

Submission to the Boundary Commission for England 2013 Review North West Region Greater Manchester and Lancashire

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Abstract

This submission disagrees with and presents a counter-proposal to the Boundary Commission for England's proposals for new parliamentary constituency boundaries in Greater Manchester and Lancashire. The counter-proposal allocates seven whole constituencies to the boroughs of Stockport, Tameside and Oldham, nine whole constituencies to the boroughs of Manchester, Salford and Trafford, and twenty-four whole constituencies to the rest of the region. No comment is made on the Boundary Commission's proposals for the rest of the North West region or for any other region.

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1 Introduction

This document is my submission to the 2013 Review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries.

I should first introduce myself. I am the editor and webmaster of the Local Elections Archive Project (<http://www.andrewteale.me.uk/leap/>), the internet's largest freely available collection of British local election results. I have been for some years a contributor to election-related web forums, and this submission is based on material originally posted on the Vote UK forum (<http://www.vote-2007.co.uk/>) and in some cases modified in the light of comments made. I have lived in Bolton since 2007 and previously lived in Ainsworth and Prestwich, which are both within the Bury South constituency. I am not a member of any political party but am a member of the quiz league team playing out of Astley Bridge Conservative Club in Bolton.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to contribute to your deliberations and have taken an active interest in the consultation. I was present at the first day of the hearing at the Britannia Hotel in Manchester and am aware of the counter-proposals of the three main political parties as they were presented to the Assistant Commissioner on that day. In this submission I have taken the opportunity to comment upon them (and other speeches made at that hearing) where I think this is appropriate.

Richard Marbrow, who presented the Liberal Democrat counter-proposal at the Britannia Hotel hearing, made reference to certain parts of the internet that take an interest in electoral boundaries. I am proud to count myself in that category.

This submission only deals with the counties of Greater Manchester and Lancashire. I make no submission with regard to the counties of Cheshire, Merseyside or Cumbria.

1.1 The statutory criteria

Since the previous review the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 (the "2011 Act") has replaced the Rules for Redistribution of Seats. It may be useful to recap the rules as they apply to the North West region:

- Each constituency must have an electorate between 72810 and 80473.
- The Commission may take into account:
 1. special geographical considerations, including the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency;
 2. local government boundaries as they existed on 6 May 2010;
 3. boundaries of existing constituencies; and
 4. any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies.

The approach of the Boundary Commission for England to local government boundaries has relaxed over the years to allow of greater equality of electorates. Prior to local government reform in 1974, constituencies were often composed of whole urban/rural districts as far as possible. At the review implemented in 1983 a whole number of constituencies was allocated to each county or London

borough, with metropolitan boroughs paired or grouped to produce areas with entitlements close to an integer number of constituencies, with wards being used as the building blocks for constituencies and no ward being split. At the review implemented in 1997 London boroughs were paired or grouped in a similar way to metropolitan boroughs. In the most recent review implemented in 2010 county boundaries were crossed for the first time; in the North West, for example, the current Rossendale and Darwen constituency contains part of the county of Lancashire and part of county of Blackburn with Darwen.

The changes introduced by the 2011 Act introduce a much more demanding electoral equality target for the Boundary Commission than previously. In order to meet this target while having regard to all four statutory criteria, I submit that the commission now needs to allow wards to be split between constituencies.

1.2 Splitting of wards

In previous reviews, when there was no specific statutory target electorate for a parliamentary constituency, it was the practice of the Boundary Commissions to allocate local government wards wholly to a single constituency. Where ward sizes were large, this could occasionally cause large disparities. For example, the previous review allocated two constituencies wholly to the borough of Bury, but because Bury had seventeen wards of roughly equal electorates, one seat had to contain eight wards and one seat nine. This was not a problem when there were no statutory limits.

With the 2011 Act introducing a lower limit of 72810 electors and an upper limit of 80473 electors, a more flexible approach is required.

Consider a local authority with fifteen wards of 10200 electors each, such as a large metropolitan borough or the two Cheshire authorities. This local authority would then have an electorate of $15 \times 10200 = 153000$, or an entitlement of almost exactly two constituencies. The authority currently has two whole constituencies, one with seven wards and one with eight.

In this instance the constituency with seven wards is outlawed by the rules because with $7 \times 10200 = 71400$ electors it would be outside the lower limit; but the constituency with eight wards is similarly outlawed with $8 \times 10200 = 81600$ electors it would be outside the upper limit. As wards are drawn to have similar electorates as far as possible, it may not be possible to use variation in ward sizes to get around the limits. There are two ways of resolving this:

- Try and go outside the local authority boundaries to utilise smaller wards close by in order to draw constituencies within the limit. This can have knock-on effects over a wide area and result in local ties being broken. This gives full effect to item 2 of the statutory criteria above but does not respect items 3 or 4.
- Split one of the fifteen wards within the authority so that each constituency has seven-and-a-half wards. This would give each constituency an electorate of $7\frac{1}{2} \times 10200 = 76500$, almost exactly on the electoral quota. This eliminates knock-on effects on the surrounding area, and depending on the choice of ward only half of a ward — 5100 electors — could move constituency. This gives effect much better to items 3 and 4 of the statutory criteria above; with respect to item 2, while one of the wards is split the

district boundary itself is respected, so the overall effect could be argued to be neutral.

I would argue that the second of the two options above — with one ward split between two constituencies — gives effect to the statutory criteria much better than a solution which avoids ward-splitting.

I should also point out that wards aren't necessarily monolithic blocks all of whose parts have identical interests and links. It's more complicated than that and depends on the area. Some wards are clearly-defined urban areas with a clear identity; some are clearly-defined rural areas with a clear identity; but wards can also be a mix of urban and rural, an amorphous awkwardly-shaped group of parishes, a floating kidney within an urban area whose residents like to pretend they live somewhere more upmarket, or two clearly defined areas split from each other by an open space, a river or a motorway. Wards with two (or more) such clearly defined areas are clearly much better candidates for ward splitting than wards in the other categories described above.

This doesn't mean that I advocate splitting wards without a good reason to do so. While it may not always be possible to draw constituencies which respect all the statutory criteria and are composed of whole wards, where it *is* possible — which is most of the country — it is clearly desirable to do so. In my counter-proposal I have considered just three wards to be suitable for splitting — Cheetham ward in Manchester, Radcliffe West ward in Bury and Stepping Hill ward in Stockport — and thirty-four of my proposed forty constituencies for Greater Manchester and Lancashire (or 85% of them) are contiguous with ward boundaries.

2 Theoretical entitlements

The electorate of each county divided by the electoral quota of 76642 gives each county's theoretical entitlement to parliamentary constituencies. The entitlement for each county in the North West is shown in Table 1.

County	Theoretical entitlement	Current number of constituencies
Cumbria	5.09	6
Lancashire	14.51	15
Greater Manchester	25.55	27
Merseyside	13.19	15
Cheshire	10.20	11

Table 1: Entitlement to parliamentary constituencies: North West

If each county's entitlement is rounded to the nearest whole number the total comes out at $5 + 15 + 26 + 13 + 10 = 69$. However, the North West has been allocated only 68 seats, so Lancashire and Greater Manchester will need to be paired and 40 seats allocated to the combined area. It is possible to consider Cumbria and Merseyside/Cheshire as separate review areas to Lancashire and Greater Manchester,¹ so this submission relates only to Lancashire and Greater Manchester.

¹The Boundary Commission's provisional recommendations allocate five whole constituencies

As stated above the constituencies implemented in 2010 in Greater Manchester are based on a series of review areas comprised of whole boroughs or groups of boroughs. The entitlement of these areas is shown in Table 2.

County	Theoretical entitlement	Current number of constituencies
Bolton and Wigan*	5.69	6
Bury*	1.87	2
Manchester, Salford and Trafford	8.81	9
Oldham, Tameside and Stockport	7.13	8
Rochdale	2.05	2

Table 2: Entitlement to parliamentary constituencies: Greater Manchester

In Table 2 I have asterisked Bolton/Wigan and Bury, because it is mathematically impossible for an integer number of constituencies to be drawn in these areas with each constituency being within 0.95 and 1.05 electoral quotas, as required by the 2011 Act.

The combined area of Greater Manchester and Lancashire then has an entitlement of 40.06 constituencies and an allocation of 40 constituencies. This is a rather unwieldy area to consider, so in order to make it more manageable I have grouped together the six southern Greater Manchester boroughs (Manchester, Oldham, Salford, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford) into one sub-area with an entitlement of $8.81 + 7.13 = 15.94$ constituencies and an allocation of 16 constituencies, and grouped together Lancashire and the four other Greater Manchester Boroughs into a second sub-area with an entitlement of 24.12 constituencies and an allocation of 24 constituencies. I shall now present my proposals for these sub-areas in turn.

The Boundary Commission's provisional recommendations include Poynton ward, which is part of Cheshire East district, in a Greater Manchester constituency. I consider this to be undesirable and think that Poynton would fit better in a Cheshire seat, as counter-proposed by the Liberal Democrats.

