



# Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986

## 1986 CHAPTER 56

x1

An Act to consolidate the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Acts 1949 to 1979 and certain related enactments. [7th November 1986]

Be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

### Editorial Information

- X1** A Table showing the derivation of the provisions of this consolidation Act will be found at the end of the Act. The Table has no official status

### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Act: functions of the Secretary of State made exercisable concurrently with the Lord Chancellor (25.11.2002) by [The Transfer of Functions \(Transport, Local Government and the Regions\) Order 2002 \(S.I. 2002/2626\)](#), [art. 11\(1\)](#), [Sch. 1](#) (with arts. 12, 13)
- C2** Act extended (1.12.1998) by [1998 c. 38, s. 2, Sch. 1 para. 3](#) (with ss. 139(2), 143(2); S.I. 1998/2789, [art. 2](#))  
Act modified (1.12.1998) by [1998 c. 38, s. 2, Sch. 1 para. 9\(1\)](#) (with ss. 139(2), 143(2)); S.I. 1998/2789, [art. 2A](#)  
Act extended (2.12.1999) by [1998 c. 47, s. 33\(3\)](#) (with s. 95): S.I. 1999/3209, [art. 2, Sch.](#)
- C3** Act: functions transferred (19.8.2003) by virtue of the [The Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs Order 2003 \(S.I. 2003/1887\)](#), [art. 4, Sch. 1](#)
- C4** Act functions made exercisable concurrently (18.8.2010) by [Lord President of the Council Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/1837\)](#), [arts. 1\(2\), 3](#)
- C5** Act modified (16.2.2011) by [Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 \(c. 1\)](#), [s. 13\(6\)](#) (with [s. 13\(5\)](#))
- C6** Act power to apply or incorporate (with modifications) conferred (15.9.2011) by [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 \(c. 13\)](#), [s. 58\(1\)-\(3\)](#), (7)
- C7** Act power to apply or incorporate (with modifications) conferred (25.4.2012) by [Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 \(c. 13\)](#), [s. 54\(2\)-\(5\)](#), 157(1); S.I. 2012/1129, [art. 2\(b\)](#)

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*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. (See end of Document for details)*

- C8** Act functions transferred (22.6.2015) by [The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Order 2015 \(S.I. 2015/1376\)](#), arts. 1(2), 3(1), **Sch. 1** (with art. 9)
- C9** Act power to apply (with modifications) conferred by 1998 c. 46, ss. 12(4), 12(5) (as substituted (18.5.2017) by [Scotland Act 2016 \(c. 11\)](#), ss. 4(1), 72(4)(a); S.I. 2017/608, reg. 2(1)(b))

#### Commencement Information

- I1** Act wholly in force at 7.2.1987 see s. 9(2)

## 1 Parliamentary constituencies.

- (1) There shall for the purpose of parliamentary elections by the county and borough constituencies (or in Scotland the county and burgh constituencies), each returning a single member, which are described in Orders in Council made under this Act.
- (2) In this Act and, except where the context otherwise requires, in any Act passed after the Representation of the <sup>M1</sup>People Act 1948, “constituency” means an area having separate representation in the House of Commons.

#### Marginal Citations

- M1** 1948 c. 65.

## 2 The Boundary Commissions.

- (1) For the purpose of the continuous review of the distribution of seats at parliamentary elections, there shall continue to be four permanent Boundary Commissions, namely a Boundary Commission for England, a Boundary Commission for Scotland, a Boundary Commission for Wales and a Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland.
- (2) Schedule 1 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the constitution of, and other matters relating to, the Boundary Commissions.

## 3 Reports of the Commissions.

- (1) Each Boundary Commission shall keep under review the representation in the House of Commons of the part of the United Kingdom with which they are concerned and shall, in accordance with subsection (2) below, submit to the Secretary of State reports with respect to the whole of that part of the United Kingdom, either—
- (a) Showing the constituencies into which they recommend that it should be divided in order to give effect to the rules set out in <sup>F1</sup>Schedule 2 to this Act], or
  - (b) stating that, in the opinion of the Commission, no alteration is required to be made in respect of that part of the United Kingdom in order to give effect to the said rules <sup>F2</sup>....
- <sup>F3</sup>(2) A Boundary Commission shall submit reports under subsection (1) above periodically—
- (a) <sup>F4</sup>[before 1st October 2018 but not before 1st September 2018], and
  - (b) before 1st October of every fifth year after that.]

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<sup>F5</sup>[(2A) A failure by a Boundary Commission to submit a report within the time limit which is appropriate to that report shall not be regarded as invalidating the report for the purposes of any enactment.]

