

# Electoral Representation Act

An Act to replace and consolidate the Parliamentary Constituencies Acts 1986 to 2020 and certain related enactments, and to make provision on the voting system for parliamentary elections, with the purpose of making the elected Parliament more accurately and proportionately reflect the total votes cast in the national election; making all votes have equal power; increasing voter choice and member accountability; ensuring a geographic link between voters and elected representatives; and so restoring trust between the individual voter and their elected representative and in the UK's political system and institutions.

Be it enacted by the King'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:—

## 1 Parliamentary constituencies

- (1) There shall for the purpose of parliamentary elections be the constituencies, electing in total 650 Members of Parliament, that 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 People Act 1948, "constituency" means an area having representation in the House of Commons.
- (3) The boundaries of constituencies and the number of members to be elected by each constituency shall initially be as set out in Schedule 3.
- (4) Each constituency shall elect its members using the proportional representation system described in Schedule 4.

## 2 Definition of constituencies

*This draft presents three alternative versions of §2, depending on which PR System is adopted*

### **2a Definition of constituencies for MMP**

- (1) Each country of the united Kingdom shall be divided into a number of electoral regions. Each region shall consist of a number of undivided Local Government Areas, except as specified for the initial division into regions set out in Schedule 3.
- (2) Additionally each regional constituency shall be divided into a number of single-member constituencies.

(3) Each region shall elect between 15 and 20 members, or exceptionally some other number of members as permitted under rule 5 of Schedule 2.

(4) The boundaries of the single-member constituencies shall be reviewed at intervals of at most 10 years by the Boundary Commissions. At each such revision, the number of single-member constituencies in each region shall be determined by rule (x) of Schedule 2.

(5) For each region, its number of regional members shall be determined by rule [X] of Schedule 2.

### ***2b Definition of constituencies for STV***

(1) Each constituency shall consist of a number of undivided Local Government Areas,

(2) except where it is necessary to divide a Local Government Area in order to comply with rule 3(1) of Schedule 2, or where it is permitted to do so by rule 5(4) of Schedule 2.

(3) Each constituency shall elect between 3 and 7 members, or exceptionally either 1 or 2 members as permitted under rule 5 of Schedule 2.

### ***2c Definition of constituencies for ListPR***

(1) Each constituency shall consist of a number of undivided Local Government Areas,

(2) Each constituency shall elect between 8 and 12 members, or exceptionally a smaller number of members as permitted under rule 5 of Schedule 2.

## **3 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.

## **4 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, before 1 July of every year commencing with the year following that in

which this Act comes into force, submit to the Speaker of the House of Commons a report with respect to the whole of that part of the United Kingdom, stating —

- (a) any proposed changes to constituencies,
- (b) the allocation of seats between the constituencies of their part of the United Kingdom, as calculated according to rule 3(2) of Schedule 2 using the most recent electoral roll.
- (c) whether any further changes to constituencies are under consideration under the provisions of rule 6 of Schedule 2.

(2) (a) On submitting a report to the Speaker under subsection (1), a Boundary Commission must send a copy of it to the Secretary of State.

(b) On receiving a report under subsection (1), the Speaker must lay it before Parliament.

(c) As soon as reasonably practicable after a report of a Boundary Commission has been laid under subsection (2)(b), the Commission must publish it in such manner as they think fit.

(d) 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.]

(e) In relation to any review of boundaries that is incomplete, the Boundary Commission shall include in their annual report a report setting out what progress they have made in that review.

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

(4) A report of a Boundary Commission under this Act proposing any changes to constituencies, shall for each changed constituency, state the name by which they recommend that it should be known.

## **5 Orders in Council.**

(1) After all four reports under section 3(1) which are required by section 3(2) to be submitted before a particular date have been laid before Parliament under section 3(b), the Secretary of State must submit to His Majesty in Council a draft of an Order in Council for giving effect to the recommendations in those of the four reports (if any) which are reports under section 3(1)(a) (report with recommendations).