3 Southern Greater Manchester

As stated in Table 2, the boroughs of Manchester, Salford and Trafford currently have 9 seats with an entitlement of 8.81, while the boroughs of Oldham, Tameside and Stockport currently have 8 seats with an entitlement of 7.13. This implies that only minimum change is required in Manchester, Salford and Trafford while the other three boroughs need to have a reduction in the number of seats from 8 to 7.

3.1 Manchester, Salford and Trafford

The electorates of the nine constituencies currently in this region are shown in Table 3.

to Cumbria and ten whole constituencies to the Lancastrian Merseyside boroughs, while the Liberal Democrat counter-proposal allocates an integer number of constituencies to Cheshire plus the Wirral.

Constituency	Electorate	Deviation from electoral quota (%)
Altrincham and Sale West	72008	−6.05
Blackley and Broughton	69006	−9.96
Manchester Central	89519	+16.80
Manchester Gorton	74681	−2.56
Manchester Withington	73656	−3.89
Salford and Eccles	76863	+0.29
Stretford and Urmston	70520	−7.99
Worsley and Eccles South	73409	−4.22
Wythenshawe and Sale East	75602	−1.36

Table 3: Current parliamentary constituencies: Manchester, Salford and Trafford

The Boundary Commission’s proposals for this area contain several unsatisfactory factors:

- None of the constituencies in this area are preserved unchanged.
- The city centre of Salford has been included in the same seat as the city centre of Manchester.
- There is no constituency including the name Salford.
- The town of Sale is divided between three constituencies, rather than two as at present.
- The Salford towns of Irlam and Cadishead have been included in the Leigh constituency, when the town of Leigh is located on the opposite side of Chat Moss and there is no road across Chat Moss linking Irlam with Leigh.

As can be seen from Table 3, the minimum change required in this group in order to bring all nine constituencies within $\pm 5\%$ of the electoral quota is to reduce the electorate of Manchester Central and increase the electorates of the two Trafford seats, and Blackley and Broughton.

I submit that the electorates of Blackley and Broughton, and Manchester Central should be equalised by transferring one whole ward (Moston) to Blackley and Broughton, and also splitting Cheetham ward between the two seats.

Cheetham ward is divided into northern and southern parts by the A6010, Manchester’s intermediate ring road. North of the A6010 is the district of Cheetham Hill after which the ward is named. The area south of the A6010 has a rather different character, with a large number of industrial units and Strangeways prison. I have always considered this area to be more central Manchester in character than Cheetham Hill.

Due to the fact that the Blackley and Broughton constituency’s electorate needs to be increased by effectively half of one Manchester ward, it is not feasible to draw constituencies in this area which avoid splitting a ward without wide knock-on effects. Splitting a ward here allows four constituencies in this area to remain unchanged and the basic pattern of all nine constituencies to remain recognisable. This gives better effect overall to the statutory criteria.

The area in the south of the ward which I submit should be transferred to Manchester Central is covered by polling districts CTC, CTD, CTE, CTF and

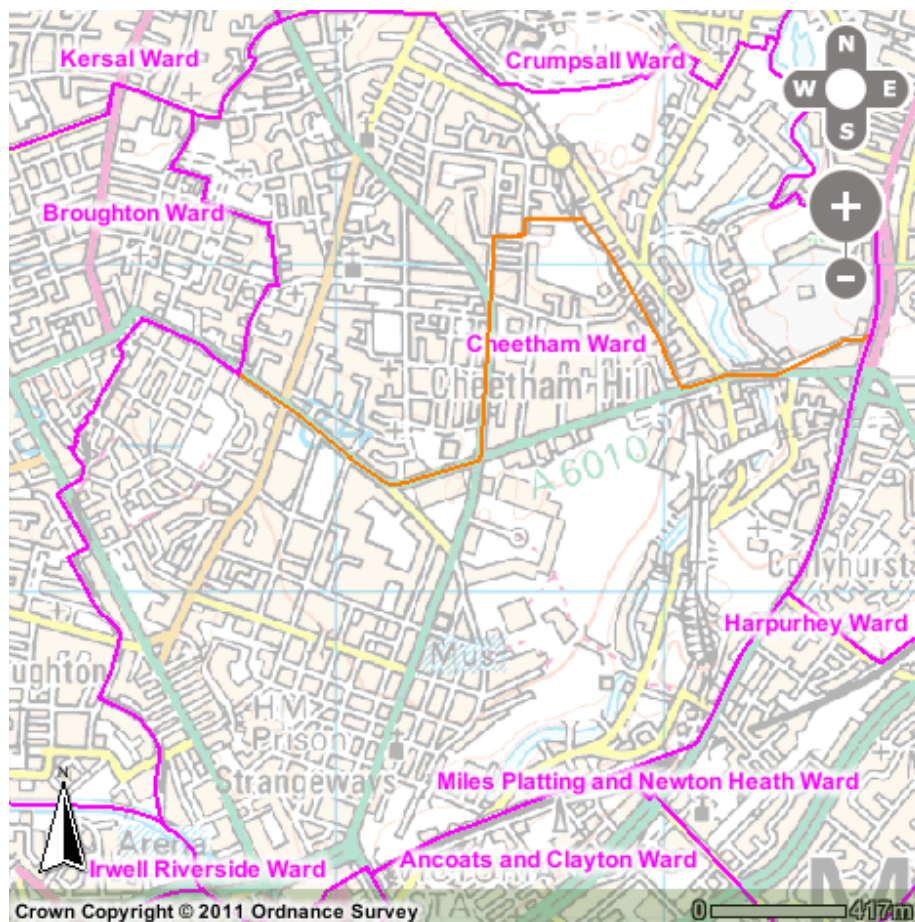


Figure 1: Cheetham ward. To be split along the orange line: northern section to remain in Blackley and Broughton, southern section to move to Manchester Central.

CTH. By the time these constituencies would come into force, the area to the north of the A6010 that I submit should be transferred to Manchester Central (polling district CTC) will be well connected to central Manchester by a new Metrolink stop at Queens Road.

I also submit that the following further changes should be made in order to increase the electorates of the two Trafford seats:

- Transfer Moss Side ward from Manchester Central to Manchester Gorton.
- Transfer Whalley Range ward from Manchester Gorton to Stretford and Urmston.
- Transfer Bucklow-St Martins ward from Stretford and Urmston to Altrincham and Sale East.

This results in the following nine constituencies (the numbers refer to Figure 2):

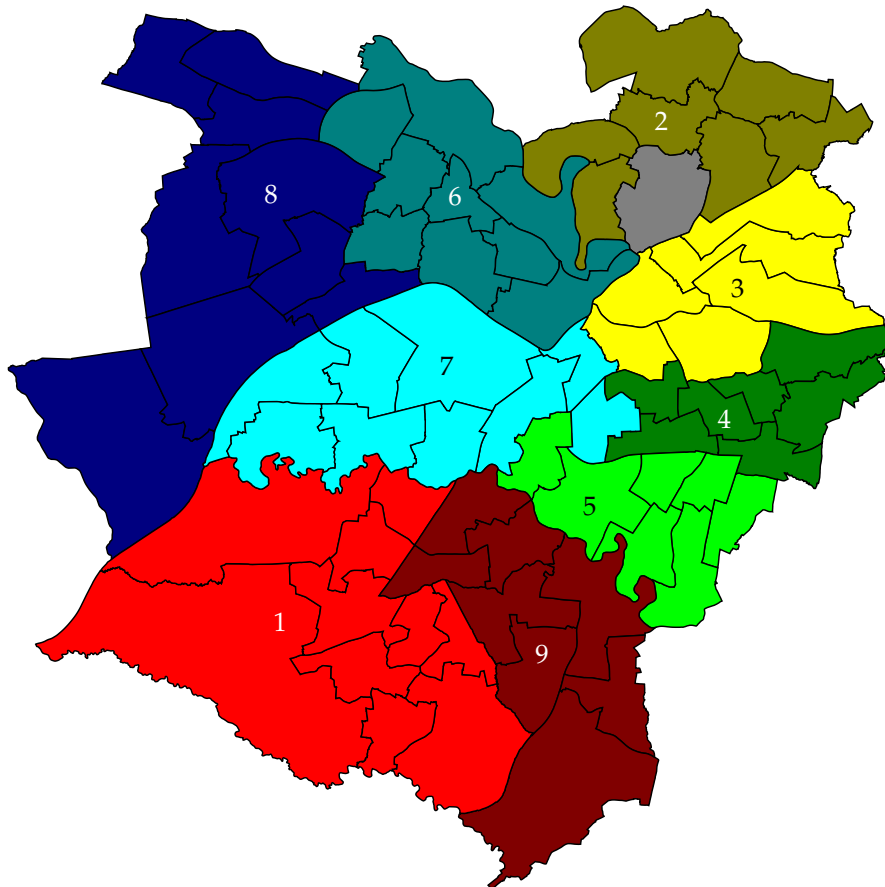


Figure 2: Map of the constituencies counter-proposed for Manchester, Salford and Trafford. The grey ward (Cheetham) is split as in Figure 1.