[<sup>F6</sup>(2B) In relation to any report which a Boundary Commission are required by subsection (2) above to submit before a particular date but have not yet submitted (a “pending boundary report”), the Commission shall submit to the Speaker of the House of Commons—

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

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

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

<sup>F7</sup>(3) .....

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

[<sup>F8</sup>(5) As soon as may be after the submission of a report under subsection (1) above, the Secretary of State shall lay the report before Parliament.

(5A) As soon as may be after the submission of all four reports under subsection (1) above that are required by subsection (2) above to be submitted before a particular date, the Secretary of State shall lay before Parliament the draft of an Order in Council for giving effect to the recommendations contained in them.

(5B) Where—

- (a) a Boundary Commission have submitted a report under subsection (1) above (but no draft under subsection (5A) above has yet been laid in relation to the report),
- (b) the Commission notify the Secretary of State that the recommendations contained in the report are to have effect with specified modifications, and
- (c) the Commission submit to the Secretary of State a statement of the reasons for those modifications,

the draft under subsection (5A) above shall give effect to the recommendations with those modifications.

(5C) Subsections (5A) and (5B) above do not apply where each of the reports mentioned in subsection (5) above states that no alteration is required to be made in respect of the part of the United Kingdom with which the Commission in question are concerned.]

(6) Schedule 2 to this Act which contains the rules referred to above <sup>F9</sup>... shall have effect.

<sup>F10</sup>(7) .....

[<sup>F11</sup>(7A) In this section—

“the Secretary of State” means the Secretary of State or the Leader of the House of Commons;

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“the Leader of the House of Commons” means the Minister of the Crown (within the meaning of the Ministers of the Crown Act 1975) who is for the time being designated as Leader of the House of Commons by the Prime Minister.]

<sup>F10</sup>(8) .....

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 3(1)(a) substituted (16.2.2011) by Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 (c. 1), **ss. 10(2)(a)**, 19(1) (with s. 13(5))
- F2** Words in s. 3(1)(b) repealed (16.2.2011) by Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 (c. 1), **ss. 10(2)(b)**, 19(1), **Sch. 12** (with s. 13(5))
- F3** S. 3(2) substituted (16.2.2011) by Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 (c. 1), **ss. 10(3)**, 19(1) (with s. 13(5))
- F4** Words in s. 3(2)(a) substituted (23.4.2013) by Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (c. 6), **ss. 6(1)**, 27(1) (with Sch. 5); S.I. 2013/969, art. 2
- F5** S. 3(2A) inserted (12.11.1992) by Boundary Commissions Act 1992 (c. 55), **s. 2(4)**
- F6** S. 3(2B)(2C) inserted (16.2.2011) by Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 (c. 1), **ss. 10(4)**, 19(1) (with s. 13(5))
- F7** S. 3(3) repealed (16.2.2011) by Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 (c. 1), **ss. 10(5)**, 19(1), **Sch. 12** (with s. 13(5))
- F8** S. 3(5)-(5C) substituted for s. 3(5) (16.2.2011) by Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 (c. 1), **ss. 10(6)**, 19(1) (with s. 13(5))
- F9** Words in s. 3(6) omitted (16.2.2011) by virtue of Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 (c. 1), **s. 19(1)**, **Sch. 12 Pt. 2** (with s. 13(5))
- F10** S. 3(7)(8) repealed (16.2.2011) by Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 (c. 1), **ss. 10(7)**, 19(1), **Sch. 12** (with s. 13(5))
- F11** S. 3(7A) inserted (9.11.2016) by The Transfer of Functions (Elections, Referendums, Third Sector and Information) Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/997), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 5(2)** (with art. 12)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C10** Ss. 3, 4 functions transferred (9.11.2016) by The Transfer of Functions (Elections, Referendums, Third Sector and Information) Order 2016 (S.I. 2016/997), arts. 1(2), **5** (with arts. 6, 12)
- C11** S. 3(1) amended (12.11.1992) by Boundary Commissions Act 1992 (c. 55), **s. 2(1)(2)**

PROSPECTIVE

#### <sup>F12</sup>**3A Reviews and proposed recommendations by Boundary Committees.**

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#### Textual Amendments

- F12** S. 3A inserted (prosp.) by 2000 c. 41, **ss. 16**, 163(2), **Sch. 3 Pt. 1 para. 3** (with s. 156(6)) (which amending Sch. 3 Pt. 1 was repealed (1.4.2010) by 2009 c. 20, **ss. 61(3)(d)(e)**, 148(3)(b), **Sch. 7 Pt. 3**; S.I. 2009/3318, art. 4(j)(hh))

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#### 4 Orders in Council.

