

2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies

Official response from
The Labour Party

London

London Region

3.1. Electorates and Review Areas

3.1.1. We note that with an electorate of 5,550,454, London is entitled to 75 seats under the Sainte-Laguë allocation, an increase of two.

3.1.2. We also note that the Theoretical Entitlement of London is to 75.63 seats and that this has been rounded down in the allocation process, meaning that the average electorate of London constituencies will be 74,006, 613 above the Electoral Quota.

3.1.3. We agree with the Commission that there should not be a constituency which contains parts on both sides of the River Thames, and also that the River Lee should be respected as the western boundary of the Borough of Waltham Forest, with no constituency also containing parts of Hackney, Haringey or Enfield. As the Commission shows however, it is necessary for a constituency to straddle the Lee and we therefore support the allocation of five whole seats to the boroughs of Newham and Tower Hamlets, an increase of one, with the Stratford & Bow constituency containing parts of both.

3.1.4. We also support the North East London Review Area comprising the four boroughs to the north and east of Newham, with an unchanged allocation of nine constituencies.

3.1.5. The remainder of North London, the review area which the Commission have called North Central and North West London has a Theoretical Entitlement to 32.67 constituencies which has been rounded down to 32 seats. This obviously means that it is this review area which contains most of the relative under-representation of the region as a whole.

3.1.6. We note that the three boroughs of Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich have a Theoretical Entitlement to 7.95 constituencies and that they therefore form a logical review area with an allocation of eight constituencies. This obviously means that the existing Lewisham West & Penge BC must be broken up, but we believe that there must anyway be major change in South Central London where there are several oversized constituencies and the allocation is being increased accordingly.

3.2. North East London

3.2.1. We fully support the Initial Proposals in this review area. We believe that the best way to reduce the electorate of the Barking BC is by the transfer of the Valence ward to Dagenham & Rainham BC, and we agree with the Commission that there are ties between the Redbridge ward of Chadwell and Chadwell Heath which make that the most suitable Barking & Dagenham ward for inclusion in the Ilford South BC.

3.2.2. We also support the changes to constituencies within Redbridge with the inclusion of the Bridge ward in Chingford & Woodford Green BC uniting more of Woodford in that constituency as well as the transfer of Cranbrook and Valentines wards to Ilford North BC. We note that no changes at all are made in the Borough of Waltham Forest.

3.2.3. On balance we also believe that the proposal to split the Hylands ward of the Borough of Havering between the Hornchurch & Upminster BC and the Romford BC is justified as this is an area where options are limited because of the large ward electorates and because it lies at the periphery of the region. Any alternative means of reducing the electorate of the Hornchurch & Upminster BC would certainly be much more disruptive and probably also break local community ties.

3.3. Newham and Tower Hamlets

3.3.1. We fully support the proposals for these two boroughs which create logical, well-shaped constituencies and a seat across the River Lee in Stratford & Bow which has excellent internal communications.

3.4. North Central and North West London

3.4.1. As stated above, we note that the 32 constituencies in this review area have an average electorate of 74,924, 1,531 above the Electoral Quota, and that as a result the Commission has had to adopt a policy of maximising the electorate of each constituency sometimes at the expense of respecting existing constituencies and local ties. We also recognise that there is an imbalance with clusters of constituencies in Central London having low electorates and those in boroughs such as Brent, Camden, Hackney, Haringey and Hounslow having large electorates.

3.4.2. We note that the Commission have proposed that the City of London should be included in a seat with parts of Islington rather than parts of the City of Westminster. We believe this is a perfectly sensible and workable arrangement but it has obviously had some knock-on consequences both within the boroughs of Islington and Westminster and beyond. We do not wish to object to the proposal and will consider any counter proposals that may be made during the Secondary Consultation Period.

