

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the
Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, SCHEDULE 2. (See end of Document for details)*

SCHEDULES

[^{F1}SCHEDULE 2

Section 3

RULES FOR DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS

Textual Amendments

- F1** 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 [^{F2}650].

Textual Amendments

- F2** Word in [Sch. 2 rule 1](#) substituted (14.12.2020) by [Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 \(c. 25\)](#), **ss. 5, 14(2)** (with s. 13(2))

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—^{F3}

U645

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

Textual Amendments

- F3** Sch. 2 rule 2(3) formula: "645" substituted for "596" (14.12.2020) by [Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 \(c. 25\)](#), s. 14(2), **Sch. para. 4(2)** (with s. 13(2))

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).

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- (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;
 - [^{F4}(b) local government boundaries which exist, or are prospective, on the review date;]
 - (c) boundaries of existing constituencies;
 - (d) any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies;
 - (e) the inconveniences attendant on such changes.
- [^{F5}(1A) In the case of a local government boundary which is prospective on the review date, it is that boundary rather than any existing boundary which it replaces, which may be taken into account under sub-paragraph (1)(b).]
- (2) The Boundary Commission for England may take into account, if and to such extent as they think fit, [^{F6}boundaries of the English regions specified in sub-paragraph (2A) as they exist on the most recent ordinary council-election day before the review date].
- [^{F7}(2A) The English regions listed in column (1) of the Table below comprise the areas specified in column (2) of the Table (and a reference to an area specified in column (2) of the Table is to that area as it is for the time being).

Table

<i>(1)</i> <i>Name of Region</i>	<i>(2)</i> <i>Area included</i>
East Midlands	County of Derby County of Derbyshire County of Leicester County of Leicestershire County of Lincolnshire County of Northamptonshire County of Nottingham

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	County of Nottinghamshire
	County of Rutland
Eastern	County of Bedford
	County of Central Bedfordshire
	County of Cambridgeshire
	County of Essex
	County of Hertfordshire
	County of Luton
	County of Norfolk
	County of Peterborough
	County of Southend-on-Sea
	County of Suffolk
	County of Thurrock
London	Greater London
North East	County of Darlington
	County of Durham
	County of Hartlepool
	County of Middlesbrough
	County of Northumberland
	County of Redcar and Cleveland
	County of Stockton-On-Tees
	County of Tyne and Wear
North West	County of Blackburn with Darwen
	[^{F8} County of Blackpool]
	County of Cheshire East
	County of Cheshire West and Chester
	County of Cumbria
	County of Greater Manchester
	County of Halton
	County of Lancashire
	County of Merseyside
	County of Warrington
South East	County of Berkshire
	County of Brighton and Hove
	County of Buckinghamshire

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

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Yorkshire and the Humber	County of the City of Kingston upon Hull
	County of the East Riding of Yorkshire
	County of North East Lincolnshire
	County of North Lincolnshire
	County of North Yorkshire
	County of South Yorkshire
	County of West Yorkshire
	County of York]

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

Textual Amendments

- F4** Sch. 2 rule 5(1)(b) substituted (14.12.2020) by [Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 \(c. 25\), ss. 6\(2\), 14\(2\)](#) (with s. 13(2))
- F5** Sch. 2 rule 5(1A) inserted (14.12.2020) by [Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 \(c. 25\), ss. 6\(3\), 14\(2\)](#) (with s. 13(2))
- F6** Words in Sch. 2 rule 5(2) substituted (31.12.2020) by [The European Parliamentary Elections Etc. \(Repeal, Revocation, Amendment and Saving Provisions\) \(United Kingdom and Gibraltar\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1310\), reg. 1, Sch. 2 para. 1\(2\)](#) (as amended by S.I. 2019/1389, regs. 1, 2(2))
- F7** Sch. 2 rule 5(2A) inserted (31.12.2020) by [The European Parliamentary Elections Etc. \(Repeal, Revocation, Amendment and Saving Provisions\) \(United Kingdom and Gibraltar\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1310\), reg. 1, Sch. 2 para. 1\(3\)](#) (as amended by S.I. 2019/1389, regs. 1, 2(2))
- F8** Words in Sch. 2 rule 5(2A) Table inserted (31.12.2020) by [Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 \(c. 25\), Sch. paras. 4\(3\)\(4\)](#) (with s. 13(2))

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^{F9};
 - (c) a constituency named Ynys Môn, comprising the area of the Isle of Anglesey County Council].
- (3) Rule 2 does not apply to these constituencies.

Textual Amendments

- F9** Sch. 2 rule 6(2)(c) inserted (14.12.2020) by [Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 \(c. 25\), ss. 7\(2\), 14\(2\)](#) (with s. 13(2))

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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—

NA

 and 95% of the United Kingdom electoral quota, and
 - (b) no more than whichever is the greater of—

N+A

 and 105% of the United Kingdom electoral quota,
- where—
- N is the electorate of Northern Ireland divided by the number of seats in Northern Ireland (determined under rule 8), and
- A is 5% of the United Kingdom electoral quota.