- (1) The draft of any Order in Council laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State under this Act for giving effect, whether with or without modifications, to the recommendations contained in the report of a Boundary Commission may make provision for any matters which appear to him to be incidental to, or consequential on, the recommendations.
  - (2) Where any such draft gives effect to any such recommendations with modifications, the Secretary of State shall lay before Parliament together with the draft [<sup>F13</sup>the statement submitted under section 3(5B)(c) above] of the reasons for the modifications.
  - (3) If any such draft is approved by resolution of each House of Parliament, the Secretary of State shall submit it to Her Majesty in Council.
  - (4) If a motion for the approval of any such draft is rejected by either House of Parliament or withdrawn by leave of the House, the Secretary of State may amend the draft and lay the amended draft before Parliament, and if the draft as so amended is approved by resolution of each House of Parliament, the Secretary of State shall submit it to Her Majesty in Council.
  - (5) Where the draft of an Order in Council is submitted to Her Majesty in Council under this Act, Her Majesty in Council may make an Order in terms of the draft which (subject to subsection (6) below) shall come into force on such date as may be specified in the Order and shall have effect notwithstanding anything in any enactment.
  - (6) The coming into force of any such Order shall not affect any parliamentary election [<sup>F14</sup>or] the constitution of the House of Commons until the dissolution of the Parliament then in being.
  - (7) The validity of any Order in Council purporting to be made under this Act and reciting that a draft of the Order has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament shall not be called in question in any legal proceedings whatsoever.
- [<sup>F15</sup>(8) In this section, “the Secretary of State” means the Secretary of State or the Leader of the House of Commons (within the meaning of section 3(7A)).]

#### Textual Amendments

- F13** Words in s. 4(2) substituted (16.2.2011) by [Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 \(c. 1\)](#), **ss. 10(8), 19(1)** (with s. 13(5))
- F14** Word in s. 4(6) substituted (15.9.2011) by [Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011 \(c. 14\)](#), s. 7(2), **Sch. para. 17** (with s. 6)
- F15** S. 4(8) inserted (9.11.2016) by [The Transfer of Functions \(Elections, Referendums, Third Sector and Information\) Order 2016 \(S.I. 2016/997\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 5(3)** (with art. 12)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C10** Ss. 3, 4 functions transferred (9.11.2016) by [The Transfer of Functions \(Elections, Referendums, Third Sector and Information\) Order 2016 \(S.I. 2016/997\)](#), arts. 1(2), **5** (with arts. 6, 12)
- C12** S. 4 modified (19.11.1998) by [1998 c. 46](#), s. 1, **Sch. 1 para. 4** (with s. 126(3)-(11))

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## [<sup>F16</sup>5] **Publicity and consultation**

- (1) Once a Boundary Commission have decided what constituencies they propose to recommend in a report under section 3(1)(a) above—
  - (a) the Commission shall take such steps as they think fit to inform people in each of the proposed constituencies—
    - (i) what the proposals are,
    - (ii) that a copy of the proposals is open to inspection at a specified place within the proposed constituency, and
    - (iii) that written representations with respect to the proposals may be made to the Commission during a specified period of 12 weeks (“the initial consultation period”);
  - (b) the Commission shall cause public hearings to be held during the period beginning with the fifth week of the initial consultation period and ending with the tenth week of it.
- (2) Subsection (1)(a)(ii) above does not apply to a constituency with respect to which no alteration is proposed.
- (3) Schedule 2A to this Act, which makes further provision about public hearings under subsection (1)(b) above, has effect.
- (4) After the end of the initial consultation period the Commission—
  - (a) shall publish, in such manner as they think fit, representations made as mentioned in subsection (1)(a) above and records of public hearings held under subsection (1)(b) above;
  - (b) shall take such steps as they think fit to inform people in the proposed constituencies that further written representations with respect to the things published under paragraph (a) above may be made to the Commission during a specified period of four weeks (“the secondary consultation period”).
- (5) If after the end of the secondary consultation period the Commission are minded to revise their original proposals so as to recommend different constituencies, they shall take such steps as they see fit to inform people in each of those revised proposed constituencies—
  - (a) what the revised proposals are,
  - (b) that a copy of the revised proposals is open to inspection at a specified place within the revised proposed constituency, and
  - (c) that written representations with respect to the revised proposals may be made to the Commission during a specified period of eight weeks.
- (6) Subsection (5) above does not apply to any proposals to make further revisions.
- (7) Steps taken under subsection (4) or (5) above need not be of the same kind as those taken under subsection (1) above.
- (8) A Boundary Commission shall take into consideration—
  - (a) written representations duly made to them as mentioned in subsection (1)(a), (4)(b) or (5)(c) above, and
  - (b) representations made at public hearings under subsection (1)(b) above.
- (9) Except as provided by this section and Schedule 2A to this Act, a Boundary Commission shall not cause any public hearing or inquiry to be held for the purposes of a report under this Act.