1. **Altrincham and Sale West (79190)** The following wards of the Borough of Trafford: Altrincham, Ashton upon Mersey, Bowdon, Broadheath, Hale Barns, Hale Central, St Marys, Timperley, Village.
2. **Blackley and Broughton (c. 74300)** The following wards of the City of Manchester: Charlestown, Cheetham (*part not contained in Manchester Central*), Crumpsall, Harpurhey, Higher Blackley, Moston; and the following wards of the City of Salford: Broughton, Kersal.
3. **Manchester Central (c. 73300)** The following wards of the City of Manchester: Ancoats and Clayton, Ardwick, Bradford, Cheetham (*part: polling districts CTC to CTF and CTH*), City Centre, Hulme, Miles Platting and Newton Heath.
4. **Manchester Gorton (74997)** The following wards of the City of Manchester: Fallowfield, Gorton North, Gorton South, Levenshulme, Longsight, Moss Side, Rusholme.
5. **Manchester Withington (73656)** *Unchanged*; the following wards of the City of Manchester: Burnage, Chorlton, Chorlton Park, Didsbury East, Didsbury West, Old Moat, Withington.
6. **Salford and Eccles (76863)** *Unchanged*; the following wards of the City of Salford: Claremont, Eccles, Irwell Riverside, Langworthy, Ordsall, Pendlebury, Swinton North, Swinton South, Weaste and Seedley.
7. **Stretford and Urmston (73935)** The following ward of the City of Manchester: Whalley Range; and the following wards of the Borough of Trafford: Clifford, Davyhulme East, Davyhulme West, Flixton, Gorse Hill, Longford, Stretford, Urmston.
8. **Worsley and Eccles South (73409)** *Unchanged*; the following wards of the City of Salford: Barton, Boothstown and Ellenbrook, Cadishead, Irlam, Little Hulton, Walkden North, Walkden South, Winton, Worsley.
9. **Wythenshawe and Sale East (75602)** *Unchanged*; the following wards of the City of Manchester: Baguley, Brooklands, Northenden, Sharston, Woodhouse Park; and the following wards of the Borough of Trafford: Brooklands, Priory, Sale Moor.

This configuration has the following advantages over the Boundary Commission's provisional recommendations:

- All nine constituencies have electorates within the limits set by the statutory criteria.
- There is only minimum change to the existing constituencies. Four constituencies are completely unchanged and no more than one-and-a-half wards are transferred between any two constituencies.
- There are no constituencies crossing the boundaries between Salford and Wigan, between Manchester and Rochdale or between Manchester and Oldham. There is only one constituency crossing the boundary between Manchester and Salford as at present.

- The city centres of Manchester and Salford are not in the same constituency.
- There continues to be a constituency containing the name Salford.
- The town of Sale is split between only two constituencies as at present, rather than three as under the Boundary Commission's provisional recommendations.

3.2 Oldham, Stockport and Tameside

The electorates of the eight constituencies currently in this region are shown in Table 4. As can be seen, none of the current constituencies are within 5% of the electoral quota, and indeed this area is to lose a seat.

Constituency	Electorate	Deviation from electoral quota (%)
Ashton-under-Lyne	68553	−10.55
Cheadle	71797	−6.32
Denton and Reddish	65684	−14.30
Hazel Grove	62422	−18.55
Oldham East and Saddleworth	72249	−5.73
Oldham West and Royton	72402	−5.53
Stalybridge and Hyde	70691	−7.76
Stockport	62764	−18.11

Table 4: Current parliamentary constituencies: Oldham, Stockport and Tameside

The Boundary Commission's proposals for this area contain several unsatisfactory factors:

- The proposed Hazel Grove constituency includes the Cheshire East ward of Poynton, which involves crossing the county boundary between Greater Manchester and Cheshire. This is not mathematically necessary.
- The Bredbury and Romiley area (Bredbury and Bredbury Green wards) has been divided between two constituencies.
- The Ashton-under-Lyne constituency does not contain the town centre of Ashton-under-Lyne.
- The town of Chadderton is divided between the Ashton-under-Lyne and Middleton constituencies.
- The town of Royton is divided between the Oldham and Rochdale South constituencies.
- The town of Oldham is divided between three constituencies, rather than two as at present.
- The boroughs of Oldham and Stockport are both divided between four constituencies.

Working from the south end of the area northwards, we first come to Stockport, a borough in which a similar situation to that described in the ward-splitting section applies. Stockport has twenty-one wards but is slightly too small to have three constituencies of its own, so one or two wards need to be brought in from neighbouring districts. You then have twenty-two or twenty-three wards to be divided between three constituencies, and any combination of seven wards is too small while almost all combinations of eight wards are too large.

To cut this Gordian knot, I submit that Stepping Hill ward should be divided between constituencies, as submitted in the Liberal Democrat counter-proposal and defended at the Britannia Hotel hearing by Hazel Grove MP Andrew Stunnell. As Figure 3 makes clear, there are two distinct communities in this ward with an open space and a railway line dividing them. I submit that the ward should be split along the railway line, with polling districts TA, TB, TC and TD in the north of the ward remaining part of Cheadle and polling districts TE, TF and TG in the south of the ward moving to the Hazel Grove constituency.

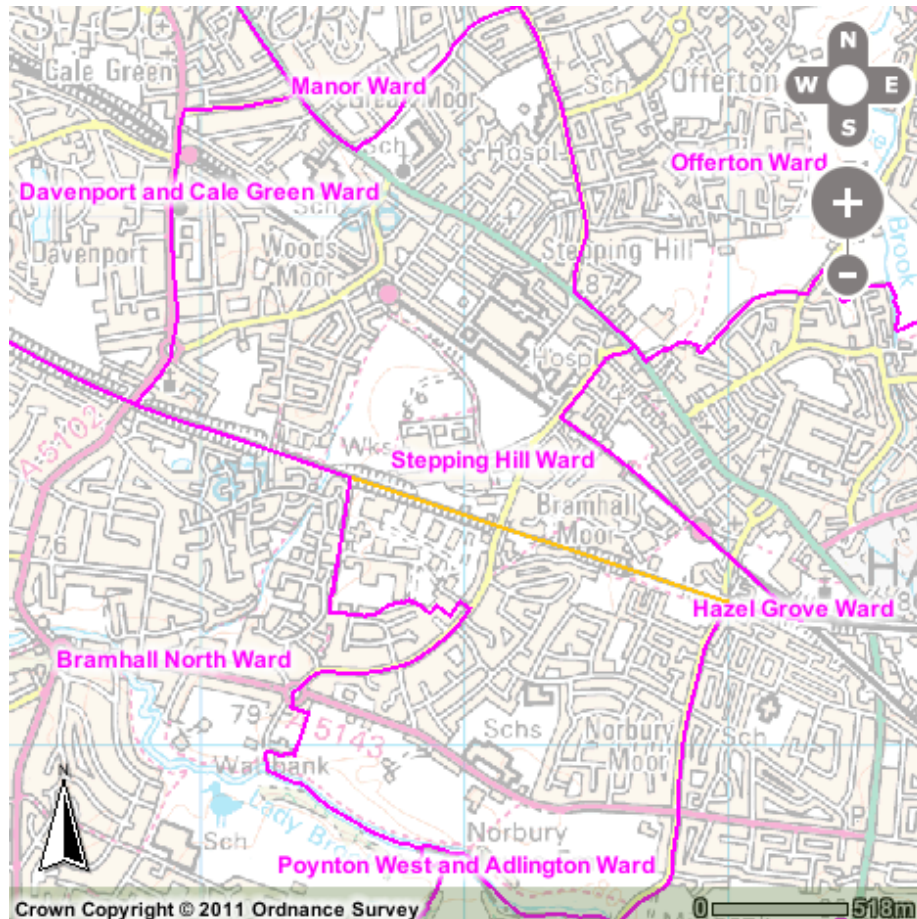


Figure 3: Stepping Hill ward. To be split along the orange line: northern section to remain in Cheadle, southern section to move to Hazel Grove.

Splitting Stepping Hill ward between two constituencies allows the borough of Stockport to be divided between three seats rather than four and reduces the adverse effects of a seat being abolished in this area.

The Cheadle constituency should also gain Davenport and Cale Green ward from Stockport, while Manor ward should move from Stockport to Hazel Grove. Stockport then gains Denton South and Denton West wards from Denton and Reddish, which I submit should be abolished. Most of Denton West's electorate is within the M60 motorway and is well connected to Reddish, while the town centre of Denton is in Denton North East ward.

Of the other Denton and Reddish wards, I submit that Denton North East and Dukinfield should be transferred to the Stalybridge and Hyde seat, while Audenshaw should be transferred to Ashton-under-Lyne. Denton North East is well connected to Hyde by the M67 and A57 roads, while Dukinfield has good links to Stalybridge (indeed there is one ward named after both towns) and Audenshaw to Ashton respectively.

