rule which seeks to avoid the splitting of a ward between two or more constituencies] and of any local ties which would be broken by such alterations; and references in that section to giving effect to those rules shall be construed accordingly."

With a 41% figure increase in the total number of constituencies and the

creation of a number of new constituencies it is inevitable that political parties and other interested persons will be put to some trouble or inconvenience in adapting their organisations to the new situation, but we believe that given adequate notice of whatever changes are in due course ordered by Parliament undue difficulties will not arise.

Splitting of local government areas

1.8 We also attached considerable importance to ensuring maximum compatability between local government and parliamentary representation. To this end we sought to avoid splitting local government electoral units between two or more parliamentary constituencies. Since the Commission's last report local government in Northern Ireland has been completely reorganised. The Local Government (Boundaries) Act (Northern Ireland) 1971 provided for the division of Northern Ireland into 26 districts for the purposes of local government and for the division of each of these districts into district electoral divisions to be known as wards. In the following year the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 provided for the election of a district council for each of the 26 districts whose boundaries and the boundaries of whose wards were defined by ministerial order under the 1971 Act. Those boundaries are shown in the map which is Appendix 9 to this report. The system is that a number of wards are grouped together to form district electoral areas (DEA) for which councillors are elected to the district councils. The district councils replaced the previous two-tiered structure of county and rural or urban councils but urban areas having charters as boroughs have been allowed to retain their charters. It was our aim that as far as possible we should avoid splitting district council areas between two or more constituencies but given that there are 26 councils and 17 parliamentary constituencies it was inevitable that some of the former be divided between two or more parliamentary constituencies. Where we found it necessary to divide a district council area we wished to avoid hiving off small areas into other constituencies and consequently our original intention was to split off 3 or more wards which might ultimately form a district electoral area. (We comment in paragraph 4.2 on the extent to which our final recommendations would split local government units.)

1.9 In line with practice in Great Britain the Commission considered that where constituencies are composed predominantly of urban areas they should be designated borough constituencies: where a constituency contains more than a token rural electorate it should be designated a county constituency.

Commission's Provisional Recommendations

2.1 On 8 January 1980 we published our Provisional Recommendations ("the Recommendations") which constituted an entirely fresh scheme of 17 constituencies to supercede the present 12. The proposed 17 constituencies are described in Appendix 2. Public notices inviting representations within one month were published in all Northern Ireland provincial weekly newspapers and in the three Belfast daily papers. In addition, copies of the notice, a public statement, a map, and electoral statistics were placed on display in all public libraries and district council offices. This same wide publication and display procedure was followed at all the later stages of our review and we are grateful to the education and library boards and district councils, and their staffs, for their help in making documents available for public inspection at the various stages of our work.

2.2 The Commission received written representations from the 39 organisations and individuals listed in Appendix 3. Three of these were from district councils objecting to the proposed alteration of an existing constituency which comprised the whole or part of their districts. In this situation we are prohibited by statute from recommending such an alteration to the Secretary of State unless a local inquiry has been held in respect of the constituency in question. There was no such legal requirement to hold an inquiry in respect of any of the other representations. However, in view of the fact that the Recommendations proposed for the future a wholly new set of constituencies for this part of the United Kingdom, and the further fact that many persons and bodies in Northern Ireland clearly had strong and conflicting views about the boundaries of the Parliamentary constituencies here, the Commission decided that, even if we were not bound by law to do so, we would arrange for the holding of as many local inquiries as were necessary to ensure that the whole scheme of new constituencies embodied in the Recommendations (and each part of it) might be scrutinised in detail by all interested parties. We took the view that such inquiries would also allow all relevant representations to be heard, examined and considered.

Local inquiries

2.3 The statutory procedure for the holding of a local inquiry is for an assistant commissioner - normally a practising barrister - to be appointed by the Secretary of State at the request of the

Commission; and for the assistant commissioner to hold the local inquiry, and in due course to report his or her findings to the Commission. Since as already explained wholly new constituencies were being proposed and since, accordingly, proposals to alter any one would have a 'knock-on' effect on one or more of the others, it might at first sight have seemed convenient that one assistant commissioner should conduct one inquiry into all the proposed new constituencies. The Commission however rejected this as being too cumbersome. Instead we decided to divide the proposed new constituencies into 4 groups for the purposes of the local inquiries and to arrange for the actual hearings to be conducted at a convenient venue in each of the 4 areas formed by the groups. Because of the 'knock-on' effect we decided to seek the appointment of 2 assistant commissioners only, and to ask each assistant commissioner to hold 2 of the 4 local inquiries. The Secretary of State duly appointed A R Hart Esq, BA, Barrister-at-Law and M W Stitt Esq, MA, LLB, Barrister-at-Law as assistant commissioners.

Public statement

2.4 As already mentioned, the Commission received many and varied representations in response to the Recommendations and presuming that these and the issues involved would be thoroughly considered at the inquiries we thought it would be helpful to all concerned if, before the event, we made our thinking on several matters clear. Accordingly, on 17 October 1980, along with the requisite notices announcing the inquiries, we issued the public statement - reproduced in Appendix 4 - which, inter alia, dealt with the total number of Northern Ireland seats (para 4) and with certain changes in the boundaries of the proposed Lagan/South Down and East Antrim/South Antrim constituencies, being changes which had been urged upon us by certain of the representations and which seemed to us to have merit (para 8).

Assistant commissioners' reports

2.5 Four local inquiries were held on the dates and at the places set out in Appendix 4. We duly received the assistant commissioners' reports in mid February 1981 and proceeded to consider their conclusions and recommendations which are reproduced in Appensix 5 to this report.

Introduction

3.1 We do not propose to comment on each written representation made in response to the Recommendations, and it would be impossible, without making this report unacceptably long, to discuss all the matters debated at each of the four local inquiries. However, to assist those who wish to pursue matters beyond this report, we have arranged for copies of all written representations, assistant commissioners' reports, transcripts of the inquiries, and our published documents to be available for inspection at the Public Record Office, 66 Balmoral Avenue, Belfast, BT9 6NY. In the following comments we refer to the main issues arising out of the Recommendations whether they arose as a result of written representations or of submissions at a local inquiry. These main issues fall into the 3 groups which we deal with in turn hereafter:-

a. the total number of seats to be recommended (paragraphs 3.2 to 3.7);

b. alternative comprehensive constituency schemes for the whole of the Province (paragraphs 3.9 to 3.19); and

c. detailed or minor changes proposed in the Recommendations (paragraphs 3.20 to 3.33).

16, 17 or 18 seats

3.2 Much was said in the representations made to the Commission and at the public inquiries about the total number of seats to be recommended. The Ulster Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), the Ulster Unionist Council (UUC) and the United Ulster Unionist Party (UUUP) were all in favour of even greater representation than 18 seats and at each stage of the Commission's work reiterated arguments for at least 18 constituencies. In brief their arguments were based on the following grounds:-

a. the remoteness of Northern Ireland from Westminster and its relative inaccessability;

b. the density, distribution and increasing size of its electorate; and

c. the requirement of parity of representation with other comparable parts of the United Kingdom.

In direct contrast the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) prefaced their representations in respect of the Commission's proposed 17 constituencies with an indication that they favoured retaining the present level of representation ie 12 constituencies. Of the other political parties, district councils and individuals who made representations, a few concurred with the views of the parties mentioned above but the majority directed their representations to the details of the Commission's proposals for the 17 constituencies.

3.3 This question as to the total number of seats to be recommended was therefore the first matter to be considered in the light of the assistant commissioners' reports. It is an issue which is fundamental to our whole inquiry and it is one which we most carefully considered and on which we wish to record in detail the reasons for our conclusion, namely, that there should be 17 constituencies. In doing so we begin by referring to the evidence upon which Mr Speaker's Conference reached the conclusions which are recorded in paragraph 1.3 above. Nine papers were received by the conference from political parties and other organisations and six from individuals. Most of these papers have now been published.* The Conference also heard oral evidence from the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Northern Ireland, the Deputy Chairman and the Secretary of the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland and the Lord President of the Council. As we see it therefore the relevant facts and arguments based, inter alia on the three grounds specified at paragraph 3.2 above were clearly drawn to the attention of the Conference.

3.4 In connection with the last of these three grounds, namely the requirement of parity of representation with other comparable parts of the United Kingdom, we point out that in the course of his evidence our Deputy Chairman laid a document before the conference, which amongst other matters, contained the following table:-

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* see the letter dated 13 February 1978 from Mr Speaker to the Prime Minister Cmnd 7110 and House of Commons paper 70-iii.

UNITED KINGDOM ELECTORAL QUOTAS - 1977

County	Electorate	Seats	Quota
England	34,084.869	516	66,056
Wales	2,055.172	36	57,088
Scotland	3,786.851	71	53,336
Northern Ireland	1,032.914	12	86,086
Total for UK	40,959.806	635	64,504

On the basis of this table the Deputy Chairman commented that if the English quota of 66,056 were taken as a guide, Northern Ireland would have 16 seats, on the Welsh quota 18 seats, on the Scottish quota 19 seats and on the quota for Great Britain as a whole 16 seats. It clearly appears therefore that the Conference had before it the basic facts and arguments relevant to a decision on the fair and proper number of parliamentary seats for Northern Ireland. It came down in favour of 17 as being the right number and not any of the higher numbers suggested in some of the representations made to it. However, to give the Commission "flexibility to overcome any practical difficulties" the Conference recommended that we should have power to recommend 18 or even 16 seats. While the form of words used in the 1979 Act giving this "flexibility" does not expressly confine its use to overcoming "practical difficulties", it seems clear from the debates on the Bill that Parliament's intention was to implement the recommendations of the Conference.

3.5 In the result, we concluded that it would be improper for us to embark upon an inquiry which would cover the same ground as the Speaker's Conference. The conclusions of the Conference had been endorsed by Parliament and if we had re-opened the matter we would in effect have been entertaining an appeal from the verdict of Parliament. Our view is that the proper use - ie the use intended by Parliament - of our newly acquired flexibility is to overcome any practical difficulties which may appear within Northern Ireland itself in the settling of the new total number of constituencies.

3.6 When we prepared the Recommendations we saw no particular difficulties which called for the exercise of our discretion to recommend 18 or 16 instead of 17 seats and our view on this important matter was confirmed by the reports from the assistant commissioners after the four local inquiries. The decision on the adequacy of Northern Ireland's representation as compared with other parts of the United Kingdom is a matter for Parliament itself and not the Commission.

3.7 We make one final comment on the objections to the Commission's attitude on this matter. Some objectors have relied strongly on the wording of the 1979 Act which (they argue) allows the Commission to recommend 18 seats for any reason, including a 'parity' or 'remoteness' reason, which seems good to the Commission. The Commission accept that if this matter had to be decided solely as one of juristic statutory interpretation there would be much to be said for this view. However, the decision of the English Court of Appeal in Harper v. Secretary of State for the Home Department [1955] Ch 238 indicates that a Boundary Commission's powers are not to be ascertained in this way, and that the proper interpretation and application of the statutory rules governing the redistribution of seats are matters between the Commission and Parliament and not for the courts. In his judgment the learned Master of the Rolls (Sir Raymond Evershed) said:-

> "My reading of these rules [ie the rules in Schedule 2 to the 1949 Act] and of the whole Act is that it was quite clearly intended that, in so far as the matter was not within the discretion of the commission, it was certainly to be a matter for Parliament to determine. I find it impossible to suppose that Parliament contemplated that, on any of these occasions when reports were presented, it would be competent for the court to determine and pronounce on whether a particular line which had commended itself to the commission was one which the court thought the best line or the right line - whether one thing rather than another was to be regarded as practicable, and so on. If it were competent for the courts to pass judgments of that kind on the reports, I am at a loss to see where the process would end and what the function of Parliament would then turn out to be."