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(10) Where a Boundary Commission publish—

- (a) general information about how they propose to carry out their functions (including, in the case of the Boundary Commission for England, information about the extent (if any) to which they propose to take into account the boundaries mentioned in rule 5(2) of Schedule 2 to this Act), or
- (b) anything else to which subsection (1), (4) or (5) above does not apply, it is for the Commission to determine whether to invite representations and, if they decide to do so, the procedure that is to apply.]

**Textual Amendments**

**F16** S. 5 substituted (16.2.2011) by [Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 \(c. 1\)](#), ss. **12(1)**, 19(1)

<sup>F17</sup> **6 Local inquiries.**

**Textual Amendments**

**F17** S. 6 repealed (16.2.2011) by [Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 \(c. 1\)](#), ss. **12(3)**, 19(1), [Sch. 12](#)

[<sup>F18</sup> **6A Functions of the Lord Chancellor**

<sup>F19</sup> ..... ]

**Textual Amendments**

**F18** S. 6A inserted (25.11.2002) by [The Transfer of Functions \(Transport, Local Government and the Regions\) Order 2002 \(S.I. 2002/2626\)](#), art. 20, [Sch. 2](#) {para. 14}

**F19** S. 6A repealed (19.8.2003) by [The Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs Order 2003 \(S.I. 2003/1887\)](#), art. 9, [Sch. 2 para. 7](#)

<sup>F20</sup> **6B Functions of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster**

**Textual Amendments**

**F20** S.6B omitted (9.11.2016) by [S.I. 2016/997](#), [Sch. 2 para. 5\(4\)](#) (with art. 12, 1(2))

**7 Consequential amendments.**

Schedule 3 to this Act shall have effect.

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## 8 Repeals and revocation.

- (1) The enactments specified in Schedule 4 to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule.
- (2) Article 2(7) of the <sup>M2</sup>Local Government Reorganisation (Consequential Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1973 is hereby revoked.

<sup>F21</sup>(3) .....

### Textual Amendments

**F21** S. 8(3) repealed (16.2.2011) by [Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 \(c. 1\)](#), s. 19(1), [Sch. 12 Pt. 2](#) (with s. 13(5))

### Marginal Citations

**M2** [S.I. 1973/2095](#).

## 9 Citation commencement and extent.

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



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## SCHEDULES

### SCHEDULE 1

Section 2.

#### THE BOUNDARY COMMISSIONS

##### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

**C13** Sch. 1 functions transferred (9.11.2016) by [The Transfer of Functions \(Elections, Referendums, Third Sector and Information\) Order 2016 \(S.I. 2016/997\)](#), arts. 1(2), 3(1), **Sch. 1(c)** (with arts. 3(2), 6, 12)

##### *Constitution*

- 1 The Speaker of the House of Commons shall be the chairman of each of the four Commissions.
  - 2 Each of the four Commissions shall consist of the chairman, a deputy chairman and two other members appointed by the Secretary of State.
  - 3 The deputy chairman—
    - (a) in the case of the Commission for England shall be a judge of the High Court appointed by the Lord Chancellor,
    - (b) in the case of the Commission for Scotland shall be a judge of the Court of Session appointed by the Lord President of the Court of Session,
    - (c) in the case of the Commission for Wales shall be a judge of the High Court appointed by the Lord Chancellor,
    - (d) in the case of the Commission for Northern Ireland shall be a judge of the High Court in Northern Ireland appointed by the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland.
  - 4 A Member of any Commission (other than the chairman) shall hold his appointment for such term and on such conditions as may be determined before his appointment by the person appointing him.
- <sup>F22</sup><sub>[</sub><sup>F23</sup>4A In the case of a member of a Commission other than the chairman or deputy chairman, the conditions referred to in paragraph 4 above may include such provisions with respect to remuneration as the Secretary of State may determine with the approval of the Treasury.]