This leaves Stalybridge and Hyde too large, so to reduce its electorate I submit that Mossley should be transferred to the Oldham East and Saddleworth seat. The town of Mossley is detached from the Tameside urban sprawl and similar in character and well-linked to Saddleworth just to its north, so it should be a good fit in Oldham East and Saddleworth.

Finally, I submit that the Oldham West and Royton seat should have its electorate increased by transferring Alexandra ward from Oldham East to Oldham West.

This results in the following seven constituencies (the numbers refer to Figure 4):

- 10. Ashton-under-Lyne (77347)** The following wards of the Borough of Oldham: Failsworth East, Failsworth West; and the following wards of the Borough of Tameside: Ashton Hurst, Ashton St Michael's, Ashton Waterloo, Audenshaw, Droylsden East, Droylsden West, St Peters.
- 11. Cheadle (c. 79000)** The following wards of the Borough of Stockport: Bramhall North, Bramhall South, Cheadle and Gatley, Cheadle Hulme North, Cheadle Hulme South, Davenport and Cale Green, Heald Green, Stepping Hill (*part: polling districts TA to TD*).
- 12. Hazel Grove (c. 76400)** The following wards of the Borough of Stockport: Bredbury and Woodley, Bredbury Green and Romiley, Hazel Grove, Manor, Marple North, Marple South, Offerton, Stepping Hill (*part: polling districts TE to TG*).
- 13. Oldham East and Saddleworth (73480)** The following wards of the Borough of Oldham: Crompton, Saddleworth North, Saddleworth South, Saddleworth West and Lees, St James', St Mary's, Shaw, Waterhead; and the following ward of the Borough of Tameside: Mossley.
- 14. Oldham West and Royton (79836)** The following wards of the Borough of Oldham: Alexandra, Chadderton Central, Chadderton North, Chadderton South, Coldhurst, Hollinwood, Medlock Vale, Royton North, Royton South, Werneth.

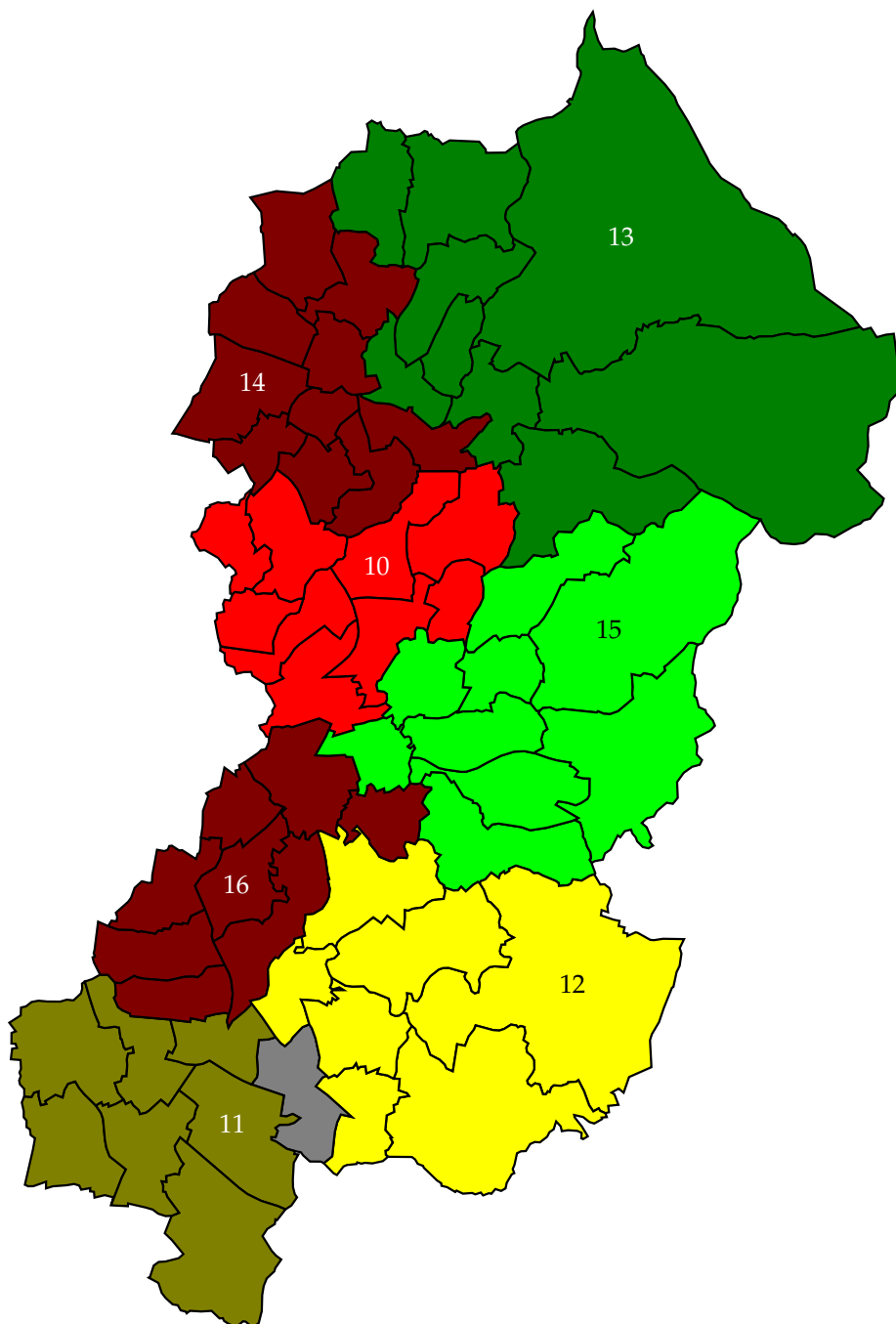


Figure 4: Map of the constituencies counter-proposed for Oldham, Stockport and Tameside. The grey ward (Stepping Hill) is split as in Figure 3.

- 15. Stalybridge and Hyde (80116)** The following wards of the Borough of Tameside: Denton North East, Dukinfield, Dukinfield Stalybridge, Hyde Godley, Hyde Newton, Hyde Werneth, Longdendale, Stalybridge North, Stalybridge South.
- 16. Stockport (80368)** The following wards of the Borough of Stockport: Brinnington and Central, Edgeley and Cheadle Heath, Heatons North, Heatons South, Reddish North, Reddish South; and the following wards of the Borough of Tameside: Denton South, Denton West.

This configuration has the following advantages over the Boundary Commission's provisional recommendations:

- All seven constituencies have electorates within the limits set by the statutory criteria.
- All seven constituencies are similar to or have the same name as existing constituencies in the area.
- There is no constituency crossing the boundary between Greater Manchester and Cheshire.
- There are no constituencies crossing the boundaries between Oldham and Manchester or between Oldham and Rochdale. The constituency crossing the boundary between Tameside and Stockport does so in the same place as it does currently.
- The boroughs of Oldham and Stockport are each divided between only three constituencies, rather than four as under the Boundary Commission's provisional recommendations.
- The Ashton-under-Lyne seat contains Ashton-under-Lyne town centre.
- The town of Royton is not divided between constituencies.
- The town of Chadderton is not divided between constituencies.
- The wards of Bredbury and Bredbury Green are in the same constituency.

4 Lancashire and Northern Greater Manchester

The electorates of the twenty-five constituencies currently in this region are shown in Table 5. This area needs to lose one seat, and there is a wide variation in the electorates of the existing seats, with ten currently inside the statutory electorate limits of 0.95 to 1.05 electoral quotas. The largest seat is Heywood and Middleton at 3.91% above the quota, and the smallest is Preston at 20.17% below the quota.

Constituency	Electorate	Deviation from electoral quota (%)
Blackburn	72112	−5.66
Blackpool North and Cleveleys	66187	−13.41
Blackpool South	64081	−16.17
Bolton North East	66600	−12.87
Bolton South East	69088	−9.62
Bolton West	71454	−6.52
Burnley	67003	−12.35
Bury North	67911	−11.16
Bury South	75140	−1.70
Chorley	71333	−6.68
Fylde	66504	−13.00
Heywood and Middleton	79636	+3.91
Hyndburn	69617	−8.93
Lancaster and Fleetwood	67305	−11.95
Leigh	77001	+0.73
Makerfield	74856	−2.07
Morecambe and Lunesdale	69254	−9.40
Pendle	66735	−12.70
Preston	61025	−20.17
Ribble Valley	77437	+1.30
Rochdale	77699	+1.38
Rossendale and Darwen	73443	−3.92
South Ribble	75116	−1.73
West Lancashire	73028	−4.46
Wigan	76779	+0.44

Table 5: Current parliamentary constituencies: Lancashire and Northern Greater Manchester

4.1 Crossing the boundary between Greater Manchester and Lancashire

The boundaries of the county of Greater Manchester were set in the early 1970s in preparation for the creation of the county in 1974. On the western side the boundary meanders around various small ex-coal-mining towns according to whether they are closer to Manchester or Liverpool. On the southern side the boundary is rather tightly drawn around the built-up area of the conurbation, with the exception of various towns such as Wilmslow and Poynton which preferred to remain in Cheshire. The county boundary is most identifiable on the eastern side, where it coincides with the Pennine watershed. However, it is the northern boundary of Greater Manchester which needs to be crossed in order to create one or more cross-county constituencies between Greater Manchester and Lancashire.