It seems to us that the Commission is the agent of Parliament to do the detailed work of boundary review and to make recommendations to Parliament. Those recommendations have no legal effect whatever unless and until implemented by an Order in Council the draft of which has been approved by Parliament, ie an order giving effect to the recommendations with or without modification under section 3(4) of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949. In the circumstances we took the view that the intention of Parliament in this matter is clear from the

events which happened at Mr Speaker's Conference and subsequently in Parliament itself, viz that we are to have only a strictly limited power to recommend a number of seats other than 17, and that against this background an argument based simply on a strict interpretation of the statutory words in the 1979 Act carries little weight.

3.8 Having determined our final recommendation on the total number of constituencies, namely 17, we then turned our attention to those representations which advocated alternative schemes for the distribution of that number of constituencies. Three different comprehensive schemes for the whole Province were proposed as alternatives to the scheme embodied in the Recommendations. These are referred to in turn below.

Ulster Unionist Council Scheme

Banbridge District Council Area

3.9 The Ulster Unionist Council (UUC) advocated a 17-seat scheme which departed considerably from the Commission's proposals for the east of the Province. Their 17 constituencies split 10 district council areas, as opposed to our total of 7. In particular the Assistant Commissioner, Mr Hart, noted in his report of the Banbridge Inquiry (the "First Report") that the UUC proposals split Downpatrick down the centre of the town between their proposed constituencies of 'Strangford' and 'Mourne'. On the other hand their proposed 'Armagh and Banbridge' seat preserved the integrity of the Banbridge District and therefore satisfied the local Council's strong objections to our proposed 3-way split of their territory. However, we endorse Mr Hart's view reported in para 65 of the First Report:-

> "The unanimous view of a District Council is certainly entitled to considerable weight, representing as it does the views of the electorate within that area. However, it is not a decisive factor because one has to also consider the implication of that view upon the surrounding constituencies also."

3.10 Mr Hart goes on in para 66 of the First Report to reject this aspect of the UUC proposal because:-

"..... the geographical features in this area would tend to support the view that there is a fairly distinct geographical division between Armagh and Banbridge District Council areas. In addition, the proposed constituency cannot be justified if the constituencies which would surround it are not drawn in the way in which the UUC proposes. Since, therefore, this proposed constituency cannot be looked at in isolation and I have already concluded that those constituencies should not be adopted, it follows that this proposed constituency should be rejected ....."

3.11 The Commission reluctantly endorse this conclusion that Banbridge must be one of the local government districts to be split between parliamentary constituencies.

Lisburn and Castlereagh Boroughs

3.12 There was some common ground between the UUC and DUP proposals in linking the urban parts of Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Councils to form one constituency with the rural parts of each borough being split off into adjacent seats, but, like Mr Hart, we do not see that there is a sufficiently close tie or connection between these areas to outweigh the considerable adverse consequences of the resulting increased split of local government areas.

Carrickfergus Borough

3.13 This problem of splitting between parliamentary constituencies the urban and rural parts of one district council area came up again at the Ballymena Inquiry. That part of the UUC proposals falling within this Inquiry's remit envisaged the linking of the whole of Carrickfergus Borough with the 3 urban district electoral areas of Newtownabbey Borough. Prima facie, this "Antrim South East" constituency was an attractive alternative to the Commission's proposals for the area and it was one which we considered most carefully. Having regard, however, to the Assistant Commissioner's Report on the Ballymena Inquiry ("the Second Report") we rejected the proposal because of the knock-on effect on the surrounding area, and the totality of the scheme of representation for the whole of that portion of the Province. (See paras 20, 21 and 34 of the Second Report).

Portrush area

3.14 In presenting their proposals at the Ballymena Inquiry the UUC representatives laid particular stress on the Party's submission that, for historical, social and other reasons, the wards of Dunluce, Portrush and Dhu Varren should be included in North Antrim and not East Londonderry. Mr Hart deals with this in the Second Report (paras 31 to 33) and comes to the conclusion that these wards should remain in the same constituency as the remainder of Coleraine Borough, of which they are part. In the Report on the Omagh Inquiry ("the Third Report") the other Assistant Commissioner, Mr Stitt, also took the view that these wards should be included in East Londonderry. We endorse this view.

New Lodge, Shankill and Woodvale

3.15 Mr Stitt also presided over the Belfast Inquiry which, inter alia, considered and rejected the UUC submission that the ward of New Lodge should be transferred to West Belfast, and that the wards of Shankill and Woodvale belonged together and should remain within one constituency, preferably Belfast North: see paras 71 and 72 of the Report on the Belfast Inquiry ("the Fourth Report). We agree with Mr Stitt's view.

Scheme of Mr Frank Maguire MP

3.16 The late Mr Frank Maguire, the then member of Parliament for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, was the one individual who put forward a comprehensive alternative to our overall scheme. In his letter objecting to the Recommendations Mr Maguire suggested that we had ignored or misrepresented the Rules by paying insufficient attention to the size of constituency electorates. In drawing his proposals for 17 seats Mr Maguire appears to have concentrated on producing mathematical equality at the price of increased division of local government units. On this latter ground alone we consider his scheme to be an unsatisfactory counter-proposal.

Fermanagh and South Tyrone

3.17 In para 1.7 above we refer to the need to balance electorate size with other considerations, but special comment is, we believe, called for in relation to our proposal for Fermanagh and South Tyrone. The existing constituency consists of the district council areas of Fermanagh and Dungannon plus a number of complete and incomplete rural wards from the southern part of Omagh District. The Recommendations provided for a revised boundary incorporating only Fermanagh and

Dungannon Districts, the electorate being 66,129, ie 8% above quota. The SDLP and other argued that large rural constituencies such as this should preferably be under, rather than over, the quota, and in particular were in favour of the removal of part or all of the ward of Killyman from the Fermanagh and South Tyrone constituency to either the Upper Bann or Newry and Armagh constituencies. It was correctly pointed out by Mr M Cunningham, (Mr Maguire's representative at the Omagh Inquiry) that the electorate of the existing Fermanagh and South Tyrone constituency was rising, whereas the Recommendations stated that the electorate was not expected to increase. The figures do in fact reveal a very small upward trend which the Commission considered together with the assistant commissioner's recommendation. On balance, however, and having regard to all relevant factors we reaffirm our view, which is supported by the Assistant Commissioner's Report, that for the present and foreseeable future the best arrangement is for the 2 complete district council areas to form the proposed new Fermanagh and South Tyrone constituency.

Ulster Democratic Unionist Party's Scheme

3.18 The Ulster Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) made written representations in response to the Recommendations. These criticised not only the total number of seats proposed but also made certain points about the boundaries of our proposed constituencies. Moreover, at all four local inquiries the Party's representatives expanded upon their case that we should recommend a total of 18 seats and advanced the details of their proposals for such a scheme almost to the exclusion of comment upon our proposals. Their firm attitude in favour of 18 seats caused practical difficulties for the assistant commissioners because inter alia, the DUP had prepared their scheme on the basis of a quota obtained by dividing the electorate by 18. Moreover, the difficulties so caused were compounded by their use of the 1980 electorate figures instead of the 1979 figures. By the 1979 Act the Commission (and of course the assistant commissioners) were compelled to ascertain the quota by dividing the relevant electorate by 17 (not 18) and to take as the relevant electorate that which existed on 22 March 1979 (the date of passing of the 1979 Act). Accordingly the DUP was making submissions upon a mathematical basis which was contrary to statute law. This action created practical difficulties for Mr Hart but nevertheless he investigated the DUP scheme thoroughly and we select three passages from the First Report to demonstrate this point:-

"I have approached the submissions of the DUP upon the basis of the Commission's view as set out at pages 3 and 4 of the statement of 17 October 1980, but I have considered each of the proposed 18 Constituencies suggested by the DUP to see whether, despite their being drawn on the basis of a quota which assumes 18 Constituencies, any of these proposals would result in Constituencies which could be said to be of such a nature as to command a greater degree of acceptance than the present proposals, although Reverend Beattie declined to make any detailed proposals upon the 17 seats proposed by the Commission as he said it would undermine the position adopted by the DUP." (para 26)

The other two extracts from the First Report to which we wish to refer deal with two particular proposed constituencies namely Loughside (now proposed to be called 'North Down') and a constituency which the DUP proposed to call "Mourne" and which involved Mr Hart in a detailed consideration of the Commission's proposed constituencies of South Down and Newry and Armagh.

"28. Loughside
This would be made up [ie under the DUP Scheme] of the entire North Down Borough Council area containing 45,072 electors together with the Belfast City Council wards of Sydenham and Belmont containing 11,228 electors, making a total electorate of 56,300, 8% below quota. This compares with the Commission's proposed Loughside Constituency which would have an electorate of 59,563. 2.7% below quota.

29. The Reverend Beattie accepted that a Constituency should be based upon the North Down Borough Council area, and that there were real practical difficulties in extending such a Constituency into the Donaghadee area because that in turn would create difficulties in fitting the remainder of the Ards Borough Council area into a suitable Constituency. He contended that the large urban wards of Sydenham and Belmont form a compact and identifiable unit which has good and appropriate geographical, social and historical ties with the North Down area.

30. This proposal would create a Constituency which would stretch from Bangor on the one hand deep into East Belfast, including the Aircraft Factory of Short Brothers and Harland as well as those parts of Belfast generally referred to as the Holywood Arches, Strandtown and Belmont, comprisong densely populated urban areas. In my opinion these areas have no significant connection with the North Down Borough Council area. They are almost without exception long established industrial, commercial and residential areas which have always been and are completely intricated into every aspect of the industrial, commercial, social and educational fabric of the City of Belfast. To detach these areas from the remainder of Belfast would be to completely disregard those ties. For that reason, and because the proposed Constituency would in any event be substantially below the quota (although within the 10% tolerance which the Commission accepts) I am of the opinion that this proposed Constituency should be rejected and I so recommend."

"40. Mourne

This would consist [ie under the DUP scheme] of the whole of the Newry and Mourne District Council area, together with the wards of Tollymore, Donard, Shimna, Dundrum and Castlewellan from the Down District Council area with a total electorate of 58,331, 4.5% below quota.

41. Such a Constituency would therefore consist of a substantial part of County Armagh, the town of Newry, Warrenpoint, the Mourne Mountains, as well as Newcastle and the surrounding area. Geographically it would be a relatively compact Constituency.

42 However, the argument put forward by the DUP in support of such a Constituency was two-fold. First of all, it was alleged that Newry and Mourne District Council has a unity based upon geographical, social and historical ties and that the Commission's proposals for the Constituencies of Newry and Armagh on the one hand and South Down on the other hand, which would place the town of Newry itself in Newry and Armagh but its eastern hinterland in South Down, in the words of Reverend Beattie defies "..... any approach based on plain commonsense."
Secondly, it was alleged by Reverend Beattie that such a division must have a political motive as the following extract from his submission makes clear.