##### Textual Amendments

**F22** Sch. 1 para. 4A explained (12.11.1992) by [Boundary Commissions Act 1992 \(c. 55\)](#), s. 1(3)

**F23** Sch. 1 para. 4A inserted (12.11.1992) by [Boundary Commissions Act 1992 \(c. 55\)](#), s. 1(1)(2)

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### Officers

- 5 The officers of each Commission shall include, as assessors, the following persons—
- (a) in the case of the Commission for England, [<sup>F24</sup> the Statistics Board] and the Director General of Ordnance Survey,
  - (b) in the case of the Commission for Scotland, the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Scotland and the Director General of Ordnance Survey,
  - (c) in the case of the Commission for Wales, [<sup>F24</sup> the Statistics Board] and the Director General of Ordnance Survey,
  - (d) in the case of the Commission for Northern Ireland, the Registrar General of Births and Deaths in Northern Ireland, the Commissioner of Valuation for Northern Ireland [<sup>F25</sup>, the] Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland [<sup>F26</sup> and the Chief Survey Officer of Land and Property Services].

#### Textual Amendments

**F24** Words in Sch. 1 para. 5(a)(c) substituted (1.4.2008) by [Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 \(c. 18\)](#), ss. 25(3), 74, [Sch. 1 para. 10](#); S.I. 2008/839, [art. 2](#)

**F25** Word in Sch. 1 para. 5(d) substituted (16.2.2011) by [Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 \(c. 1\)](#), ss. [10\(9\)\(a\)](#), 19(1) (with s. 13(5))

**F26** Words in Sch. 1 para. 5(d) inserted (16.2.2011) by [Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 \(c. 1\)](#), ss. [10\(9\)\(b\)](#), 19(1) (with s. 13(5))

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

**C14** Sch. 1 para. 5(a)(c): functions transferred (1.4.2008) by [Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 \(c. 18\)](#), ss. [25\(2\)\(c\)](#), 74; S.I. 2008/839, [art. 2](#)

- 6 (1) The Secretary of State may, at the request of any Commission, appoint one or more assistant Commissioners [<sup>F27</sup> to assist the Commission in the discharge of their functions.]
- (2) Any such assistant Commissioner shall be appointed either for a certain term or for the purposes of a particular [<sup>F28</sup> matter], and on such conditions as to remuneration and otherwise as may be determined before his appointment by the Secretary of State with the approval of the Treasury.

#### Textual Amendments

**F27** Words in Sch. 1 para. 6(1) substituted (16.2.2011) by [Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 \(c. 1\)](#), ss. [10\(10\)\(a\)](#), 19(1) (with s. 13(5))

**F28** Word in Sch. 1 para. 6(2) substituted (16.2.2011) by [Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 \(c. 1\)](#), ss. [10\(10\)\(b\)](#), 19(1) (with s. 13(5))

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

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### *Expenses*

- 8 The expenses of each Commission, [<sup>F29</sup>including the remuneration and travelling and other expenses of the members, assistant Commissioners], secretary and other officers, shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament.

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F29** Words in Sch. 1 para. 8 substituted (12.11.1992) by [Boundary Commissions Act 1992 \(c. 55\), s. 1\(4\)](#)

### *Proceedings and instruments*

- 9 A Commission shall have power to act notwithstanding a vacancy among their members, and at any meeting of a Commission two, or such greater number as the Commission may determine, shall be the quorum.
- 10 For the purpose of considering any matter of common concern, the Commissions, or any two or three of them, may hold joint meetings.
- 11 Subject to the provisions of this Act, each of the Commissions shall have power to regulate their own procedure.
- 12 Every document purporting to be an instrument made or issued by a Commission and to be signed by the secretary or any person authorised to act in that behalf, shall be received in evidence and shall, until the contrary is proved, be deemed to be an instrument made or issued by the Commission.

### *[<sup>F30</sup>Functions of the Minister for the Cabinet Office*

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F30** Sch. 1 para. 13 and cross-heading inserted (9.11.2016) by [The Transfer of Functions \(Elections, Referendums, Third Sector and Information\) Order 2016 \(S.I. 2016/997\), art. 1\(2\), Sch. 2 para. 5\(5\)](#) (with art. 12)

13. In this Schedule, “the Secretary of State” means the Secretary of State or the Minister for the Cabinet Office.]

## [<sup>F31</sup>SCHEDULE 2

Section 3

### RULES FOR DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F31** Sch. 2 substituted (16.2.2011) by [Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 \(c. 1\), ss. 11\(1\), 19\(1\)](#) (with s. 13(5))

### *Number of constituencies*

- 1 The number of constituencies in the United Kingdom shall be 600.

