

# Newsletter

Issue 1/2012

## Secondary consultation period details announced

1. We are pleased to announce the imminent publication of the representations we received on our initial proposals for new Parliamentary boundaries. The initial consultation attracted a very significant and encouraging rate of response and engagement, with well over 22,000 unique written representations being received, in addition to over 1,100 oral representations that were made at public hearings.
2. The publication of the written representations and verbatim transcripts of the public hearings will start the statutory 'secondary consultation period', when individuals and organisations have an opportunity to submit to us comments on the representations that have been made by others. The period of consultation as prescribed in the legislation is short (four weeks), so we are providing advance notice now - to give people maximum opportunity to submit their views in time - of our intention to publish at noon on Tuesday 6 March 2012. Respondents to the secondary consultation will therefore need to ensure that their comments are received by us no later than noon on Tuesday 3 April 2012.
3. We will be publishing all representations on our website in an easily searchable format and encourage people to make use of our site to search, browse and comment on initial representations. More than half of the representations on our initial proposals were made through our website, which provides a secure and quick method through which to give us your views.
4. Whilst our original intention was to publish in hard copy in every proposed constituency within a region all the representations received in relation to that region (see *A guide to the 2013 Review*, paragraph 74), the very high level of response to the initial proposals has meant that we have had to revisit that intention. As the number of representations involved is so large, we have determined that the significant expenditure that would be involved in reproducing hard copies of them all and placing the resulting large number of volumes in hundreds of places of public deposit across England could not justify a further application for additional funds, both having regard to the present pressures on public expenditure and as such expense would not represent value for money. Furthermore, the exercise could not in practice be carried out without having a detrimental impact on the timetable for completing the review or requiring the secondary consultation to take place at times which would not be suitable (over the Easter holidays or at times which would clash with local elections). We therefore consider that there

are strong overriding reasons in the public interest why the representations should be published only on our website and not in hard copies across the country.

5. People who require assistance in viewing the representations online are encouraged to use widely available public internet facilities (such as in most public libraries), where assistance with using the internet is generally available. If any individual is unable to access the internet at all, please contact us. We will consider any reasonable request to provide support for an individual to gain access to the material on the internet if all other steps have failed and we may be able (if strictly necessary to do so) to provide a hard copy of specific representations we have received.

#### Contact details

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