> 'The blatant way in which Newry and Mourne has been divided, in defiance of all logic and commonsense, has driven the DUP to the reluctant conclusion that behind this there is a definite political motive.
>
> The predominant anti-unionist persuasion of Newry and Mourne is well known and the consequence of its equal division is that it will effectively influence the outcome in two Constituencies, instead of one, in the interests of the anti-Unionist cause. Clearly the high concentration of anti-Unionist voters in Newry and Mourne means that as a Constituency it would undoubtedly return an anti-Unionist MP and no-one would seek to deny these voters that right, but it is a source of grave disquiet and resentment that the Commission by its proposition has effectively rendered Newry and Armagh and the new South Down anti-Unionist seats. Considering the large number of Unionist voters in the north of both of these proposed Constituencies, it is most unjust that they should be denied representation in this way.'
> (page 39 of the transcript).

43. So far as the first of these arguments is concerned, it completely ignores that the existing parliamentary constituencies which have existed for many years, also divide much of the town of Newry from its eastern hinterland for the obvious reason that these constituencies followed in this area the historic division between County Armagh and County Down. Prior to the re-organisation of local government in Northern Ireland which came into effect in 1973, the administrative structure of each County

was such that services were provided by County and Rural District or Urban District Councils and the boundary between County Down and County Armagh ran through the town of Newry. The present grouping of Newry town within the same local government unit as both its western and eastern hinterlands is therefore less than 10 years old.

44. The Commission's proposed constituencies would result in only slight changes in the boundaries of the existing Constituencies in the Newry area, because all of the Newry town wards would now be in the Constituency of Newry and Armagh, instead of being divided between Armagh and South Down as they are at present. The only other alteration of the existing boundaries within the Newry and Mourne District Council area proposed by the Commission is that the existing division of the Tullyhappy ward is removed, the Constituency boundary being moved eastwards to coincide with the boundary between the Tullyhappy and Donaghmore wards. Therefore, should the Commission's proposed Constituencies of Newry and Armagh and South Down be adopted, the bulk of the electorate which for local government purposes is within the Newry and Mourne District Council area will continue to vote in Constituencies whose boundaries in their area are largely unaltered. Whilst local government areas are clearly of great importance in deciding the boundaries of Parliamentary Constituencies, this is not the only consideration.

45. The second argument put forward by the DUP against the Commission's proposals for these Constituencies is that these Constituencies would thereby be allegedly rendered anti-Unionist seats with a consequent denial of representation to what are stated to be large numbers of Unionist voters in the north of each of these Constituencies. The clear implication of this argument is, in my opinion, that these Constituency boundaries should be drawn in such a manner as to maximise the prospects of election of candidates of a particular political viewpoint. Such considerations have no part to play in the deliberations of the Boundary Commission and I therefore emphatically reject this argument.

46. The Reverend Beattie made it clear that some at least of the DUP proposals in relation to other Constituencies within the scope of this Inquiry were based upon the undesirability of dividing up the Newry and Mourne District Council area and therefore that his party's proposals for Constituencies of Mid-Down (proposal No 4 to which I have already referred), Armagh (proposal No 6 to which I shall refer later) and East Tyrone (proposal No 7 to which I shall refer later) followed from and were dependent upon the Newry and Mourne proposal. See in particular pages 40, 48, 49 and 50 of the transcript.

47. It is therefore necessary, as in the case of every proposal, to look not only at each individual Constituency but at the other Constituencies surrounding it to see how the overall pattern of Constituencies avoids wherever possible breaking up homogenous areas and results in an acceptable overall scheme for that part of the Province.

48. So far as the proposed DUP Constituency of Mourne is concerned, it must therefore be considered within an overall pattern of suggested Constituencies, each of which is not in itself acceptable, because it leads not only to a Mid-Down Constituency which I have already recommended should be rejected, but also to the proposed Constituencies of Armagh and East Tyrone which, as will appear later in this Report, I also recommend should be rejected. I therefore recommend that the proposed Mourne Constituency should be rejected."

3.19 We endorse completely the cogent reasoning set forth by Mr Hart in these passages of his report and we see no case for departing from our own proposals in favour of the DUP proposals in relation to the remainder of their proposed constituencies.

Detailed changes proposed in Commission's Provisional Recommendations

3.20 The vast majority of objectors did not advance comprehensive alternatives to the Commission's proposals, but rather confined their comments to detailed aspects of our scheme. The majority were simply concerned with the boundaries of particular constituencies.

Lagan Valley and North Down

3.21 Nomenclature gave rise to criticism in the constituencies originally proposed as Lagan and Loughside. In both cases we felt that sound arguments had been advanced for their respective renaming as "Lagan Valley" and "North Down". This renaming was supported by Mr Hart and accepted by the Commission.

Quilly, Dromore and Skeagh

3.22 In our public statement of 17 October 1980 we noted the fact that we had been favourably impressed by representations suggesting that the wards of Quilly, Dromore and Skeagh be included in the South Down constituency and that the wards of Saintfield, Market and Ballymaglave be included in Lagan. Upon hearing oral representations from representatives of the Banbridge District Council and various unionist groupings the Assistant Commissioner, Mr Hart, was convinced of the desirability of including Quilly, Dromore and Skeagh in the South Down Constituency. In the First Report he comments:-

"I am satisfied that historically, administratively and geographically the links between Quilly, Dromore and Skeagh and the South Down Constituency are stronger than the links of these wards to the Lagan Constituency ....."

However, Mr Hart came down firmly against movement of the wards of Saintfield, Market and Ballymaglave into the Lagan Constituency. In doing so he was reflecting the vigorous opposition the suggested move had met at the inquiry from Down District Council supported by the UUC, SDLP and the Lisburn Borough Council. Having heard all the representations, Mr Hart inspected the area in question and in the First Report states:-

> "I am satisfied that there is a substantial and widely based degree of support for the retention of the wards of Saintfield, Market and Ballymaglave with the remaining District Council Wards in South Down ....."

We accept his view.

Lisburn Borough

3.23 This view led Mr Hart to consider whether there was a basis upon which the boundaries of the Lagan [Valley] Constituency could be amended to bring the electorate closer to the quota. Lisburn Borough Council presented their views on the expected expansion of the population within their area and referred to their plans to provide services for a population expanding from 83,000 in 1980 to 100,000 by 1990. In his report Mr Hart said:

> "From the submissions made to me it is clear that the population of Lisburn Borough Council is increasing rapidly and will continue to increase for some time to come ....."

3.24 The electorate of the Lisburn Borough however, did not come close enough to the quota to justify its becoming a constituency in itself without some addition, and Mr Hart proceeded to look at the many possibilities for adding to the electorate. In the end he decided to recommend that the ward of Carryduff from the Castlereagh Borough should be added to that of Lisburn in the Lagan Valley constituency and he added the comment that Carryduff is a largely rural ward with some urban areas centred on Carryduff village and adjoins the Lisburn Borough Council ward of Drumbo. We endorse his solution to the problem.

Newtownabbey Borough

3.25 At the Ballymena Inquiry, Mr Hart heard submissions from the Newtownabbey Alliance Association and Newtownabbey Borough Council to the effect that it would be undesirable to divide the Newtownabbey Borough between the proposed constituencies of South

Antrim and East Antrim as provided for in the Recommendations. This view was shared by the Newtownabbey Unionist Association and the Borough was proposed as the basis for a single constituency in its own right. Such a move, however, would have resulted in the proposed constituency having an electorate of 17.1% below quota - an unacceptable figure - and also being of a most unusual shape. Moreover, the knock-on effect of the changes would have been considerable. Mr Hart in the Second report states:-

> "..... it would result in a severe and in my view unjustifiable distortion of the shapes of adjoining constituencies." [para 9]

3.26 The Newtownabbey Alliance Association went on to suggest a constituency adjoining Newtownabbey and consisting entirely of the district council areas of Antrim, Larne and Carrickfergus. This proposal would produce a constituency of two separate areas because the district council areas of Antrim and Larne do not touch at any point, they being separated by the Newtownabbey ward of Ballyeaston.

3.27 To remedy this it was proposed that a corridor linking the Larne and Antrim District Council areas be created in the Ballyeaston Ward, but on this proposal Mr Hart commented:-

> "Such a totally artificial creation is, in my opinion, quite unsustainable and the resulting constituency equally so." [para 9]

We entirely agree with this view.

Rathcoole Housing Estate

3.28 The division of Newtownabbey District Council area as proposed in the Recommendations resulted in the division of the very large housing estate of Rathcoole lying near the Antrim shore of Belfast Lough. The whole estate comprises the 4 wards of Coole, Dunaney, Braden and Hopefield and Mr Hart having inspected the area said in the Second Report:-

> "..... it is undoubtedly a distinct and homogenous entity having its own shops, schools, churches and I think it is most undesirable that a recognisably distinct and homogenous area should be divided between 2 constituencies unless this is absolutely unavoidable." [para 37]

3.29 Even before the local inquiry the Commission in their public statement of 17 October 1980 referred to the objections to splitting the Rathcoole estate between two consituencies. Mr Hart dealt with the point as follows in para 38 of the Second Report:-

> "38. The Commission recognised the force of these objections in the Statement of the 17th October 1980, in that it suggested that the wards of Rostulla, Monkstown, Whiteabbey, Coole, Hopefield, Whitehouse, Bradan, Dunanney and Cloughfern be included in East Antrim and the remaining Newtownabbey wards in South Antrim. This would resolve the difficulty because the boundary between the 2 Constituencies would then follow the line of the M2 motorway that rises northwards towards Glengormley, then it would turn north-east along the boundary of the Carnmoney and Cloughfern wards. This boundary would therefore follow the clearly visible boundary to which I have already referred between the lower and the higher ground and in my opinion is the most logical point at which to have a boundary in this area. It would also result in the Rathcoole Estate being contained in one Constituency only, namely East Antrim."

In our final recommendations we adopt this solution to the problem.

Castlereagh Borough

3.30 In the North Down area the Castlereagh Alliance Association proposed a wholly new scheme to consist of two constituencies named North Down and Castlereagh.

3.31 The North Down Constituency would in broad terms consist of the Ards Peninsula, Donaghadee, Bangor and Craigavad and the Castlereagh Constituency would be made up of the town of Newtownards with the rural areas stretching along the shore of Strangford Lough added to most of the Castlereagh Borough.

3.32 In brief, these proposals would result in the splitting of 3 district council areas as opposed to our splitting of only one and Mr Hart comments on this in the First Report. He also took into consideration local government ties and geographical aspects before reaching the conclusion - which we endorse - that the Castlereagh Alliance Association's proposals would not result in any improvement on our proposals.

Shankill, Woodvale and Ballygomartin

3.35 At the Belfast Inquiry, Mr Stitt considered a written submission by the Alliance Party which favoured the move of the wards of Shankill and Woodvale to Belfast West and Ballygomartin and Central to Belfast North. Mr Stitt noted that the geographical distribution of electors in each of these wards favoured the Commission's proposals and did not recommend any changes from them.