The northern boundary of Greater Manchester is rather curious. Like the eastern side of the county, to the north of Greater Manchester is a range of hills — the West Pennine Moors, which terminate at Winter Hill north-west of Horwich. Unlike the eastern side of the county, the northern boundary does not always follow the watershed of the West Pennine Moors but instead skirts the south of it, with areas south of that watershed such as Whitworth, Rossendale and North Turton not included within Greater Manchester. Indeed two old urban districts — Ramsbottom and Turton — found themselves split between the two counties on the creation of Greater Manchester.

The topography of the West Pennine Moors makes some solutions for constituencies unviable. Most of the area is currently located within the Rossendale and Darwen constituency, which combines most the small towns in Rossendale (Whitworth, Bacup, Rawtenstall, Edenfield, but not Haslingden) with the town of Darwen south of Blackburn. This seat has survived in more or less its current form since 1983, but has never been particularly well-linked internally. Rossendale is a polycentric area with good road links to the north (to Burnley), to the east (to Todmorden), to the north-west (to Accrington), to the south down the Irwell Valley from Rawtenstall (to Ramsbottom and Bury) and to the south from Whitworth (to Rochdale; indeed Whitworth is effectively a Rochdale suburb). Darwen has road and rail links in only two directions: north down the valley to Blackburn (of which it is a suburb) and south over the moors to Bolton. The two areas have no direct road connection to each other, and since 1997 there has not been a single road entirely within the constituency connecting Rossendale with Darwen. This is one of the poorest-drawn constituencies in Lancashire at present, and the crossing of the Greater Manchester/Lancashire boundary provides a good opportunity to draw something better.

Equally, the topography defeats some options for crossing the county boundary. For example, the Smithills ward of Bolton and the North Turton with Tockholes ward of Blackburn with Darwen share a long boundary, but that boundary for its entire length is trackless moorland. Similar considerations apply to the boundary between the Norden ward of Rochdale and the five Rossendale wards it borders. Constituencies crossing the county boundary at these points should be considered non-starters.

The constituency boundaries didn't catch up with the creation of Greater Manchester until 1983, and before then there were five constituencies which crossed what became the county boundary. The pre-1983 constituencies give

a certain amount of prior art which may help to narrow down where good cross-border constituencies can be drawn. From east to west:

- The former constituency of Heywood and Royton wrapped around Rochdale in a rather weird “ earmuffs ” arrangement. Most of the constituency ended up in Greater Manchester except for the town of Whitworth, which remained in Lancashire. The seat was really defined by its links with Rochdale, having three distinct parts with no direct road connections between them: Heywood itself to the west of Rochdale, Whitworth to the north of Rochdale, and various towns to the east of Rochdale such as Wardle, Littleborough, Milnrow and Royton itself.
- The former constituency of Rossendale mostly ended up in Lancashire except for the town of Ramsbottom, which became part of Greater Manchester (although the village of Edenfield, which was part of Ramsbottom Urban District until 1974, remained in Lancashire).
- The former constituency of Darwen mostly ended up in Lancashire except for the South Turton area, which became part of Greater Manchester (Turton Urban District being divided into north and south by the new county boundary). South Turton is now covered by the Bolton wards of Bradshaw and Bromley Cross.
- The former constituency of Westhoughton mostly ended up in Greater Manchester except for the town of Adlington, which remained in Lancashire. The majority of the old Westhoughton seat is now in the Bolton West constituency.
- The former constituency of Ince included the Lancashire new town of Skelmersdale and Upholland together with various small towns south of Wigan, which became part of Greater Manchester and now form part of the Makerfield constituency.

Finally, the electoral arithmetic needs to be considered. Of the seven constituencies in Greater Manchester that run along the northern boundary, only three (Bolton West, Bolton North East and Bury North) currently have electorates outside the statutory limits. The other four (Makerfield, Wigan, Heywood and Middleton, and Rochdale) form two pairs of constituencies which are inside the statutory limits and bordered by another constituency within the statutory limits (Leigh and Bury South respectively). Since northern Greater Manchester needs to lose half of a constituency, it would make sense to draw cross-border constituencies in the Bolton and Bury areas rather than in the Wigan and Rochdale areas, as this would result in less disruption to existing constituencies and therefore give better effect to two of the statutory criteria. For this reason, I do not support the Boundary Commission’s proposed cross-border constituency of Rochdale North and Rawtenstall.

I now lay out my submission for twenty-four constituencies in Lancashire and Northern Greater Manchester in detail.

4.2 Rochdale

This is the easiest part of the area to decide upon. Rochdale borough is currently covered by two whole constituencies, Heywood and Middleton, and Rochdale

itself. As can be seen from Table 5, both constituencies currently have electorates within the statutory limits. I therefore submit that there should be no change to these two constituencies.

This has the following advantages over the Boundary Commission's recommendations:

- Full effect is given to all the statutory criteria.
- There is no constituency crossing the district boundary.
- The towns of Heywood and Rochdale are not divided between constituencies.

4.3 Bolton, Bury, Wigan and Rossendale

The borough of Bury is currently covered by two whole constituencies, Bury North and Bury South. There are six constituencies within the boroughs of Wigan and Bolton: Bolton North East, Bolton South East, Bolton West (which includes the Wigan ward of Atherton), Leigh, Makerfield and Wigan. Finally, the district of Rossendale is mostly contained within the Rossendale and Darwen constituency, except for the town of Haslingden which is in the Hyndburn constituency.

As this is my home area, I can comment upon the Boundary Commission's proposals in the greatest detail. They contain several unsatisfactory factors:

- The Commission proposes to split Rossendale between two constituencies, in such a way that the town of Rawtenstall is split between two constituencies despite being included in the name of one of them.
- The Commission proposes to include the Bradshaw ward of Bolton in the Bury North constituency. Bradshaw's local ties are with Bromley Cross ward, with which it was once part of Turton Urban District, and with the town of Bolton. Between Bradshaw ward and the Tottington ward of Bury is the village of Affetside which is on the top of a surprisingly large and high hill, which effectively cuts Bradshaw ward off from Bury; there is only one road, and a rather indirect one at that, between the two wards. Putting Bradshaw ward into Bury North is a poor decision, which breaks local ties, and my submission will fix this.
- The Commission proposes to include the Brightmet ward of Bolton in the Bolton South East constituency, rather than in Bolton North East at present. Brightmet has poor transport links with the Bolton South East wards — there is no direct bus service to Little Lever, the next town to the south — and this decision breaks local ties.
- The Commission proposes to split the town of Horwich between two constituencies along the main road through the town.
- The Commission proposes to split the town of Leigh in such a way that the town centre of Leigh is not contained in the Leigh constituency. This was rightly slated by Andy Burnham MP at the Britannia Hotel hearing and there is an active Facebook campaign underway to "Keep Leigh in Leigh".

- The Commission further proposes to move the Irlam and Cadishead wards of Salford into the Leigh constituency. These wards are separated from Leigh by Chat Moss, an enormous area of bogland which provided a major challenge to the builders of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway and even now is largely undrained. There is no road crossing Chat Moss and no transport links whatsoever between Irlam and Leigh. Irlam's communication links run east to Salford and Manchester and west to Warrington.

Following on from my comments above regarding Rossendale and Darwen, the topography means that the place to start when drawing constituencies in this area is Rossendale. Rossendale is Lancashire's smallest district by population and can easily fit within one seat but is not big enough for a seat on its own. Drawing a seat across the boundary to the north would mean crossing the watershed, while including Darwen to the west is a poor decision as previously described. This means that the seat has to be brought up to quota by including northern wards from the borough of Bury; I submit that the three most suitable wards are the three northernmost ones, Ramsbottom, North Manor and Tottington. These wards all have good links with Rossendale and are of a similar character, and crossing the county boundary here has the benefit of reuniting Ramsbottom and Edenfield in the same constituency. The Labour and Liberal Democrat counter-proposals both include a similar constituency.

The removal of three wards from Bury North means that the town of Bury has to expand southwards, which means it is no longer possible to allow the Bury South constituency to remain unchanged. In drawing a replacement for Bury South I was mindful of the presence of the River Irwell, which south of Ramsbottom divides the borough into east and west parts with only a limited number of bridges between them. South of North Manor ward the ward boundaries all more or less follow the river, with the exception of Radcliffe West ward.