3.4.3. We welcome the fact that the Commission have made proposals which do not require any ward to be split as there are several boroughs where the use of prospective wards means that there are no available current polling districts to use for these purposes. We do note that there are a number of obviously anomalous proposals such as the inclusion of the Tufnell Park ward in the Kentish Town & Bloomsbury constituency and of the Dalston ward in Islington North. We accept the conclusion of the Commission that it is no longer possible to adhere to the A5 as a boundary between the boroughs of Barnet, Brent and Harrow, and we

support the proposed Hendon & Golders Green BC and Finchley & Muswell Hill BC which we believe are logical seats and combine areas in different boroughs which do have ties with each other.

3.4.4. In general though, while we make no objections to most of these proposals we will carefully consider any other proposals which may be made and will comment on them during the Secondary Consultation Period.

3.4.5. We would wish to make one counter proposal which would be to include the West Green ward of the Borough of Haringey in the Tottenham BC, as it includes several neighbourhoods which are integral to the Tottenham community. We propose instead that the Harringay ward should be included in the Hornsey & Wood Green BC.

3.4.6. The full details and electorates of the counter proposal are set out below in section 4.7.

3.5. South East London

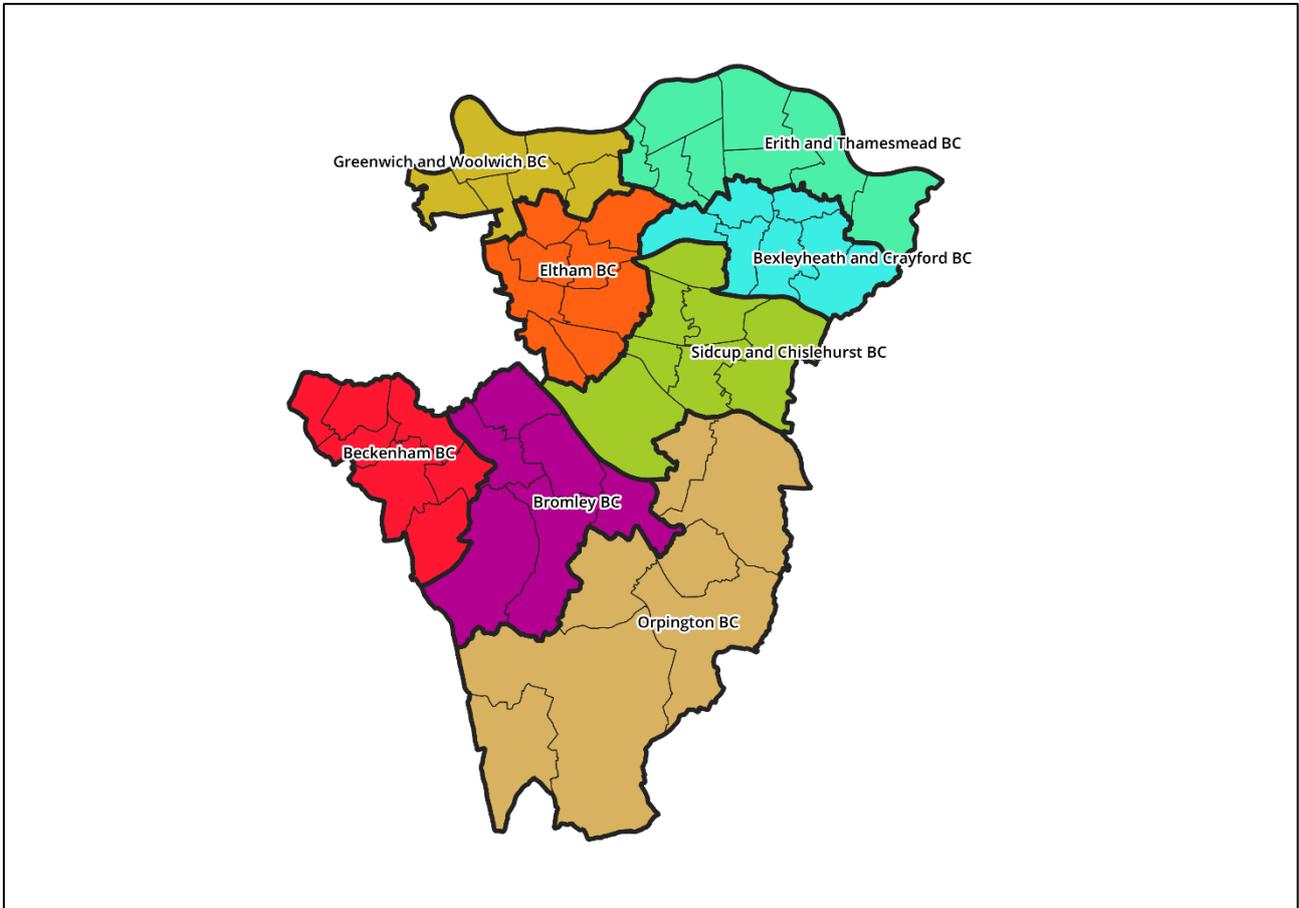
3.5.1. We note that major change is necessary in the Borough of Bromley owing to the abolition of the Lewisham West & Penge BC. We support the proposed Beckenham BC which restores the ties between the Clock House, Copers Cope and Kelsey & Eden Park which form the centre of Beckenham itself. This seat effectively recreates the constituency which was abolished in the 2010 boundary changes.