CHAPTER 4: REVISED AND FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Revised Recommendations

4.1 Having carefully considered all the representations and the assistant commissioners' reports, we published, on 27 August 1981, our Revised Recommendations ("the Revised Recommendations") giving effect to the conclusions referred to in earlier paragraphs of this report. These gave effect to all the recommendations made by the assistant commissioners and did not contain any other changes. The nett result amounted to changes in 6 of the 17 new constituencies originally proposed in the Recommendations. These changes are set out in Appendix 6.

4.2 Leaving aside the district council area of Belfast, which at present comprises 4 constituencies, the Revised Recommendations involved the splitting of 6 district council areas. This has understandably attracted criticism from the areas involved but it seems to us to represent the best compromise upon the relevant considerations - indeed many of the alternative schemes put to the Commission would have involved much greater splitting eg: the DUP scheme involved the splitting of ten district council areas. In only one case did we reluctantly decide to recommend that a single ward from one district council area should be part of a parliamentary constituency thus leaving the remainder of the wards from the area in an adjoining constituency or constituencies. In no case would recommendations split a ward between constituencies.

4.3 Copies of a newspaper notice about the Revised Recommendations, a public statement, and an accompanying map were given the same wide distribution as the Recommendations. In addition, copies of the assistant commissioners' four reports were made available for inspection at the following locations:-

(1) The offices of Banbridge District Council, Avonmore House, Banbridge.
(2) The offices of Ballymena Borough Council, "Ardeevin", 80 Galgorm Road, Ballymena.
(3) The offices of Omagh District Council, The Grange, Mountjoy Road, Omagh
(4) The Information Office, Belfast City Hall.

A period of one month was allowed for representations.

4.4 In response to the Revised Recommendations we received 16 representations from the individuals and bodies listed in Appendix 7. The majority of these further representations contained restatements of views advanced by the individuals or bodies in response to the Recommendations. The UUC and SDLP were among those who expressed dismay that their counter proposals had not been accepted and others, who had been content with our original proposals, expressed opposition to our proposed changes.

4.5 We looked carefully at all these representations and concluded that they contained nothing which would justify either an amendment of the Revised Recommendations or any further local inquiry.

Final Recommendations

4.6 In the result, after considering carefully all these views we decided to make no further changes in our proposals. Accordingly we recommend the adoption of the Recommendations as modified in the Revised Recommendations. These Final Recommendations are set out in Appendix 8 and the Map at Appendix 9. Appendix 10 sets out the numbers of electors and deviation from the quota for each of the proposed new constituencies.

Concluding Comments

4.7 The Speaker of the House of Commons at Westminster is the Chairman of the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland, but in accordance with established practice all the Commission's meetings have been presided over by the Deputy Chairman. Throughout this general review, however, Mr Speaker has been kept informed of the progress of the review.

4.8 We wish to record our gratitude to our Assessors, the Registrar-General for Northern Ireland, the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland and the Commissioner of Valuation for Northern Ireland for all the valuable research and advisory work which they carried out.

4.9 We also wish to record our gratitude to the Secretary to the Commission, Mr Richard Miller, who took over from Miss T M Simmons in June 1980 when Miss Simmons was promoted to other duties. At all times Mr Miller has worked with conspicuous ability and expedition

on behalf of the Commission and has been ably assisted by his colleague, Mr George Cleland. During her spell of duty with us Miss Simmons was a most competent and helpful secretary and we record also our gratitude to her and to her assistant, Miss Pauline Cinnamond, for their work for the Commission.

4.10 Finally, it is with deep regret that we record that in June 1978 Mr Frank Hopkirk LLB, who had given many years of most valuable service as a member of the Commission, was forced to retire through illness and shortly thereafter died. His place on the Commission was taken by Mr G P Duffy FCCA, FCMA, ACIS.

Donald Murray

Deputy Chairman

Secretary

Date 27 October 1982

Appendix 1

(Para 1.1)

RULES FOR REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS

(HOUSE OF COMMONS (REDISTRIBUTION OF SEATS) ACT 1949 AS AMENDED AND APPLICABLE TO NORTHERN IRELAND)

"1. The number of Constituencies in the several parts of the United Kingdom set out in the first column of the following table shall be as stated respectively in the second column of that table:-

Part of the United Kingdom	No. of Constituencies
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
Northern Ireland	Not greater than 18 or less than 16

2. Every Constituency shall return a single number.

3. .....

4. (1) So far as is practicable having regard to the foregoing rules

(a) .....

(b) .....

(c) in Northern Ireland no ward shall be included partly in one constituency and partly in another

(2) .....

.....

5. The electorate of any constituency shall be as near the electoral quota as is practicable having regard to the foregoing rules, and a Boundary Commission may depart from the strict application of the last foregoing rule if it appears to them that a departure is desirable to avoid an excessive disparity between the electorate of any constituency and the electoral quota, or between the electorate thereof and that of neighbouring constituencies in the part of the United Kingdom with which they are concerned.

6. A Boundary Commission may depart from the strict application of the last two foregoing rules if special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency, appear to them to render a departure desirable.

7. In the application of these rules to each of the several parts of the United Kingdom for which there is a Boundary Commission:-

(a) the expression "electoral quota" means a number obtained by dividing the electorate for that part of the United Kingdom by the number of constituencies in it existing on the enumeration date

(b) the expression "electorate" means:-

(1) in relation to a constituency, the number of persons whose names appear on the register of parliamentary electors in force on the enumeration date under the Representation of the People Acts for the constituency.

(11) in relation to the part of the United Kingdom, the aggregate electorate as hereinbefore defined of all the constituencies therein;

(c) the expression "enumeration date" means, in relation to any report of a Boundary Commission under this Act, the date on which the notice with respect to that report is published in accordance with section two of this Act."

Appendix 2

[para 2.1]

PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposed Constituency	1979 Electorate	% above or below quota
1. Loughside	59,563	-2.7
2. Strangford	61,903	+1.1
3. South Down	60,405	-1
4. Lagan	57,906	-5.4
5. Upper Bann	59,613	-2.6
6. Newry and Armagh	61,463	+0.4
7. Fermanagh and South Tyrone	66,129	+8
8. Mid Ulster	62,628	+2
9. Foyle	63,486	+4
10. East Londonderry	64,596	+5
11. North Antrim	62,505	+2
12. East Antrim	56,890	-7
13. South Antrim	59,372	-3
14. Belfast North	65,723	+7
15. Belfast West	61,179	-0.04
16. Belfast South	57,938	-5.3
17. Belfast East	59,207	-3.3
	1,040,506	

Composition:-

1. Loughside

All the wards in North Down local government district and the 6 Castlereagh wards of Dundonald, Carrowreagh, Enler, Ballyhanwood, Tullycarnet and Gilnahirk.

2. Strangford

All the wards of Ards local government district and the 9 Castlereagh wards of Upper Braniel, Lower Braniel, Hillfoot, Fourwinds, Carryduff, Moneyreagh, Beechill, Minnowburn and Newtownbreda.

3. South Down

The complete local government district of Down the 5 Banbridge wards of Croob, Ballyoolymore, Annaclone, Drumadonnell and Garran and the 13 Newry and Mourne wards of Donaghmore, Drumgath, Rathfriland, Spelga, Seaview, Rostrevor, Lisnacree, Cranfield, Kilkeel, Binnian, Annalong, Ballycrossan and Clonallan.

4. Lagan

All the wards in the Lisburn local government district and the 3 Banbridge wards of Dromore, Quilly and Skeagh.

5. Upper Bann

The complete local government district of Craigavon and the 7 Banbridge wards of Seapatrick, Ballydown, Central, Edenderry, Lawrencetown, Gilford and Loughbrickland.

6. Newry and Armagh

The whole of Armagh local government district and the 17 Newry and Mourne wards of Windsor Hill, St Patrick's, St Mary's, Drumalane, Daisy Hill, Ballybot, Drumgullion, Fathom, Derrymore, Bessbrook, Tullyhappy, Belleek, Camlough, Forkhill, Creggan, Crossmaglen and Newtownhamilton.

7. Fermanagh and South Tyrone

The 2 complete local government districts of Fermanagh and Dungannon.

8. Mid Ulster

The whole of Omagh and Cookstown districts, the 8 Strabane wards of Glenderg, Clare, Newtownstewart, Castlederg, Plumbridge, Victoria Bridge, Sion Mills and Finn and the 3 Magherafelt wards of Draperstown, Lecumpher and Ballymaguigan.

9. Foyle

The complete Londonderry local government district and the 7 Strabane wards of Dunnamanagh, Slievekirk, Artigarvan, North, West, East and South.

10. East Londonderry

The complete local government districts of Limavady and Coleraine and the 12 Magherafelt wards of Swatragh, Lower Glenshane, Maghera, Tobermore, Upperlands, Valley, Gulladuff, Knockcloughrim, Bellaghy, Castledawson, Town Parks West and Town Parks East.

11. North Antrim

The local government districts of Moyle, Ballymoney and Ballymena.

12. East Antrim

The 2 complete local government districts of Larne and Carrickfergus and the 8 Newtownabbey wards of Jordanstown, Rostulla Monkstown, Whiteabbey, Coole, Hopefield, Whitehouse and Ballynure.

13. South Antrim

The complete local government district of Antrim and the 13 Newtownabbey wards of Bradan, Dunanney, Cloughfern, Whitewell Glengormley, Mossgrove, Ballyhenry, Mossley, Carnmoney, Mallusk, Doagh, Ballyeaston and Ballyclare.

14. Belfast North

The following 14 Belfast wards - Woodvale, Legoniel, Ardoyne, Ballysillan, Crumlin, New Lodge, Shankill, Cliftonville, Cavehill, Castleview, Fortwilliam, Grove, Duncairn and Bellevue.

15. Belfast North

The 14 Belfast wards of Ladybrook, Suffolk, Andersonstown, Milltown, St Jame's, Whiterock, Highfield, Ballygomartin, Clonard, Grosvenor, Falls, North Howard, Court and Central.

16. Belfast South

The 13 Belfast wards of Willowfield, Rosetta, Ballynafeigh, Ormeau, Finaghy, Upper Malone, Stranmillis, Malone, University, Windsor, Donegall, St George's and Cromac.

17. Belfast East

The 10 Belfast wards of Orangefield, The Mount, Ballymacarrett, Island, Sydenham, Bloomfield, Shandon, Belmont, Stormont and Ballyhackamore and the 4 Castlereagh wards of Wynchurch, Cregagh, Downshire and Lisnasharragh.