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*Electorate per constituency*

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

$$\frac{U}{596}$$

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

*Allocation of constituencies to parts of the United Kingdom*

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

*Area of constituencies*

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

*Factors*

- 5 (1) A Boundary Commission may take into account, if and to such extent as they think fit—
- (a) special geographical considerations, including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
  - (b) local government boundaries as they exist on the most recent ordinary council-election day before the review date;
  - (c) boundaries of existing constituencies;
  - (d) any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies;
  - (e) the inconveniences attendant on such changes.
- (2) The Boundary Commission for England may take into account, if and to such extent as they think fit, boundaries of the electoral regions specified in Schedule 1 to the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002 (ignoring paragraph 2(2) of that Schedule and the references to Gibraltar) as it has effect on the most recent ordinary council-election day before the review date.
- (3) This rule has effect subject to rules 2 and 4.

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*Status:* Point in time view as at 18/05/2017. This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

*Changes to legislation:* There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. (See end of Document for details)

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### *Protected constituencies*

- 6 (1) There shall be two constituencies in the Isle of Wight.
- (2) There shall continue to be—
- (a) a constituency named Orkney and Shetland, comprising the areas of the Orkney Islands Council and the Shetland Islands Council;
  - (b) a constituency named Na h-Eileanan an Iar, comprising the area of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.
- (3) Rule 2 does not apply to these constituencies.

### *Northern Ireland*

- 7 (1) In relation to Northern Ireland, sub-paragraph (2) below applies in place of rule 2 where—
- (a) the difference between—
    - (i) the electorate of Northern Ireland, and
    - (ii) the United Kingdom electoral quota multiplied by the number of seats in Northern Ireland (determined under rule 8),exceeds one third of the United Kingdom electoral quota, and
  - (b) the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland consider that having to apply rule 2 would unreasonably impair—
    - (i) their ability to take into account the factors set out in rule 5(1), or
    - (ii) their ability to comply with section 3(2) of this Act.
- (2) The electorate of any constituency shall be—
- (a) no less than whichever is the lesser of—
$$N - A$$
and 95% of the United Kingdom electoral quota, and
  - (b) no more than whichever is the greater of—
$$N + A$$
and 105% of the United Kingdom electoral quota,
- where—
- N is the electorate of Northern Ireland divided by the number of seats in Northern Ireland (determined under rule 8), and
- A is 5% of the United Kingdom electoral quota.

### *The allocation method*

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

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## 2C + 1

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

- (4) Where the figure given by sub-paragraph (3) above is the same for two or more parts of the United Kingdom, the part to which a constituency is to be allocated shall be the one with the smaller or smallest actual electorate.
- (5) This rule does not apply to the constituencies mentioned in rule 6, and accordingly—
  - (a) the electorate of England shall be treated for the purposes of this rule as reduced by the electorate of the constituencies mentioned in rule 6(1);
  - (b) the electorate of Scotland shall be treated for the purposes of this rule as reduced by the electorate of the constituencies mentioned in rule 6(2).

### *Interpretation*

- 9 (1) This rule has effect for the purposes of this Schedule.
- (2) The “electorate” of the United Kingdom, or of a part of the United Kingdom or a constituency, is the total number of persons whose names appear on the relevant version of a register of parliamentary electors in respect of addresses in the United Kingdom, or in that part or that constituency.

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

- (a) any power under that section to prescribe a later date, or
  - (b) subsection (1A) of that section.
- (3) “Local government boundaries” are—
    - (a) in England, the boundaries of counties and their electoral divisions, districts and their wards, London boroughs and their wards and the City of London,
    - (b) in Wales, the boundaries of counties, county boroughs, electoral divisions, communities and community wards,
    - (c) in Scotland, the boundaries of local government areas and the electoral wards into which they are divided under section 1 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2004, and
    - (d) in Northern Ireland, the boundaries of wards.
  - (4) “Ordinary council-election day” is—
    - (a) in relation to England and Wales, the ordinary day of election of councillors for local government areas;
    - (b) in relation to Scotland, the day on which the poll is held at ordinary elections of councillors for local government areas;
    - (c) in relation to Northern Ireland, the day of an election for any district council (other than an election to fill a casual vacancy).
  - (5) The “review date”, in relation to a report under section 3(1) of this Act that a Boundary Commission is required (by section 3(2)) to submit before a particular date, is two years and ten months before that date.
  - (6) “The United Kingdom electoral quota” has the meaning given by rule 2(3).

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- (7) A reference in rule 6 to an area is to the area as it existed on the coming into force of Part 2 of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011.]