(2) The draft of an Order in Council must be submitted under subsection (1)

(a) as soon as reasonably practicable after all four reports have been laid before Parliament as mentioned in that subsection, and

(b) in any case, no later than the end of the four month period unless there are exceptional circumstances.

(3) “The four month period” means the period of four months beginning with the first date on which all four reports have been laid before Parliament as mentioned in subsection (1).

(4) If the draft of an Order in Council is not submitted under subsection (1) before the end of the four month period, the Secretary of State must lay one or more statements before Parliament in accordance with subsection (5) specifying the exceptional circumstances.

(5) A statement must be laid—

(a) before the end of the period of 10 sitting days beginning with the first sitting day after the end of the four month period, and

(b) before the end of each subsequent period of 20 sitting days beginning with the first sitting day after the previous statement was so laid, until the draft of an Order in Council is submitted under subsection (1).

(6) A draft of an Order in Council submitted under subsection (1)—

(a) may give effect to recommendations in the reports with modifications only if that is required under subsection (5), and

(b) may make provision for any matters which appear to the Secretary of State to be incidental to, or consequential on—

(i) the recommendations in the reports, or

(ii) those recommendations together with the modifications that the draft is required to give effect to under subsection (5).

(7) Where the draft of an Order in Council is submitted to His Majesty in Council under this Act, His 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.

(8) The coming into force of any such Order shall not affect any parliamentary election or the constitution of the House of Commons until the dissolution of the Parliament then in being.

(9) The validity of any Order in Council purporting to be made under this Act shall not be called in question in any legal proceedings whatsoever.

(10) In this section, “sitting day” means a day on which both Houses of Parliament sit; and for that purpose a day is only a day on which a House sits if the House begins to sit on that day.

## 6 Publicity and consultation

(1) Whenever a Boundary Commission proposes to recommend a change in constituencies 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 constituencies for which changes are proposed—

(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 eight weeks (“the initial consultation period”).

(b) shall cause public hearings to be held at such times during the initial consultation period as they think fit.

(2) After the end of the initial consultation period, the Commission must publish, in such manner as they think fit, records of public hearings held under subsection (1)(b).

(3) If after the end of the initial 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 before the beginning of the second consultation period—

(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 (“the second consultation period”).

(4) Steps taken under subsection (3) above need not be of the same kind as those taken under subsection (1) above.

(5) A Boundary Commission shall take into consideration—

(a) written representations duly made to them as mentioned in subsection (1)(a) or (3) above, and

(b) representations made at public hearings under subsection (1)(b) above.

(6) Except as provided by this section, a Boundary Commission shall not cause any public hearing or inquiry to be held for the purposes of a report under this Act.

(7) Where a Boundary Commission publish—

(a) general information about how they propose to carry out their functions, or

(b) anything else to which subsection (1) or (4) 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.

## **7 Consequential amendments.**

Schedule 5 to this Act shall have effect.

## **8 Repeals and revocation.**

The enactments specified in Schedule 6 to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule..

## **9 Citation commencement and extent.**

(1) This Act may be cited as the Electoral Representation Act 2026, 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

# SCHEDULES

## SCHEDULE 1

### THE BOUNDARY COMMISSIONS

**Schedule 1** of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 can be retained without change.

**Note 4:** *This Schedule deals only with appointment and broad parameters of the Boundary Commissions' working.*

## SCHEDULE 2

### RULES FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS

*[Different versions for each PR system]*

## SCHEDULE 3

### INITIAL CONSTITUENCIES AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS

*[Different versions for each PR system]*

## SCHEDULE 4

### THE VOTE COUNTING PROCESS

*[Different versions for each PR system]*

## SCHEDULE 5

### CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

*Implications of new Act for other existing Acts*

## SCHEDULE 6

### REPEALS AND REVOCATION

*List of superseded legislation*