I submit that Radcliffe West ward should be split into northern and southern parts. Figure 5 clearly shows that the ward has two distinct parts: south of the river are polling districts MA to MC, covering the former pit village of Outwood and most of the small part of Radcliffe south of the river (including the former East Lancashire Paper Mill). North of the river are polling districts MD and ME, an industrial and residential area around the former Radcliffe High School and further residential development along the Bolton Road. As can be seen, there is only one road bridge between the two parts of the ward, and it forms the boundary with Radcliffe East ward so that road traffic can only move within the ward from south to north. I do not have accurate electorate information for the two parts of the ward but believe from some old information I have seen that the two parts of the ward have an almost equal population.

It is necessary to split Radcliffe West ward in the manner described in order to avoid various undesirable problems, such as a seat which does not respect the watershed of Rossendale or a seat which combines parts of Bury and Bolton. The arrangement described here allows for very identifiable constituency boundaries to be drawn and solves the problem of Bury North having to include Bradshaw with which Bury has no links. I submit that this arrangement gives better overall effect to the statutory criteria than the Commission's proposals.

Splitting Radcliffe West along the line of the River Irwell allows a seat to be

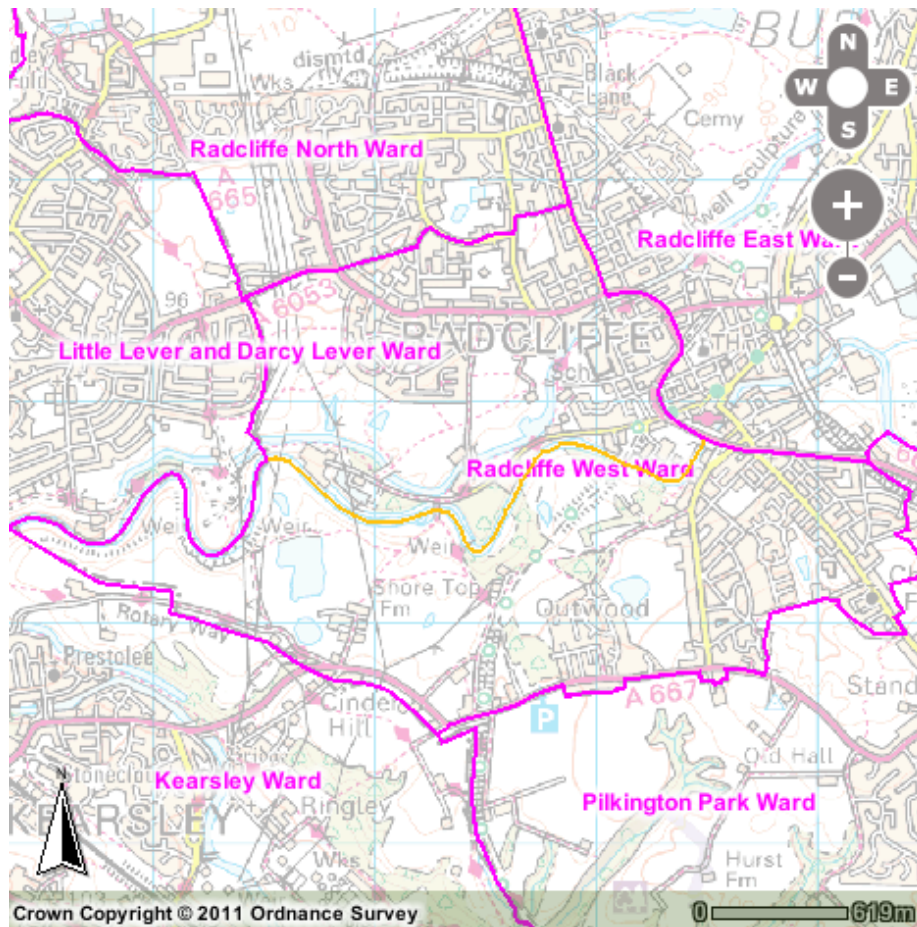


Figure 5: Radcliffe West ward. To be split along the orange line: northern section to form part of Radcliffe-cum-Farnworth, southern section to form part of Bury and Prestwich.

drawn combining all the wards in Bury wholly east of the Irwell, and containing the whole of the towns of Prestwich and Whitefield and the major part of the town of Bury. The communication links and local ties between Bury, Whitefield and Prestwich are excellent, with the tram line and the frequent 135 bus service linking all three towns. I submit that this seat should be named Bury and Prestwich.²

I submit that the northern part of Radcliffe West should be combined with the rest of Radcliffe, the two wards of Bury town west of the Irwell, and the towns of Little Lever, Kearsley and Farnworth south of Bolton in a new constituency called Radcliffe-cum-Farnworth. There are good bus and road links between all the parts of this constituency, and a constituency of the same name existed from 1918 until 1945.

Taking the towns of Little Lever, Kearsley and Farnworth out of the Bolton South East seat allows a new single constituency to be drawn for the town of Bolton, covering almost all of the former County Borough which existed until 1974. The main exception is that Heaton and Lostock ward is not included in this Bolton seat; this is nothing new as Heaton and Lostock has been included in the Bolton West constituency, which contains relatively little of Bolton town, since 1983. Smithills ward is, however transferred from Bolton West into my unified Bolton seat.

To compensate for the loss of Smithills, I submit that the Bolton West constituency should be expanded to include the wards of Hulton, Adlington and Anderton, and Heath Charnock and Rivington, all of which have good transport links and local ties to the towns within the constituency. Because of the naming of the new Bolton seat, and its expansion into Adlington for the first time since 1983, I further submit that the name Bolton West is no longer appropriate and that the seat should be renamed Westhoughton.

Finally, I submit that the three Wigan borough constituencies of Leigh, Makerfield and Wigan itself, all of which have electorates within the statutory limits, should remain unchanged.

This leaves outstanding the two South Turton wards (Bradshaw and Bromley Cross) which I submit should be included in the seat of Darwen and Blackburn South, as described below. I should point out that while I consider these two wards suitable for inclusion in a Darwen seat (as they were until 1983), I definitely do not support the Labour Party counter-proposal to include five wards of Bolton in a Darwen seat.

This configuration has the following advantages over the Boundary Commission's recommendations:

- The Borough of Rossendale is united within one constituency.
- The three cross-border constituencies I have proposed are all based on constituencies which actually existed before 1983.
- The Bradshaw ward remains in the same constituency as the Bromley Cross ward.
- The Breightmet ward remains in the same constituency as the Tonge with The Haulgh ward, through which flow its communication links to Bolton.

²The Liberal Democrat counter-proposal is for a very similar Bury and Prestwich constituency; I believe it was inspired by the internet posting which became this submission!

- The town of Horwich remains united within one constituency.
- The town of Leigh remains united within one constituency on unchanged boundaries.
- The town of Bolton is united within one constituency for the first time since 1945.
- There is no constituency crossing the boundary between Salford and Wigan.
- Three seats remain unchanged, rather than only two under the Boundary Commission's proposals.

4.4 South Lancashire

"South Lancashire" is used here as a shorthand for the districts of Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire, which are cut off from north Lancashire by the Ribble estuary, and from east Lancashire by the West Pennine Moors. At present all these districts have a constituency more or less based on them and the Boundary Commission's provisional recommendations continue this with some changes. I support the retention of the basic pattern of constituencies but submit seats which have some changes to those proposed by the Commission.

The Commission's South Ribble suffers from one major problem: it is non-contiguous on land. The four West Lancashire wards included in the seat are cut off from South Ribble district by the Douglas estuary, whose lowest road crossing is between West Lancashire and Chorley districts. For this reason I submit that the South Ribble constituency should include the Lostock ward of Chorley instead of the Rufford ward of West Lancashire, which I submit should be transferred to the West Lancashire seat in order that South Ribble remains within the statutory limits. Otherwise I support the Commission's proposals for South Ribble and West Lancashire.

With Lostock ward removed from Chorley, I submit that the Chorley seat should be changed by transferring the South Ribble wards covering Bamber Bridge and Walton-le-Dale into the Chorley seat, which should be renamed Chorley and Bamber Bridge to match. Bamber Bridge and Walton-le-Dale are well-linked to Chorley by the A6 and M61 and there are frequent bus links to Chorley passing through those towns.

This leaves four wards in the north-east corner of South Ribble and Chorley boroughs: Coupe Green and Gregson Lane, and Samlesbury and Walton in South Ribble, and Brindle and Hoghton, and Wheelton and Withnell in Chorley, which are all rural in character and linked to each other by the A675 Preston-Bolton road. I submit that these should be part of the Darwen and Blackburn South constituency as described below.

This configuration has the following advantages over the Boundary Commission's recommendations:

- The South Ribble constituency is contiguous on land.
- The West Lancashire constituency is changed by the addition of just one ward.

- The Chorley and Bamber Bridge constituency becomes more compact and better linked.

4.5 East Lancashire

“East Lancashire” is used here as a shorthand for the districts of Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Burnley, Pendle and Ribble Valley in the east of the county.