[<sup>F32</sup>SCHEDULE 2A

Section 5

PUBLIC HEARINGS ABOUT BOUNDARY COMMISSION PROPOSALS

**Textual Amendments**

**F32** Sch. 2A inserted (16.2.2011) by Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 (c. 1), s. 19(1), Sch. 11 (with s. 13(5))

*Purpose of hearings*

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

*Number of hearings*

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

*Chair of hearing*

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

*Length of hearings*

- 4 A public hearing shall be completed within two days.

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### *Procedure at hearings*

- 5 It is for the chair of each public hearing to determine the procedure that is to govern that hearing.
- 6 The chair shall make arrangements for a public hearing to begin with an explanation of—
- (a) the proposals with which the hearing is concerned;
  - (b) how written representations about the proposals may be made (as mentioned in section 5(1)(a), (4)(b) or (5)(c) of this Act).
- 7 (1) The chair of a public hearing must allow representations to be made—
- (a) by each qualifying party;
  - (b) by any other persons (whether individuals or organisations) considered by the chair to have an interest in any of the proposals with which the hearing is concerned.
- Paragraph (b) above has effect subject to sub-paragraph (3)(b) below.
- (2) The chair may restrict the amount of time allowed for representations—
- (a) by qualifying parties, and
  - (b) by other persons,
- and need not allow the same amount to each.
- (3) The chair may determine—
- (a) the order in which representations are made, and
  - (b) if necessary because of shortage of time, which of those wishing to make representations are not allowed to do so,
- in whatever way the chair decides.
- 8 (1) The chair may put questions, or allow questions to be put, to a person present at the hearing.
- (2) If questions are allowed to be put, the chair may regulate the manner of questioning or restrict the number of questions a person may ask.

### *Interpretation*

- 9 In this Schedule—
- “the chair” means the person appointed under paragraph 3 above;
- “English region” means an electoral region specified in Schedule 1 to the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002 (ignoring paragraph 2(2) of that Schedule and the references to Gibraltar) as it has effect on the day referred to in rule 5(2) of Schedule 2 to this Act;
- “public hearing” means a hearing under section 5(1)(b) of this Act;
- “qualifying party” means a party that is registered under Part 2 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and either—
- (a) has at least one Member of the House of Commons representing a constituency in the region, or (as the case may be) the part of the United Kingdom, in which the hearing is held, or
  - (b) received at least 10% of the votes cast in that region or part in the most recent parliamentary general election.]



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*Changes to legislation:* There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. (See end of Document for details)

## SCHEDULE 3

Section 7.

### CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

#### *The Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973*

F33<sup>1</sup> .....

#### Textual Amendments

**F33** Sch. 3 para. 1 repealed (2.12.1999) by 1998 c. 47, s. 100(2), **Sch. 15** (with s. 95): S.I. 1999/3209, art. 2, **Sch.**

F34<sup>2</sup> .....

#### Textual Amendments

**F34** Sch. 3 para. 2 repealed (2.12.1999) by 1998 c. 47, s. 100(2), **Sch. 15** (with s. 95): S.I. 1999/3209, art. 2, **Sch.**

#### *The House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975*

3 In Part III of Schedule 1 to the <sup>M3</sup>House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 for the words “Part I or Part II of Schedule 1 to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949” there shall be substituted the words “Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986”.

#### Marginal Citations

**M3** 1975 c. 24.

#### *The Northern Ireland Assembly Disqualification Act 1975*

4 In Part III of Schedule 1 to the <sup>M4</sup>Northern Ireland Assembly Disqualification Act 1975 for the words “Part I or Part II of Schedule 1 to the House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949” there shall be substituted the words “Schedule 1 to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986”.

#### Marginal Citations

**M4** 1975 c. 25.

#### *The [<sup>F35</sup>European Parliamentary] Elections Act 1978*

#### Textual Amendments

**F35** Words substituted retrospectively by virtue of **European Communities (Amendment) Act 1986** (c. 58, SIF 29:5), s. 3(1)(b)(3)

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F36<sup>5</sup> .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F36** Sch. 3 para. 5 repealed (1.5.1999) by 1999 c. 1, s. 3(3), **Sch. 4**; S.I. 1999/717, **art. 2(1)** (with art. 2(3))

*The Finance (No. 2) Act 1983*

F37<sup>6</sup> .....

**Textual Amendments**

**F37** Sch. 3 para. 6 repealed (6.3.1992 with effect as mentioned in s. 289(1)(2) of the repealing Act) by Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 (c. 12), ss. 289, 290, **Sch.12** (with s. 201(3), Sch. 11 paras. 22, 26(2), 27)

SCHEDULE 4

Section 8.