The allocation method

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

$2C+1$

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

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- (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 [F10]6(2)(a) and (b)]^{F11};
- (c) the electorate of Wales shall be treated for the purposes of this rule as reduced by the electorate of the constituency mentioned in rule 6(2)(c)].

Textual Amendments

- F10** Words in Sch. 2 rule 8(5)(b) substituted (14.12.2020) by Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 (c. 25), ss. 7(3)(a), 14(2) (with s. 13(2))
- F11** Sch. 2 rule 8(5)(c) inserted (14.12.2020) by Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 (c. 25), ss. 7(3)(b), 14(2) (with s. 13(2))

Interpretation

- 9 (1) This rule has effect for the purposes of this Schedule.
- (2) [F12]Subject to sub-paragraph (2A), the] “electorate” of the United Kingdom, or of a part of the United Kingdom or a constituency, is the total number of persons whose names appear on the relevant version of a register of parliamentary electors in respect of addresses in the United Kingdom, or in that part or that constituency.
- For this purpose the relevant version of a register is the version that is required by virtue of subsection (1) of section 13 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to be published no later than the review date, or would be so required but for—
- (a) any power under that section to prescribe a later date, or
 - (b) subsection (1A) of that section.
- [F13(2A) In relation to a report under section 3(1) that a Boundary Commission is required (by section 3(2)) to submit before 1 July 2023, the “electorate” of the United Kingdom, or of a part of the United Kingdom or a constituency, is the total number of persons whose names appear on a register of parliamentary electors (maintained under section 9 of the Representation of the People Act 1983) in respect of addresses in the United Kingdom, or in that part or that constituency, as that register has effect on 2 March 2020.]
- (3) “Local government boundaries” are—
- (a) in England, the boundaries of counties and their electoral divisions, districts and their wards, London boroughs and their wards and the City of London,
 - (b) in Wales, the boundaries of counties, county boroughs, electoral [F14]wards], 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.
- [F15(3A) A local government boundary is “prospective” on a particular date if, on that date—
- (a) it is specified in a provision of primary or secondary legislation, but
 - (b) that provision is not yet in force for all purposes.
- (3B) For that purpose—
- (a) “primary legislation” means—

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- (i) an Act of Parliament,
 - (ii) an Act of the Scottish Parliament,
 - (iii) an Act of Senedd Cymru, or
 - (iv) Northern Ireland legislation, and
- (b) “secondary legislation” means an instrument made under primary legislation.]
- (4) “Ordinary council-election day” is—
- (a) in relation to England and Wales, the ordinary day of election of councillors for local government areas;
 - (b) in relation to Scotland, the day on which the poll is held at ordinary elections of councillors for local government areas;
 - (c) in relation to Northern Ireland, the day of an election for any district council (other than an election to fill a casual vacancy).
- (5) The “review date”, in relation to a report under section 3(1) of this Act that a Boundary Commission is required (by section 3(2)) to submit before a particular date, is ^{F16}—
- (a) 1 December 2020, in the case of a report required to be submitted before 1 July 2023, and
 - (b) in the case of a report required to be submitted before any other particular date, the date which is two years and 10 months before that date.
- (For example, 1 December 2028 in the case of a report required to be submitted before 1 October 2031).]
- (6) “The United Kingdom electoral quota” has the meaning given by rule 2(3).
- (7) A reference in rule 6^{F17}(2)(a) or (b)] to an area is to the area as it existed on the coming into force of Part 2 of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 ^{F18}, and the reference in rule 6(2)(c) to the area of the Isle of Anglesey County Council is to the area as it existed on the coming into force of the Schedule to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020].]

Textual Amendments

- F12** Words in Sch. 2 rule 9(2) substituted (14.12.2020) by Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 (c. 25), ss. 8(1), 14(2) (with s. 13(2))
- F13** Sch. 2 rule 9(2A) inserted (14.12.2020) by Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 (c. 25), ss. 8(2), 14(2) (with s. 13(2))
- F14** Word in Sch. 2 rule 9(3)(b) substituted (20.3.2021) by Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (asc 1), s. 175(3)(f), Sch. 2 para. 4
- F15** Sch. 2 rule 9(3A)(3B) inserted (14.12.2020) by Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 (c. 25), ss. 6(4), 14(2) (with s. 13(2))
- F16** Words in Sch. 2 rule 9(5) substituted (14.12.2020) by Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 (c. 25), ss. 9, 14(2) (with s. 13(2))
- F17** Words in Sch. 2 rule 9(7) inserted (14.12.2020) by Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 (c. 25), ss. 7(4)(a), 14(2) (with s. 13(2))
- F18** Words in Sch. 2 rule 9(7) inserted (14.12.2020) by Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020 (c. 25), ss. 7(4)(b), 14(2) (with s. 13(2))

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