3.5.2. We also support the proposed Bromley BC which is a compact seat combining the commuter towns of the centre of the borough with most of the eastern boundary formed by the main railway line to from London to Orpington. We also welcome the addition of the Cray Valley West ward to the Orpington CC which unites the two Cray Valley wards in the same constituency.

- 3.5.3. We do not however support the proposal for an Eltham & Chislehurst constituency. We note and in general agree with the Commission's comments in paragraph 78 of the Proposals Booklet which refer to the boundary between Mottingham and Eltham much of which is comprised of continuous residential development. We agree that the addition of the Mottingham & Chislehurst North ward is an obvious and appropriate way to bring the electorate of the Eltham constituency within five per cent of the Electoral Quota. Mottingham as a community arguably looks towards the boroughs of Greenwich and Lewisham more than it does to the rest of Bromley and its railway station lies within the Eltham constituency.
- 3.5.4. That we believe is the only change that is necessary for the Eltham BC, but the Commission have additionally chosen to transfer the Shooters Hill ward to the Erith & Thamesmead BC. We do not support that proposal which compromises the character of the latter constituency as essentially comprising riverside communities. The Shooters Hill ward has a long history as part of the Eltham constituency and we see no reason for it to be removed.
- 3.5.5. Furthermore the Chislehurst ward which would replace it has no real ties to the borough of Greenwich or to the Eltham constituency, as it is a semi-rural outer London community quite distinct from Mottingham. Given that it is no longer possible for it to be in a Bromley & Chislehurst constituency we propose that it should instead be included in a seat with Sidcup, a town with which it has strong road connections across the A20 and which is of a similar size and character. While the Commission state that the area between them is woodland and open space, in fact they are less than two miles apart and joined by the A222 road which unites residential areas, industrial and retail and also the Queen Mary's Hospital which serves both Bexley and Bromley boroughs and lies half way between the two towns.
- 3.5.6. We believe then that rather than being part of a Sidcup & Welling constituency the East Wickham ward should be included in the Bexleyheath & Crayford BC,

respecting its ties to West Heath and Crook Log wards, and that Slade Green & Northend whose main A206 road link connects it with Erith should be in the Erith & Thamesmead BC.