REPEALS

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

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*Changes to legislation:* There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. (See end of Document for details)

1986 c. 12.	The Statute Law (Repeals) Act 1986.	In Schedule 2, paragraph 4(1).
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PROSPECTIVE

## TABLE OF DERIVATIONS

*Note:* The following abbreviations are used in this Table:—

1949 =	The House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1949 (12, 13 & 14 Geo. 6 c. 66)
1958 =	The House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1958 (6 & 7 Eliz. 2. c. 26)
1963 =	The London Government Act 1963 (c. 33)
1972 =	The Local Government Act 1972 (c. 70)
1973 =	The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (c. 65)
1979 =	The House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1979 (c. 15)
SL(R) 1986 =	The Statute Law Repeals Act 1986 (c. 12)
S.I. 1951/753 =	The Transfer of Function (Minister of Health and Minister of Local Government and Planning) (No. 2) Order 1951 (S.I. 1951/753)
S.I. 1968/1656 =	The Minister for the Civil Service Order 1968 (S.I. 1968/1656)
S.I. 1970/1681 =	The Secretary of State for the Environment Order 1970 (S.I. 1970/1681)
S.I. 1973/2095 =	The Local Government reorganisation (Consequential Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1973 (S.I. 1973/2095)
S.I. 1981/1670 =	The Transfer of Functions (Minister for the Civil Service and Treasury) Order 1981 (S.I. 1981/1670)

**Provision**

**Derivation**

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1(1)	Representation of the People Act 1948 (c. 65) s. 1(1); SL(R) 1986 Sch. 2, para. 4(1).
(2)	1949 s. 4.
2(1)	1949 s. 1(1).
(2)	Introduces Schedule 1.
3(1)	1949 s. 2(1); 1958 s. 2(2).
(2)	1958 s. 2(1).
(3)	1949 s. 2(3); 1958 s. 2(2).
(4)	1949 ss. 3(1), 6.
(5)	1949 s. 2(5).
(6)	Introduces Schedule 2.
4(1)(4)	1949 s. 3(2)(5).
(5),(6)	1949 s. 3(6).
(7)	1949 s. 3(7).
5(1)	1949 s. 2(4).
(2)	1949 Sch. 1 Pt. III, para. 3.
(3)	1958 s. 4(1).
6(1)	1949 Sch. 1 Pt. III, para. 4.
(2),(3)	1958 s. 4(2).
(4)	1958 s. 4(3), (4); 1972 s. 179(3); 1973 Sch. 3, para. 19; S.I. 1973/2095 Art. 2(7).
(5),(6)	1949 Sch. 1 Pt. III, para. 5(1)(2); 1972 s. 272(2).
(7)	1949 Sch. 1 Pt. III, para. 5(3).
79	
Sch. 1	
para.1)	1949 Sch. 1 Pt. I, para. 1.
2	1949 Sch. 1 Pt. I, paras, 25; 1958 Sch., para. 1; S.I. 1951/753 Art. 8(1); S.I. 1970/1681 Art. 6(3).
3	1958 s. 1(1), Sch. para. 1.
4	1949 Sch. 1 Pt. I, para. 8; 1958 s. 1(1).
5	1958 s. 1(2); Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973 (c. 36) s. 28(7).
6, 7	1949 Sch. 1 Pt. II, paras. 1, 2; S.I. 1968/1656 Art. 3(2); S.I. 1981/1670 Art. 3(5).
8	1949 Sch. 1 Pt. II, para. 3.

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9, 10	1949 Sch. 1 Pt. III, paras. 1, 2.
11, 12	1949 Sch. 1 Pt. III, paras. 6, 7.
Provision	Derivation
Sch. 2	
1(1)(3)	1949 Sch. 2, para. 1.
(4)	1949 Sch. 2, para. 1; 1979 s. 1(1), (2).
2, 3	1949 Sch. 2, paras. 2, 3.
4	1949 Sch. 2, para. 4; 1963 Sch. 3 Pt. II, para. 21; 1973 Sch. 3, para. 1; S.I. 1973/2095 Art. 2(7).
5, 6	1949 Sch. 2, paras. 5, 6.
7	1958 s. 2(2).
8	1949 Sch. 2, para. 7; 1958 s. 3, Sch., para. 2.
9	Interpretation.
Sch. 3.	
Sch. 4	

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**Status:**

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**Changes to legislation:**

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