The Commission’s proposals contain some unsatisfactory aspects which this submission will seek to correct:

- The Commission proposes to continue to link part of Rossendale with Darwen, a link which as explained above is undesirable.
- The town of Accrington is split down the middle between two constituencies.
- The town of Burnley is split down the middle between two constituencies.

Before 1983 the town of Darwen was the base of its own constituency, which included Turton Urban District to the south and curved around Blackburn to include villages to the north of that town. Such a banana-shaped constituency would probably not be viable today, so instead I have taken the option of splitting Blackburn between two constituencies to create one constituency containing predominantly Blackburn, and one constituency based on Darwen and including wards from southern Blackburn. Darwen is effectively a suburb of Blackburn and the two towns share good community and transport links.

The constituency based on Darwen I have called “Darwen and Blackburn South”. Running from south to north, Darwen and Blackburn South contains the South Turton area from Bolton, the North Turton area between Bolton and Darwen, the town of Darwen itself, four wards (Higher Croft, Fernhurst, Meadowhead and Livesey with Pleasington) from the south-western edge of Blackburn town, and the two wards of Chorley and two wards of South Ribble described in the previous section. The seat has reasonably good internal communications along the A666 Bolton–Blackburn and the A675 Bolton–Preston roads and the M65 motorway.

The constituency based on Blackburn I have called “Blackburn North”. This contains the rest of the town of Blackburn, the town of Rishton (the next town east along the M65) from Hyndburn district, and also expands to the north to take in the rural area south of the Rivers Calder and Ribble, most of which area looks to Blackburn as its major town.

Further east, I submit that all the rest of Hyndburn should form one seat together with the town of Padiham and the two westernmost wards of Burnley town: Gannow and Rosegrove with Lowerhouse. Both these wards lie on the M65 motorway and railway line giving easy access to Accrington, which would be the major town in this seat. It is not feasible to create constituencies which avoid splitting Burnley, but this split would be less harmful than a split through the middle of the town centre.

Continuing up the Calder valley, I submit that there should be a seat combining the rest of Burnley with the town of Nelson. This would be a compact urban seat. Finally, I submit that the town of Colne and the West Craven area

should be combined with the rest of the Ribble Valley district in a constituency to be called “Colne and Clitheroe”.

This configuration has the following advantages over the Boundary Commission’s recommendations:

- The town of Darwen is now within a constituency with much better internal connections than the current Rossendale and Darwen.
- The town of Accrington remains united within a single constituency.
- The split of Burnley is in a much less harmful place than under the Boundary Commission’s provisional recommendations.
- The western boundary of Ribble Valley district, which runs through the Forest of Bowland and very sparsely populated countryside, is respected. In particular, the three Bowland villages of Slaidburn, Newton and Dunsop Bridge remain in the same constituency, and the Trough of Bowland remains as a constituency boundary.

4.6 North Lancashire

“North Lancashire” is used here as a shorthand for the districts of Preston, Fylde, Blackpool, Wyre and Lancaster in the north of the county.

The Commission’s proposals for this area are generally reasonable but contain some unsatisfactory aspects which this submission will seek to correct:

- The Fishwick ward is removed from the Preston constituency into the proposed Ribble Valley constituency, from which it is cut off by the River Ribble.
- The Chipping ward is removed from the Ribble Valley constituency into the proposed Lancaster and Wyre constituency. Chipping ward includes the village of Dunsop Bridge, which is connected to Lancaster only by the single-track road running through the Trough of Bowland.

I support the Commission’s recommendation that the urban area of Preston and Fulwood, minus one ward, should form a Preston constituency. However, I submit that the ward to be removed should be Ingol ward, which has open space separating it from its neighbouring urban wards and a good road link to the village of Woodplumpton in the neighbouring rural ward. I submit that Ingol ward should be included in the Commission’s proposed Lancaster constituency.

The only other change I submit should be made is that the Ribble Valley wards included in the Commission’s proposed Lancaster constituency should remain within the Ribble Valley constituency, as is required by my East Lancashire submission above.

I support the Commission’s proposals for the Fylde, Blackpool South, Blackpool North and Fleetwood, and Morecambe and Lunesdale constituencies.

This configuration has the following advantages over the Boundary Commission’s recommendations:

- The Fishwick ward remains within the Preston constituency.

- The western boundary of Ribble Valley district continues to be a constituency boundary.
- The Lancaster constituency contains parts of only three district councils.

4.7 Summary

The submissions above result in the following twenty-four constituencies for Lancashire and Northern Greater Manchester (the letters refer to Figure 6):

- A. Blackburn North (72980)** The following wards of the Borough of Blackburn with Darwen: Audley, Bastwell, Beardwood with Lammack, Corporation Park, Ewood, Little Harwood, Mill Hill, Queen's Park, Roe Lee, Shadsworth with Whitebirk, Shear Brow, Wensley Fold; the following ward of the Borough of Hyndburn: Rishton; and the following wards of the District of Ribble Valley: Billington and Old Langho, Clayton-le-Dale with Ramsgreave, Langho, Mellor, Wilpshire.
- B. Blackpool North and Fleetwood (80400)** The following wards of the Borough of Blackpool: Anchorsholme, Bispham, Greenlands, Ingthorpe, Norbreck, Park; and the following wards of the District of Wyre: Bourne, Carleton, Cleveleys Park, Jubilee, Mount, Norcross, Park, Pharos, Rossall, Staina, Victoria, Warren.
- C. Blackpool South (80402)** The following wards of the Borough of Blackpool: Bloomfield, Brunswick, Claremont, Clifton, Hawes Side, Highfield, Layton, Marton, Squires Gate, Stanley, Talbot, Tyldesley, Victoria, Warbreck, Waterloo.
- D. Bolton (76135)** The following wards of the Borough of Bolton: Astley Bridge, Brightmet, Crompton, Great Lever, Halliwell, Rumworth, Smithills, Tonge with The Haulgh.
- E. Burnley and Nelson (76023)** The following wards of the Borough of Burnley: Bank Hall, Briercliffe, Brunshaw, Cliviger with Worsthorne, Coal Clough with Deerplay, Daneshouse with Stoneyholme, Lanehead, Queensgate, Rosehill with Burnley Wood, Trinity, Whittlefield and Ightenhill; and the following wards of the Borough of Pendle: Bradley, Brierfield, Clover Hill, Marsden, Reedley, Southfield, Walverden, Whitefield.
- F. Bury and Prestwich (c. 79100)** The following wards of the Borough of Bury: Besses, East, Holyrood, Moorside, Pilkington Park, Radcliffe West (*part: polling districts MA to MC*), Redvales, St Mary's, Sedgley, Unsworth.
- G. Chorley and Bamber Bridge (77580)** The following wards of the Borough of Chorley: Astley and Buckshaw, Chisnall, Chorley East, Chorley North East, Chorley North West, Chorley South East, Chorley South West, Clayton-le-Woods and Whittle-le-Woods, Clayton-le-Woods North, Clayton-le-Woods West and Cuerden, Coppull, Euxton North, Euxton South, Pennine; and the following wards of the Borough of South Ribble: Bamber Bridge East, Bamber Bridge North, Bamber Bridge West, Walton-le-Dale.

