



10 DOWNING STREET

Private and Confidential.

2nd June, 1981

See Patrick,

BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

You may have seen my earlier correspondence with Leon Brittan about this subject, in which the Prime Minister takes a keen interest.

I enclose a copy of a letter dated 22nd May, which I have received from Bob Dunn, which is typical of similar representations which have been made to me by others of our backbenchers.

Would you be kind enough, please, to let me know the present position about the Boundary Commission's for England, Wales and Scotland?

Am I right in thinking that ministerial responsibility for Northern Ireland rests with Humphrey rather than with Willie?

Ian Gow

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Patrick Mayhew, Esq., QC, MP.



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BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Thank you for your letter of 22nd May.

I will discuss this with the Home Secretary, and will write to you again, as soon as I have done so.

Ian Gow

Robert Dunn, Esq., M.P.

From: Robert J. Dunn M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

22nd May 1981

Ian Gow, Esq. M.P.
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Ian,

As you know, Lord Thorneycroft informed the 1922 Committee some eighteen months ago that Parliamentary boundary changes would be ratified and completed by 1982. Earlier this week my Constituency Chairman was informed that this was now not likely to happen, and further that there was a chance that the work of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission would not be completed in time for the next General Election.

This view was advanced by South East Area Office as a result of the poor progress currently being made by the Parliamentary Boundary Commissioners.

I am most disturbed at this turn of events both from a selfish and Party point of view. In my own case the "new" Dartford takes in 10,000 voters from the Sevenoaks constituency which means a net contribution of some 3,000 Conservative votes. For the Party at large it is expected that a gain of some 20-25 seats will take place as a result of boundary changes.

I am most concerned that there is a possibility that the Commission will not complete their investigations in time for the next Parliamentary election, and I would be grateful for your comments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bob' with a horizontal line underneath.

ROBERT J. DUNN M.P.