LIST OF THOSE WHO MADE WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS ON THE PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Mr G B Adams
2. Councillor R Caul
3. Mr D Bell
4. Mr S McAteer
5. Mr D Tombe
6. Mr J Donnelly
7. J Kilfedder Esq MP
8. Banbridge District Council
9. Ulster Unionist Council
10. Holywood Residents Association
11. North Down Borough Council
12. United Labour Party
13. Mr J Flanagan
14. Alliance Party (Castlereagh Association)
15. Castlereagh Borough Council
16. Lisburn Borough Council
17. Newtownabbey Unionist Association
18. Unionist Party of Northern Ireland
19. Newtownabbey Borough Council
20. Ulster Unionist Council
21. Unionist Party of Northern Ireland (North Down Association)
22. Ards Borough Council
23. Ulster Democratic Unionist Party (Co Armagh Association)
24. South Down Unionist Association
25. Larne Borough Council
26. Councillor Niblock
27. Ulster Democratic Unionist Party
28. Belfast City Council
29. Craigavon Borough Council
30. Workers' Party - Republican Clubs
31. Press Association
32. Carrickfergus Borough Council
33. Social Democratic and Labour Party
34. Alliance Party
35. Down District Council
36. Ballymena Borough Council
37. Newtownabbey Alliance Party
38. Ballymoney Borough Council
39. Frank Maguire Esq MP
40. Bangor and District Standing Conference of Women's Organisations

APPENDIX 4

(Paras 2.4 and 2.5)

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Constituencies in Northern Ireland:

Provisional Recommendations (8 January 1980)

Local Inquiries

PUBLIC STATEMENT

Background

1. On 8 January 1980 the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland published their Provisional Recommendations ("the Recommendations") showing the constituencies into which they recommend Northern Ireland should be divided for the purposes of elections to the United Kingdom Parliament. Since the number of constituencies is, in the words of the relevant Act of Parliament, to be "not greater than 18 or less than 16" as compared with the present fixed number of 12 constituencies, the Commission decided to make an entirely fresh approach to the matter and not merely to adjust the boundaries of the existing 12 constituencies to fit in 5 more. In the result, the proposed new constituencies are intended to supersede the present 12 constituencies. It follows, of course, that the Recommendations affect each and every one of the existing 12 constituencies, since, if the Recommendations are accepted by the Government and Parliament and made law, the present 12 constituencies will be replaced entirely by the proposed new ones.

2. The Commission received numerous representations about all the Recommendations from the political parties, local authorities, and other interested persons or bodies. As respects certain of these, eg a representation from a district council objecting to the proposed alteration of an existing constituency which comprises the whole or part of the council's district, the Commission are prohibited by statute from recommending the alteration to the Government unless a local inquiry has been held in respect of the constituency in question. As regards many of the other representations received there is no such requirement to hold a local inquiry. However, in view of the fact that the Recommendations propose for the future a wholly new set of constituencies for this part of the United Kingdom, and the further fact that many persons and bodies in Northern Ireland clearly have strong views about the boundaries of the Parliamentary constituencies here, the Commission have decided that, even if they are not bound by law to do so, they will, in the exercise of their discretion, arrange for the holding of as many local inquiries as are necessary to ensure that the whole scheme of new constituencies embodied in the Recommendations, and each part of it, may be scrutinised in detail by all

interested parties. Such inquiries will also allow all relevant representations - against the scheme, for it, or otherwise - to be heard, examined and fully considered before the Commission submit their final recommendations to the Secretary of State for presentation to Parliament. The procedure laid down by statute in this matter is for an "Assistant Commissioner" - normally a practising barrister - to be appointed by the Secretary of State at the request of the Commission and for the Assistant Commissioner to hold a local inquiry and to report his or her findings to the Commission in due course. Since, as already explained, wholly new constituencies are proposed and, since accordingly, proposals to alter any one will have a 'knock-on' effect on one or more of the others, it might at first sight be thought convenient that one Assistant Commissioner should conduct one inquiry into all the proposed new constituencies. The Commission have, however, rejected this solution on a number of grounds. Instead they have decided to divide the proposed new constituencies into 4 groups for the purposes of the local inquiries and to arrange for the actual hearings to be conducted in a convenient venue in each of the 4 areas formed by the groups. Because of the 'knock-on' effect of changes proposed in any one area the Commission felt that to have 4 different Assistant Commissioners, viz one for each group of constituencies, could lead to confusion and practical difficulties at a later stage, and so they have decided to seek the appointment of 2 Assistant Commissioners only, and to ask each such Assistant Commissioner to hold 2 of the 4 local inquiries.

The details of the proposed Local Inquiries are as follows:-

Group No	Proposed Constituencies	Venue	Assistant Commissioner	Time and date of Hearing	Place of hearing
1	Loughside, Strangford, South Down, Lagan, Upper Bann, Newry and Armagh	Banbridge	A R Hart Esq BA Barrister-at-Law	10.00 am 24.11.80	Council Offices, Avonmore House
2	North Antrim, East Antrim and South Antrim	Ballymena	A R Hart Esq BA Barrister-at-Law	10.00 am 1.12.80	Council Offices, Ardeevin, 80 Galgorm Road

Group No	Proposed Constituencies	Venue	Assistant Commissioner	Time and date of hearing	Place of hearing
3	Fermanagh and South Tyrone, Mid Ulster, Foyle and East Londonderry	Omagh	M W Stitt Esq MA LLB Barrister-at-Law	10.00 am 8.12.80	Town Hall, High Street
4	Belfast North, Belfast West, Belfast South and Belfast East	Belfast	M W Stitt Esq MA LLB Barrister-at-Law	10.00 am 15.12.80	City Hall

Any person who wishes to be heard at any of the inquiries should give notice in writing to the Secretary of the Commission at least 14 days before the date of the hearing of the inquiry.

3. Representations on the Recommendations

As mentioned above, the representations received by the Commission on the Recommendations are numerous and varied and cover all the proposed new constituencies. At this stage the Commission do not propose to reply to, or comment on, the representations except to explain their thinking on several matters mentioned below. As regards these particular matters the Commission feel that it will be helpful to everyone concerned - and particularly to those who will be participating in one or more of the local inquiries - if the Commission's thinking on these matters is now made clear.

Total number of Northern Ireland seats

4. Since the passing of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1979 on 22 March 1979 the powers of the Commission have been altered in a significant respect, namely, that instead of having to make recommendations to the Government about the boundaries of the constituencies in Northern Ireland on the fixed basis of 12 constituencies - no more and no less - the Commission now have a limited discretion in the matter and can recommend a number of constituencies which is 'not greater than 18 or less than 16'. However, s.1(2) of the 1979 Act directs the Commission to treat 17 as the required number:-

> "... unless it appears to the Commission that Northern Ireland should for the time being be divided into 16 or (as the case may be) into 18 constituencies".

From the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference - which the 1979 Act implemented it seems clear that in giving the Commission authority to recommend 18 (or 16) constituencies instead of 17 it was the wish of Parliament that the Commission should have -

"... a degree of flexibility to overcome practical difficulties".

(Letter of 13 February 1978 from Mr Speaker to the Prime Minister.)

In the light of this Parliamentary history the Commission have taken the view that it would not be in accordance with the wishes of Parliament if they were to embark upon a comparison of representation in Northern Ireland and in other parts of the United Kingdom in order to determine whether, on this wide ground, the higher figure of 18 constituencies for Northern Ireland should be recommended rather than 17. Such a course has been urged upon the Commission by many people who have made representations about the Recommendations; but in arriving at the Recommendations the Commission thought, and they still think, that if they treat the flexibility they now have as usable in the way, and for the purpose referred to, in Mr Speaker's letter, ie "to overcome practical difficulties", they will be acting in accordance with the wishes of Parliament. On this basis and on the information presently before them, the Commission do not feel able to say that a recommendation of 18 seats is required to overcome any of the practical difficulties they met in preparing the Recommendations, and accordingly they have recommended a total of 17 new constituencies.

Quota

5. In applying the statutory rule that the electorate of any constituency is to be "as near the electoral quota as is practicable" having regard to other statutory rules governing their work, the Commission have followed the established practice of regarding a tolerance of 10% above or below the quota figure (viz 61,206) as being acceptable.

Constituency Names

6. Some of the proposed constituency names have attracted criticism and many people have suggested names which are the same as the names of existing district

councils, eg 'North Down' or 'Ards'. When chosing constituency names the Commission decided not to use district council names since this could lead to considerable confusion - especially if district council and Parliamentary elections were held about the same time. The Commission also decided to follow the established practice throughout the United Kingdom by suffixing the terms 'North', 'South', etc to borough constituencies, eg Belfast North, and prefixing these terms to county constituencies, eg South Down. The Commission feel that there is much to be said for uniformity throughout the United Kingdom in this matter. The Commission tried to choose a name which readily identified the whole area of the constituency in question rather than one particular part of it, but admittedly they did not succeed in doing this in their choice of 'Loughside' - a name which is open to criticism and has been criticised on this ground. The Commission await with interest any helpful alternative names for this area, which they have found difficult to name.

Splitting of district council areas

7. The splitting of a number of district council areas between constituencies has understandably attracted criticism from the areas concerned. Given, however, that there are 26 district councils and only 17 constituencies, it is inevitable that some district council areas will be divided between 2 or more constituencies. Because of its size the splitting of the Belfast district council area cannot be avoided, but of the other 25 council areas the Recommendations involve the splitting of only 6, viz Castlereagh, Newtownabbey, Newry and Mourne, Banbridge, Magherafelt and Strabane. On the other hand several persons or bodies have submitted proposals for new constituencies for the whole of Northern Ireland which would involve the splitting of a greater number of district council areas. On this important matter the Recommendations seem to the Commission to represent the best overall scheme for Northern Ireland.

Boundaries of Lagan/South Down and East Antrim/South Antrim constituencies

8. The Commission have been favourably impressed by representations they have received affecting the boundaries of the proposed Lagan/South Down and East Antrim/South Antrim constituencies. As matters now stand, and subject, of course, to the recommendations of the Assistant Commissioners in due

course, the Commission see merit in a proposal that the Banbridge wards of Quilly, Dromore and Skeagh be included in South Down, and that the Down wards of Saintfield, Market and Ballymaglave be included in Lagan. The electorate of the 2 constituencies would then be Lagan 59,568 (2.7% below quota) and South Down 58,743 (4% below quota). Again, in view of certain representations received on the East Antrim and South Antrim constituencies, the Commission see merit in changing the proposed boundary between them so as to include in the East Antrim constituency the 9 Newtownabbey wards of Rostulla, Monkstown, Whiteabbey, Coole, Hopefield, Whitehouse, Braden, Dunanney and Cloughfern, and to include the remaining Newtownabbey wards in the South Antrim constituency. This would mean East Antrim's electorate would be 58,985 (3.6% under quota) and South Antrim's would be 57,277 (6.4% under quota). Inter alia, this would meet some strong objections received by the Commission to the splitting of the Rathcoole area in Newtownabbey between 2 constituencies - a result which would follow from the Recommendations as they stand.

Richard Miller
Secretary to the Boundary Commission for
Northern Ireland

17 October 1980

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS

FIRST REPORT

PROPOSED CONSTITUENCIES OF LOUGHSIDE, STRANGFORD, SOUTH DOWN, LAGAN, UPPER BANN AND NEWRY AND ARMAGH

At paragraph 117 of Mr Hart's report he summarises his recommendations as follows:-

"(1) That the proposed Constituency referred to as Loughside be renamed North Down but otherwise adhered to.

(11) That the proposed Constituency referred to as Strangford be adhered to save that the ward of Carryduff be transferred to the Constituency defined at (111) below.

(111) That there should be a Constituency to be known as Lagan Valley comprising the entire Lisburn Borough Council area together with the ward of Carryduff.

(1V) That the proposed Constituency of South Down as defined in the Provisional Recommendations of the 8th January, 1980, have added to it the wards of Quilly, Dromore and Skeagh, but be otherwise adhered to.