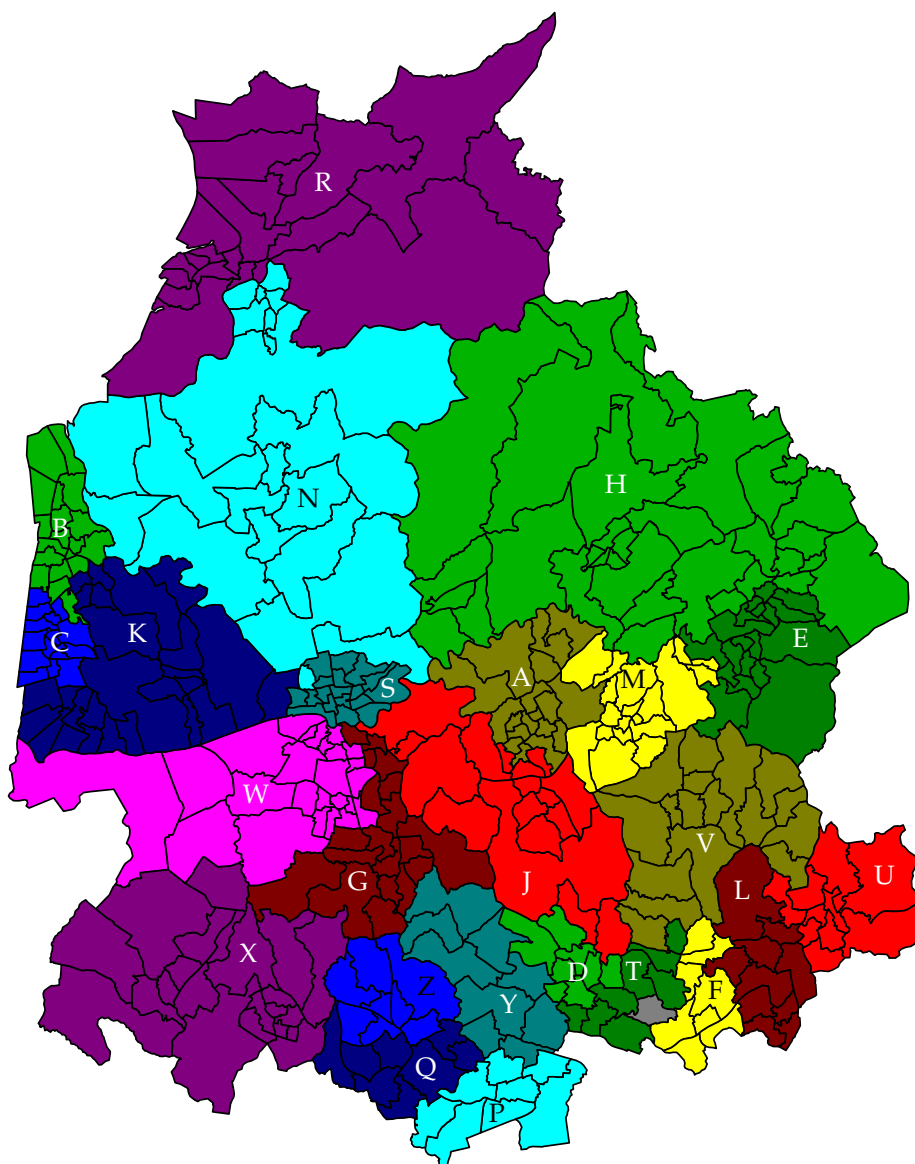


Figure 6: Map of the constituencies counter-proposed for Lancashire and Northern Greater Manchester. The grey ward (Radcliffe West) is split as in Figure 5.

- H. Colne and Clitheroe (74298)** The following wards of the Borough of Pendle: Barrowford, Blacko and Higherford, Boulsworth, Coates, Craven, Earby, Foulridge, Higham and Pendleside, Horsfield, Old Laund Booth, Vivary Bridge, Waterside; and the following wards of the District of Ribble Valley: Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley, Alston and Hothersall, Bowland, Newton and Slaidburn, Chatburn, Chipping, Derby and Thornley, Dilworth, Edisford and Low Moor, Gisburn, Rimington, Littlemoor, Primrose, Read and Simonstone, Ribchester, Sabden, St Mary's, Salthill, Waddington and West Bradford, Whalley, Wiswell and Pendleton.
- J. Darwen and Blackburn South (75330)** The following wards of the Borough of Blackburn with Darwen: Earcroft, East Rural, Fernhurst, Higher Croft, Livesey with Pleasington, Marsh House, Meadowhead, North Turton with Tockholes, Sudell, Sunnyhurst, Whitehall; the following wards of the Borough of Bolton: Bradshaw, Bromley Cross; the following wards of the Borough of Chorley: Brindle and Hoghton, Wheelton and Withnell; and the following wards of the Borough of South Ribble: Coupe Green and Gregson Lane, Samlesbury and Walton.
- K. Fylde (78304)** The District of Fylde; and the following wards of the District of Wyre: Breck, Hardhorn, High Cross, Tithebarn.
- L. Heywood and Middleton (79636)** *Unchanged*; the following wards of the Borough of Rochdale: Bamford, Castleton, East Middleton, Hopwood Hall, Norden, North Heywood, North Middleton, South Middleton, West Heywood, West Middleton.
- M. Hyndburn (74223)** The following wards of the Borough of Burnley: Gannow, Gawthorpe, Hapton with Park, Rosegrove with Lowerhouse; and all the wards of the Borough of Hyndburn except Rishton.
- N. Lancaster (76194)** The following wards of the City of Lancaster: Bulk, Castle, Duke's, Ellet, John O'Gaunt, Scotforth East, Scotforth West, University; the following wards of the City of Preston: Ingol, Preston Rural East, Preston Rural North; and the following wards of the District of Wyre: Brock, Cabus, Calder, Catterall, Garstang, Great Eccleston, Hambleton and Stalmine-with-Staynall, Pilling, Preesall, Wyresdale.
- P. Leigh (77001)** *Unchanged*; the following wards of the Borough of Wigan: Astley Mosley Common, Atherleigh, Golborne and Lowton West, Leigh East, Leigh South, Leigh West, Lowton East, Tyldesley.
- Q. Makerfield (74856)** *Unchanged*; the following wards of the Borough of Wigan: Abram, Ashton, Bryn, Hindley, Hindley Green, Orrell, Winstanley, Worsley Mesnes.
- R. Morecambe and Lunesdale (72905)** The following wards of the City of Lancaster: Bare, Bolton-le-Sands, Carnforth, Halton-with-Aughton, Harbour, Heysham Central, Heysham North, Heysham South, Kellet, Lower Lune Valley, Overton, Poulton, Silverdale, Skerton East, Skerton West, Slyne-with-Hest, Torrisholme, Upper Lune Valley, Warton, Westgate.

- S. Preston (77763)** The following wards of the City of Preston: Ashton, Brookfield, Cadley, College, Deepdale, Fishwick, Garrison, Greyfriars, Larches, Moor Park, Ribblesdale, Riversway, St George's, St Matthew's, Sharoe Green, Town Centre, Tulketh, University.
- T. Radcliffe-cum-Farnworth (c. 79000)** The following wards of the Borough of Bolton: Farnworth, Harper Green, Kearsley, Little Lever and Darcy Lever; and the following wards of the borough of Bury: Church, Elton, Radcliffe East, Radcliffe North, Radcliffe West (*part: polling districts MD and ME*).
- U. Rochdale (77669)** *Unchanged*; the following wards of the Borough of Rochdale: Balderstone and Kirkholt, Central Rochdale, Healey, Kingsway, Littleborough Lakeside, Milkstone and Deepdish, Milnrow and Newhey, Smallbridge and Firgrove, Spotland and Falinge, Wardle and West Littleborough.
- V. Rossendale (77912)** The following wards of the Borough of Bury: North Manor, Ramsbottom, Tottington; and the Borough of Rossendale.
- W. South Ribble (80114)** The following ward of the Borough of Chorley: Lostock; the following wards of the Borough of South Ribble: Broad Oak, Charnock, Earnshaw Bridge, Farington East, Farington West, Golden Hill, Howick and Priory, Kingsfold, Leyland Central, Leyland St Ambrose, Leyland St Marys, Little Hoole and Much Hoole, Longton and Hutton West, Lostock Hall, Lowerhouse, Middleforth, Moss Side, New Longton and Hutton East, Seven Stars, Tardy Gate, Whitefield; and the following wards of the District of West Lancashire: Hesketh-with-Becconsall, North Meols, Tarleton.
- X. West Lancashire (74717)** The following wards of the District of West Lancashire: Ashurst, Aughton and Downholland, Aughton Park, Bickerstaffe, Birch Green, Burscough East, Burscough West, Derby, Digmoor, Halsall, Knowsley, Moorside, Newburgh, Parbold, Rufford, Scarisbrick, Scott, Skelmersdale North, Skelmersdale South, Tanhouse, Up Holland, Wrightington.
- Y. Westhoughton (78614)** The following wards of the Borough of Bolton: Heaton and Lostock, Horwich and Blackrod, Horwich North East, Hulton, Westhoughton North and Chew Moor, Westhoughton South; the following wards of the Borough of Chorley: Adlington and Anderton, Heath Charnock and Rivington; and the following ward of the Borough of Wigan: Atherton.
- Z. Wigan (76779)** *Unchanged*; the following wards of the Borough of Wigan: Aspull New Springs Whelley, Douglas, Ince, Pemberton, Shevington with Lower Ground, Standish with Langtree, Wigan Central, Wigan West.

5 Closing remarks

This submission has outlined plans for forty constituencies in the counties of Lancashire and Greater Manchester. It has the following advantages over the Boundary Commission's proposals:

- Nine constituencies (Heywood and Middleton, Leigh, Makerfield, Manchester Withington, Rochdale, Salford and Eccles, Wigan, Worsley and Eccles South, and Wythenshawe and Sale East) are unchanged, as opposed to three (Bury South, West Lancashire and Wigan) under the Commission's proposals.
- No constituency contains parts of more than two Greater Manchester boroughs. Eight constituencies contain parts of two Greater Manchester boroughs, as opposed to nine under the Commission's proposals.
- The towns of Accrington, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bredbury, Chadderton, Heywood, Horwich, Leigh, Rawtenstall, Rochdale and Royton are not split between constituencies as under the Boundary Commission's proposals.
- The towns of Oldham and Sale are split between only two constituencies rather than three as under the Boundary Commission's proposals.
- The Lancaster, Leigh and South Ribble constituencies do not contain areas with no road connection to the rest of the constituency.

I hope that this submission is helpful to you and wish you luck in completing the review.

Andrew Teale
December 4, 2011