(V) That should the proposals contained at (11), (111) and (1V) above not prove acceptable to the Commission, that the Constituencies referred to in the Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations of 8th January 1980 as Strangford and South Down be adhered to without any changes, and that the proposed Constituency referred to in those recommendations as Lagan be named Lagan Valley but otherwise adhered to.

(V1) That the proposed Constituencies of Upper Bann and Newry and Armagh be adhered to.

(V11) That each of the Constituencies referred to above be classed as County Constituencies."

SECOND REPORT

PROPOSED CONSTITUENCIES OF NORTH ANTRIM, EAST ANTRIM, AND SOUTH ANTRIM

At paragraph 49 of Mr Hart's report he states:-

"I therefore recommend that the Commission adheres to its Provisional Recommendations of the 8th January 1980 for these constituencies as modified by the suggestions put forward in its public statement of 17th October 1980."

THIRD REPORT

PROPOSED CONSTITUENCIES OF FERMANAGH AND SOUTH TYRONE, MID-ULSTER, FOYLE AND EAST LONDONDERRY

At paragraph 52 of Mr Stitt's report he states:-

> "I do not recommend that the Commission departs from the provisional recommendations made on 8th January, 1980 but that they should be adhered to."

FOURTH REPORT

PROPOSED CONSTITUENCIES OF BELFAST NORTH, BELFAST WEST, BELFAST SOUTH AND BELFAST EAST

At paragraph 77 of Mr Stitt's report he states:-

> "I do not recommend the Boundary Commission to depart from their provisional proposals in any of the respects contended for, but that they should be adhered to."

REVISION OF PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposed Constituency	Revised Recommendations
1. Loughside	Name to be "North Down"
2. Lagan	(i) Name to be "Lagan Valley" (ii) The 3 wards of Quilly, Dromore and Skeagh to be excluded from this proposed constituency. (iii) The Carryduff ward to be included in this proposed constituency and excluded from the proposed Strangford constituency.
3. South Down	The 3 wards of Quilly, Dromore and Skeagh to be included in this proposed constituency.
4. Strangford	The Carryduff ward to be excluded from this proposed constituency.
5. East Antrim	(i) The 3 wards of Braden, Dunanney and Cloughfern to be included in this proposed constituency and excluded from the proposed South Antrim Constituency. (ii) The 2 wards of Jordanstown and Ballynure to be excluded from this proposed constituency.
6. South Antrim	(i) The 3 wards of Braden, Dunanney and Cloughfern to be excluded from this proposed constituency. (ii) The 2 wards of Jordanstown and Ballynure to be included in this proposed constituency.

NOTE

Our Provisional Recommendations were not revised except in the manner and to the extent expressly stated above.

LIST OF THOSE WHO MADE REPRESENTATIONS ON THE REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Mr L F Quigg
2. Carrickfergus Borough Council
3. Down District Council
4. Craigavon Borough Council
5. Mr D Bustard
6. Newtownabbey Borough Council
7. Councillor J Curry - Down District Council
8. Councillor P O'Donoghue
9. Social Democratic and Labour Party
10. Councillor E G O'Neill - Down District Council
11. E K McGrady Esq
12. Ulster Unionist Council
13. Coleraine Borough Council
14. J Donnelly Esq
15. N Devon Esq
16. Castlereagh Borough Council

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS
COMPOSITION OF CONSTITUENCIES

The composition and designation of each constituency is set out in the following paragraphs and the boundaries of each such constituency are shown on a map at Appendix 9.

1. North Down (County Constituency)

All the wards in North Down local government district and the 6 Castlereagh wards of Dundonald, Carrowreagh, Enler, Ballyanwood, Tullycarnet and Gilnahirk.

2. Strangford (County Constituency)

All the wards in Ards local government district and the 8 Castlereagh wards of Upper Braniel, Lower Braniel, Hillfoot, Fourwinds, Moneyreagh, Beechill, Minnowburn and Newtownbreda.

3. South Down (County Constituency)

All the wards in Down local government district, the 8 Banbridge wards of Croob, Quilly, Dromore, Skeagh, Ballyoolymore, Annaclone, Drumadonnell and Garran and the 13 Newry and Mourne wards of Donaghmore, Drumgath, Rathfriland, Spelga, Seaview, Rostrevor, Lisnacree, Cranfield, Kilkeel, Binnian, Annalong, Ballycrossan and Clonallan.

4. Lagan Valley (County Constituency)

All the wards in the Lisburn local government district and the Castlereagh Ward of Carryduff.

5. Upper Bann (County Constituency)

All the wards in the Craigavon local government district and the 7 Banbridge wards of Seapatrick, Ballydown, Central, Edenderry, Lawrencetown, Gilford and Loughbrickland.

6. Newry and Armagh (County Constituency)

All the wards in the Armagh local government district and the 17 Newry and Mourne wards of Windsor Hill, St Patrick's, St Mary's, Drumalane, Daisy Hill, Ballybot, Drumgullion, Fathom, Derrymore, Bessbrook, Tullyhappy, Belleek, Camlough, Forkhill, Creggan, Crossmaglen and Newtownhamilton.

7. Fermanagh and South Tyrone (County Constituency)

All the wards in the Fermanagh and Dungannon local government districts.

8. Mid-Ulster (County Constituency)

All the wards in the Omagh and Cookstown local government districts, the 8 Strabane wards of Glenderg, Clare, Newtownstewart, Castlederg, Plumbridge, Victoria Bridge, Sion Mills and Finn and the 3 Magherafelt wards of Draperstown, Lecumpher and Ballymaguigan.

9. Foyle (County Constituency)

All the wards in the Londonderry local government district and the 7 Strabane wards of Dunnamanagh, Slievekirk, Artigarvan, North, West, East and South.

10. East Londonderry (County Constituency)

All the wards in the Limavady and Coleraine local government districts and the 12 Magherafelt wards of Swatragh, Lower Glenshane, Maghera, Tobermore, Upperlands, Valley, Gulladuff, Knockcloughrim, Bellaghy, Castledawson, Town Parks West and Town Parks East.

11. North Antrim (County Constituency)

All the wards in the Moyle, Ballymoney and Ballymena local government districts.

12. East Antrim (County Constituency)

All the wards in the Larne and Carrickfergus local government districts and the 9 Newtownabbey wards of Rostulla, Monkstown, Whiteabbey, Coole, Hopefield, Whitehouse, Braden, Dunanney and Cloughfern.

13. South Antrim (County Constituency)

All the wards in Antrim local government district and the 12 Newtownabbey wards of Jordanstown, Ballynure, Whitewell, Glengormley, Mossgrove, Ballyhenry, Mossley, Carnmoney, Mallusk, Doagh, Ballyeaston and Ballyclare.

14. Belfast North (Borough Constituency)

The following 14 Belfast wards - Woodvale, Legoniel, Ardoyne, Ballysillan, Crumlin, New Lodge, Shankill, Cliftonville, Cavehill, Castleview, Fortwilliam, Grove, Duncairn and Bellevue.

15. Belfast West (Borough Constituency)

The 14 Belfast wards of Ladybrook, Suffolk, Andersonstown, Milltown, St James, Whiterock, Highfield, Ballygomartin, Clonard, Grosvenor, Falls, North Howard, Court and Central.

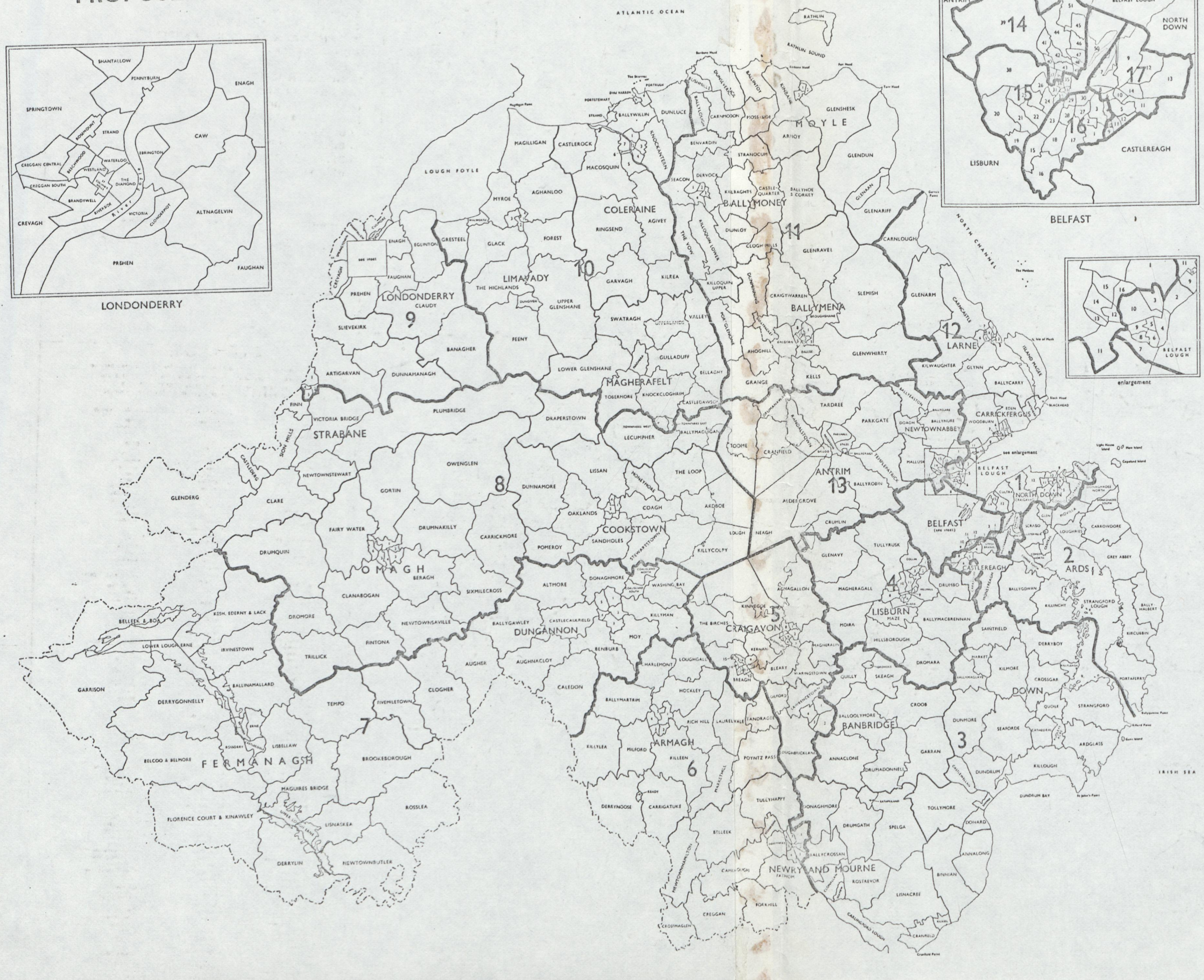
16. Belfast South (Borough Constituency)

The 13 Belfast wards of Willowfield, Rosetta, Ballynafeigh, Ormeau, Finaghy, Upper Malone, Stranmillis, Malone, University, Windsor, Donegall, St George's and Cromac.

17. Belfast East (Borough Constituency)

The 10 Belfast wards of Orangefield, The Mount, Ballymacarrett, Island, Sydenham, Bloomfield, Shandon, Belmont, Stormont and Ballyhackamore and the 4 Castlereagh wards of Wynchurch, Cregagh, Downshire and Lisnasharragh.

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
PROPOSED UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES



PROPOSED UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY NAMES

1 NORTH DOWN
2 STRANGFORD
3 SOUTH DOWN
4 LAGAN VALLEY
5 UPPER BANN
6 NEWRY AND ARMAGH
7 FERMANAGH AND SOUTH TYRONE
8 MID-ULSTER
9 FOYLE
10 EAST LONDONDERRY
11 NORTH ANTRIM
12 EAST ANTRIM
13 SOUTH ANTRIM
14 BELFAST NORTH
15 BELFAST WEST
16 BELFAST SOUTH
17 BELFAST EAST

(1) Proposed Parliamentary Constituency Boundary
(2) District boundary and name — LARNE
(3) Ward boundary and name — LISSAN
(4) International boundary

OMITTED WARD NAMES

Some ward names have had to be omitted from the body of the map because of insufficient space. In place of the names, numbers have been inserted and the names are listed below against these numbers, district by district. For Belfast and Londonderry districts enlarged insets have been provided.

ARMAGH
1 THE MALL
2 DEMESNE
3 DOWNS
4 LURGYVALLEN
5 LISANALLY

BALLYMENA
1 DUNCLUG
2 CASTLE DEMESNE
3 BALLYKEEL
4 HARRYVILLE
5 WAVENEY
6 FAIR GREEN
7 PARK
8 BALLYLOUGHAN

BALLYMONEY
1 THE HILLS
2 NEWHILL
3 TOWN PARKS
4 FAIRHILL

BANBRIDGE
1 SEAPATRICK
2 BALLYDOWN
3 CENTRAL
4 EDENDERRY

BELFAST
1 ROSETTA
2 BALLYNAFEIGH
3 ORMEAU
4 WILLOWFIELD
5 ORANGEFIELD
6 THE MOUNT
7 ISLAND
8 BALLYMACARRETT
9 SYDENHAM
10 BLOOMFIELD
11 SHANDON
12 BELMONT
13 STORMONT
14 BALLYHACKAMORE
15 FINAGHY
16 UPPER MALONE
17 STRANMILLIS
18 MALONE
19 LADYBROOK
20 SUFFOLK
21 ANDERSONSTOWN
22 MILLTOWN
23 DONEGALL
24 ST JAMES'S
25 WHITEROCK
26 HIGHFIELD
27 UNIVERSITY
28 WINDSOR
29 ST GEORGE'S
30 CROMAC
31 CLONARD
32 GROSVENOR
33 FALLS
34 NORTH HOWARD
35 COURT
36 SHANKILL
37 WOODVALE
38 BALLYGOMARTIN
39 LEGONIEL
40 ARDOYNE
41 BALLYSILLAN
42 CLIFTONVILLE
43 CRUMLIN
44 CAVEHILL
45 CASTLEVIEW
46 FORTWILLIAM
47 GROVE
48 DUNCAIRN
49 NEW LODGE
50 CENTRAL
51 BELLEVUE

CARRICKFERGUS
1 BONEYBEFORE
2 VICTORIA
3 LOVE LANE
4 CASTLE
5 SUNNYLANDS
6 NORTHLAND
7 CLIPPERSTOWN
8 TROOPERSLANE
9 LOWER GREENISLAND
10 MIDDLE GREENISLAND
11 KNOCKAGH

CASTLEREAGH
1 TULLYCARNET
2 GILNAHIRK
3 LOWER BRANIEL
4 HILLFOOT
5 FOUR WINDS
6 BEECHILL
7 MINNOWBURN
8 NEWTOWNBREDA
9 WYNCHURCH
10 CREGAGH
11 DOWNSHIRE
12 LISNASHARRAGH

COLERAINE
1 UNIVERSITY
2 CENTRAL
3 CROSS GLEBE
4 MOUNT SANDEL
5 THE CUTS
6 CHURCHLAND
7 WATERSIDE

COOKSTOWN
1 NEWBUILDINGS
2 GORTALOWRY
3 TULLAGH
4 OLDTOWN

CRAIGAVON
1 BELLE VUE
2 PARKLAKE
3 KNOCKNASHANE
4 MOURNEVIEW
5 TAGHNEVAN
6 CHURCH
7 COURT
8 WOODVILLE
9 BACHELORS WALK
10 KILLYCOMAIN
11 ANNAGH
12 TAVANAGH
13 BROWNSTOWN
14 HARTFIELD
15 EDGARSTOWN
16 WOODSIDE

DUNGANNON
1 DRUMGLASS
2 KILLYMEAL
3 MOYGASHEL
4 KILLYMADDY
5 LISNAHULL

LARNE
1 BLACKCAVE
2 HARBOUR
3 TOWN PARKS
4 CENTRAL
5 ANTIVILLE
6 BALLYLORAN
7 CRAIGY HILL
8 GARDENMORE

LIMAVADY
1 RATHBRADY
2 COOLESSAN

LIMAVADY (cont'd)
3 ROESIDE
4 BINEVENAGH

LISBURN
1 DUNMURRY
2 SEYMOUR HILL
3 DERRYAGHY
4 LAMBEG
5 HILDEN
6 LAGAN VALLEY
7 OLD WARREN
8 KNOCKMORE
9 TONAGH
10 LISNAGARVY
11 MAGHERALAVE

MOYLE
1 DALRIADA
2 QUAY
3 KNOCKLAYD

NEWRY AND MOURNE
1 WINDSOR HILL
2 ST PATRICK'S
3 ST MARY'S
4 DRUMALANE
5 DAISY HILL
6 BALLYBOT
7 DRUMGULLION

NEWTOWNABBEY
1 JORDANSTOWN
2 ROSTULLA
3 MONKSTOWN
4 WHITEABBEY
5 COOLE
6 HOPEFIELD
7 WHITEHOUSE
8 BRADAN
9 DUNANNEY
10 CLOUGHFERN
11 WHITEWELL
12 GLENGORMLEY
13 MOSSGROVE
14 BALLYHENRY
15 MOSSLEY
16 CARNMONEY

NORTH DOWN
1 BALLYHOLME
2 CHURCHILL
3 BANGOR HARBOUR
4 BANGOR CASTLE
5 WHITEHILL
6 RATHGAEL
7 CLANDEBOYE
8 SILVERSTREAM
9 BRYANSBURN
10 PRINCETOWN
11 SPRING HILL
12 CRAWFORDSBURN
13 HOLYWOOD PRIORY
14 LOUGHVIEW
15 HOLYWOOD DEMESNE

OMAGH
1 KILLYCLOGHER
2 EAST
3 DRUMRAGH
4 DERGMONEY
5 FAIRGREEN
6 WEST
7 STRULE

STRABANE
1 NORTH
2 EAST
3 SOUTH
4 WEST

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ELECTORATE OF PROPOSED CONSTITUENCIES

Proposed Constituency (1)	Electorate at 22 March 1979 (2)	Percentage +/- Quota of 61,206 (3)	
North Down	59,563	-2.7	
Strangford	58,996	-3.6	
South Down	64,349	+5.1	
Lagan Valley	56,869	-7.1	
Upper Bann	59,613	-2.6	
Newry and Armagh	61,463	+0.4	
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	66,129	+8.0	
Mid Ulster	62,628	+2.3	
Foyle	63,486	+3.7	
East Londonderry	64,596	+5.5	
North Antrim	62,505	+2.1	
East Antrim	58,985	-3.6	
South Antrim	57,277	-6.4	
Belfast North	65,723	+7.4	
Belfast West	61,179	-0.1	
Belfast South	57,938	-5.3	
Belfast East	59,207	-3.3	

Total Electorate 1,040,506

FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

ON

THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS TO BE RETURNED TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY BY EACH PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY

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BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

FIRST SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

on

The number of members to be returned to the Northern Ireland Assembly by each Parliamentary Constituency

---

To the Right Honourable James Prior MP, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Introduction

1. In addition to submitting to the Secretary of State the foregoing Third Periodical Report ("the Main Report") showing the parliamentary constituencies into which we, the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland, recommend that the whole of Northern Ireland should be divided, we are required by section 28(2) of the Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973 ("the Constitution Act") to submit therewith a supplementary report showing the number of members which we recommend should be returned to the Northern Ireland Assembly by each of these proposed constituencies.

2. This is the first such Supplementary Report under the Constitution Act.

3. Details of the Commission's constitution will be found on page 2 of the Main Report.

4. During the course of our review of the distribution of Assembly seats there was no Northern Ireland Assembly in existence. The first, elected in 1973, had been dissolved on 28 March 1975 and no further election of members had taken place. Just as we were concluding our work, however the Northern Ireland Act 1982 was passed and this provides for fresh elections. This constitutional development has not in any way affected our statutory task which remains as provided by Parliament in the Constitution Act.

5. The starting point for our work on Assembly seats was our final recommendations in the Main Report on the parliamentary constituencies. These recommendations are described in appendices 8 and 9 to the main report.

Commission's functions

6. In relation to the Assembly the basic rule laid down by statute - section 1(2) of the Northern Ireland Assembly Act 1973 ("the Assembly Act") - is that the constituencies from time to time fixed for elections in Northern Ireland to the Westminster Parliament are also to be used for elections to the Assembly; and the only tasks to be performed by the Commission in relation to the Assembly are to review, and make recommendations upon -

(a) the total number of members to be elected to the Assembly from those constituencies; and

(b) the distribution of that number of members amongst those constituencies.

The number of members in the first Assembly was 78 and by the Assembly Act they were distributed over the then existing 12 parliamentary constituencies as follows:-

Constituency	Number of Members to be returned
Belfast East	6
Belfast North	6
Belfast South	6
Belfast West	6
North Antrim	7
South Antrim	8
Armagh	7
North Down	7
South Down	7
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	5
Londonderry	7
Mid Ulster	6

7. We have power to recommend that the number of members in the Assembly should be altered but that power is subject to the limitation that the Commission are not to make a recommendation whose effect would be "substantially to alter" the number of members specified in the Assembly Act, viz 78 (see s.28(3) of the Constitution Act).

As regards the Commission's power to make recommendations on the distribution of the total number of Assembly members among the parliamentary constituencies, the relevant statutory provision requires the Commission's recommendations to be "such as to secure, so far as practicable, that the ratio of the electorate of each constituency to the number of members to be returned by that constituency is the same in every constituency": (see s.28(3) of the Constitution Act).

Provisional Recommendations

9. Having regard to the statutory background just described we provisionally determined to recommend that there be no alteration in the total number of Assembly members and that that number (78) be distributed among the proposed 17 constituencies in the manner set out in the following table. Column (4) of the table shows the effect of the recommendations in relation to the statutory ratio requirement explained above.

(1) Proposed UK Parliamentary Constituency	(2) County or Borough Constituency	(3) Proposed number of members to be returned to the Northern Ireland Assembly by the Constituency	(4) Ratio of electors to each member in the Constituency
1. North Down	County	4	14,827
2. Strangford	"	4	14,717
3. South Down	"	5	12,822
4. Lagan Valley	"	4	14,163
5. Upper Bann	"	5	11,884
6. Newry and Armagh	"	5	12,234
7. Fermanagh & South Tyrone	"	5	13,108
8. Mid Ulster	"	5	12,590
9. Foyle	"	5	12,536
10. East Londonderry	"	5	12,871
11. North Antrim	"	5	12,481
12. East Antrim	"	4	14,716
13. South Antrim	"	4	14,293
14. Belfast North	Borough	5	13,114
15. Belfast West	"	5	12,212
16. Belfast South	"	4	14,423
17. Belfast East	"	4	14,776
		78 members	

10. In the course of our work we discovered what appears to be a "lacuna" or gap in the law. The electorate for the purposes of the first election to the Assembly in 1973 was the electorate which would then have been entitled to vote at a general election to the Parliament of Northern Ireland if such an election had then been held; but provision was made for the electorate for any subsequent Assembly election to be defined by order of the Secretary of State under section 29(2) of the Constitution Act. However, no such order has been made and, accordingly, the Commission was left in doubt as to the electorate on which we should base our calculations. The practical possibilities, as we saw them, were that we could use -

(a) the electorate for local government (ie district council) elections in Northern Ireland - this being the electorate which corresponds to the electorate for the 1973 Assembly elections and to the electorate for elections to the former Northern Ireland Parliament or, alternatively

(b) the electorate for elections in Northern Ireland to the Westminster Parliament.

At the relevant date for the purposes of the Commission's deliberations - 22 March 1979 - the total nett difference between (a) and (b) was 3,554 persons, the local government electorate being 1,036,952 and the United Kingdom parliamentary electorate being 1,040,506.

11. In the result we decided that the local government electorate was the appropriate one to use and the figures in the table published with our Provisional Recommendations (see paragraph 9 above) were therefore based upon this electorate. However we are entirely satisfied that had we decided to use the alternative (ie United Kingdom parliamentary electorate in Northern Ireland) the resulting distribution of Assembly seats would have been the same as set out in that table.

12. Formal notice of our Provisional Recommendations was published on 2 April 1982 in the same newspapers as carried out announcements about our main task (see paragraph 2.1 of the Main Report). This newspaper notice, a public statement and a map showing the proposed 17 parliamentary constituencies were all available for inspection at public libraries and district council offices. The notice and the

public statement invited representations within one month from 2 April

Representations received

13. As can be seen from the annexed list of representations received (Annex A) the publication of our Provisional Recommendations produced a considerable response - most of it alleging that the inequality between the proposed 4-seat and 5-seat constituencies created unfairness.

Revised Recommendations

14. We gave careful consideration to all the representations we received and, on balance, decided that our Provisional Recommendations should be revised, and that each of the 17 constituencies should have the same number of members, viz 5. This inevitably meant that our recommendations to the Secretary of State would include a recommendation that the total number of members in the Assembly should rise to 85.

15. In framing our Provisional Recommendations we had felt that it was desirable (if possible) to avoid an alteration in the total number of Assembly members as originally fixed by Parliament itself, and on this basis - which necessarily involved some constituencies having more seats than others - we had endeavoured to produce the fairest possible result within the limits set by our statutory powers. In putting forward our Revised Recommendations, however, we were satisfied that the proposed increase of 7 Assembly members could not fairly be described as altering "substantially" the number of Assembly members fixed by Parliament. The effect of the Revised Recommendations is shown in the following table. Column (4) of that table shows the effect of the revised Recommendations on the statutory ratio requirement explained in paragraph 8 above.

(1) Proposed UK Parliamentary Constituency	(2) County or Borough Constituency	(3) Proposed number of members to be returned to the Northern Ireland Assembly by the Constituency	(4) Ratio of electors to each member in the Constituency
1. North Down	County	5	11,862
2. Strangford	"	5	11,774
3. South Down	"	5	12,822
4. Lagan Valley	"	5	11,330
5. Upper Bann	"	5	11,884
6. Newry and Armagh	"	5	12,234
7. Fermanagh & South Tyrone	"	5	13,108
8. Mid Ulster	"	5	12,590
9. Foyle	"	5	12,536
10. East Londonderry	"	5	12,871
11. North Antrim	"	5	12,481
12. East Antrim	"	5	11,773
13. South Antrim	"	5	11,435
14. Belfast North	Borough	5	13,114
15. Belfast West	"	5	12,212
16. Belfast Wouth	"	5	11,539
17. Belfast East	"	5	11,820
		85 members	

16. Notice of these Revised Recommendations was published on 8 June 1982 in the same manner and to the same extent as notice for the Provisional Recommendations.

Final Recommendations

17. We received representations about our Revised Recommendations from the individuals and bodies listed in Annex B. Only one was critical and we came to the conclusion that no further revision was necessary. Thus, we decided that our Revised Recommendations as to the number and distribution of Assembly seats should become our Final Recommendations, and accordingly these are the Recommendations as set out in the table in para 15 above.

Concluding Comments

18. In conclusion we draw attention to an uncertainty in the law about our supplementary reports on Assembly seats. Section 28(4) of the Constitution Act specifically applies certain of the statutory provisions of the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 dealing with publication of notices of proposed reports, etc, to a

supplementary report, but this creates a doubt as to whether other provisions in the 1949 Act dealing with the publication of notices also apply to the supplementary report. For example, is it the law that para 3 of Part III of the First Schedule to the 1949 Act applies to a supplementary report? Again, is it the law that section 4(1) of the 1958 Act (also dealing with the publication of notices) applies to a supplementary report? In producing this first supplementary report we took the view that we should treat both para 3 and section 4(1) as applicable to our supplementary report so that maximum publicity would be given to our proposed recommendations and a full opportunity made available for objections. We feel, however, that at the next opportunity for legislation appropriate provision should be enacted to clear up any doubts for the future. The gap in the law to which we refer in paragraph 10 of this supplementary report can of course be closed by ministerial order and will not necessarily need to be dealt with by statute.

19. The Assessors and Secretariat were, of course, involved in the preparation of this Supplementary Report as well as our Main Report and our recognition in paragraphs 4.8 and 4.9 of the Main Report of their excellent work extends also to their work in connection with this Supplementary Report.

Donald Murray

Deputy Chairman

Secretary

Date 27 October 1982

LIST OF PERSONS AND BODIES WHO MADE REPRESENTATIONS ON THE COMMISSION'S PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON NI ASSEMBLY SEATS

P J Emerson Esq

North Down Alliance Party

Carrickfergus Borough Council

The Alliance Party of Northern Ireland

Ulster Democratic Unionist Party - South Antrim Standing Committee

Newtownabbey Borough Council

Castlereagh Borough Council

Lisburn Borough Council

North Down Borough Council

Ulster Unionist Council

Ulster Democratic Unionist Party, North Antrim Association

Ulster Democratic Unionist Party (Headquarters)

Ulster Democratic Unionist Party North Down Imperial Association

N Devon Esq

Social Democratic and Labour Party

Dr J Ford

Alderman P Robinson MP

Belfast City Council

Larne Borough Council

LIST OF PERSONS AND BODIES WHO MADE REPRESENTATIONS ON THE COMMISSION'S REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS ON NI ASSEMBLY SEATS

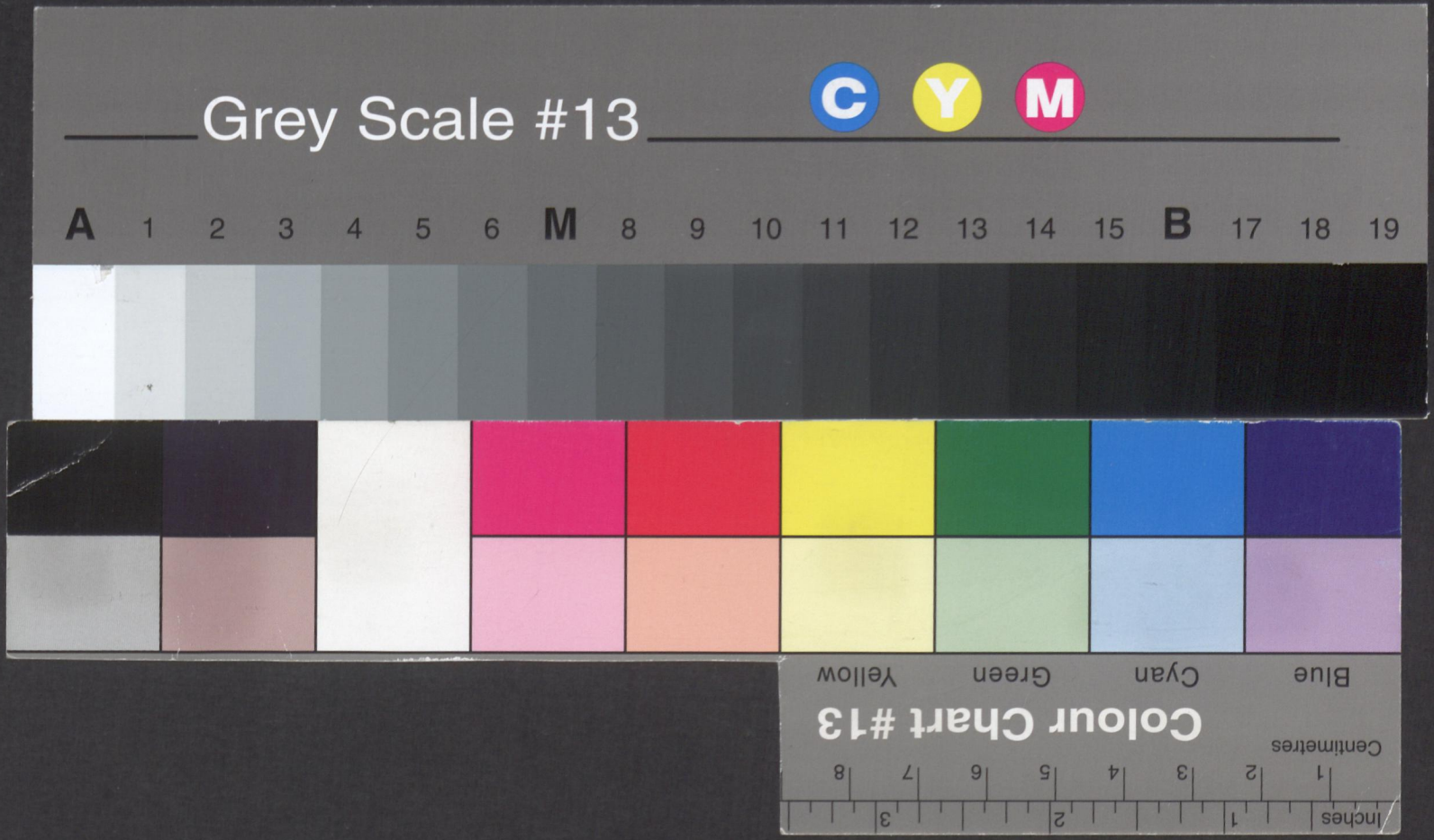
Belfast City Council

Patrick McGarry Esq BA, DMS, MBIM

P J Emerson Esq

Castlereagh Borough Council

North Down Borough Council


Grey Scale #13
C
Y
M
A 1 2 3 4 5 6 M 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 B 17 18 19
Colour Chart #13
Blue
Cyan
Green
Yellow
Centimeters
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Inches
1 2 3