Figure 1: Labour Counter Proposal for South East London



3.5.7. The full details of the counter proposal are set out in paragraph 4.7 below.

3.6. South Central and South West London

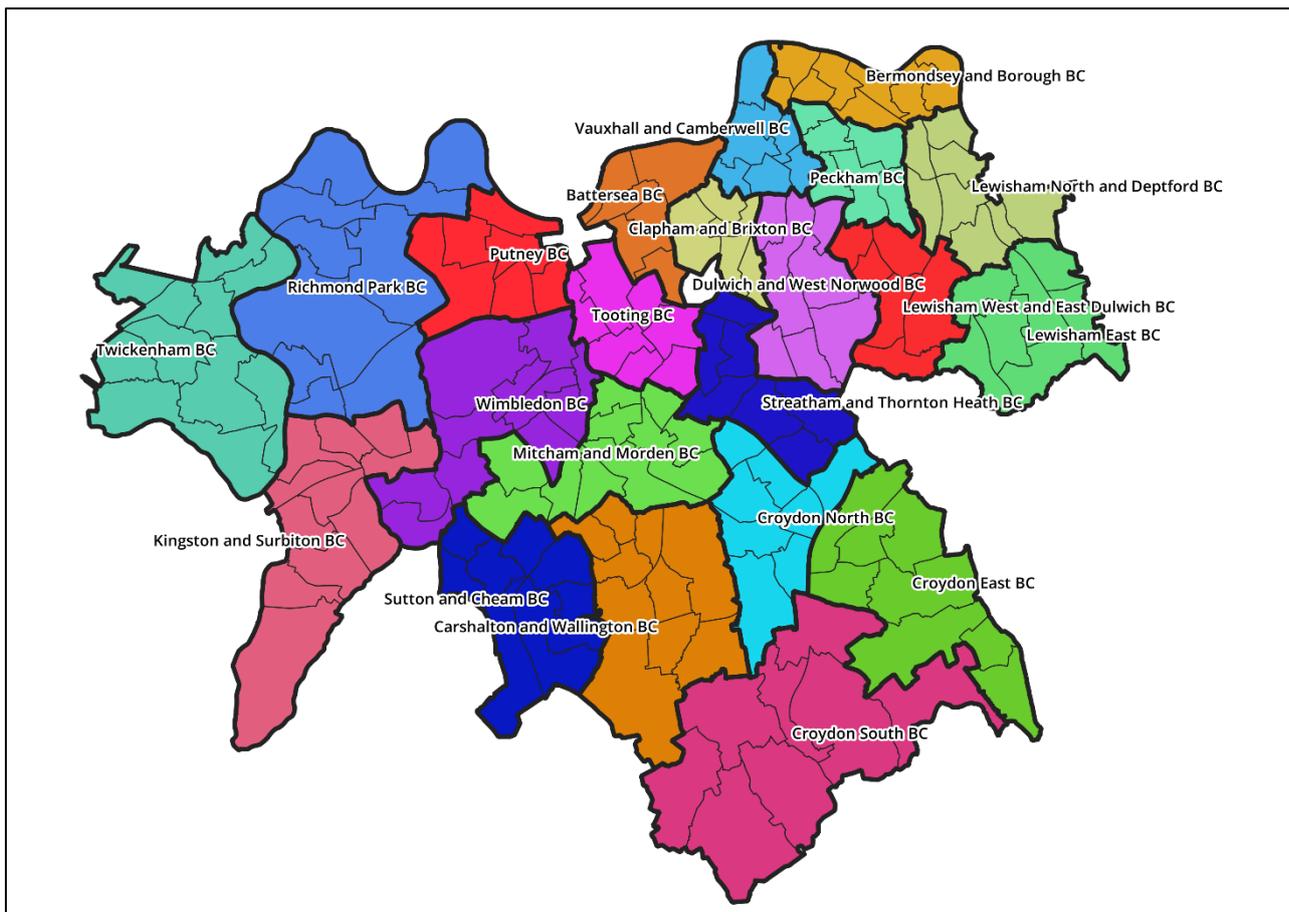
3.6.1. We support the Initial Proposals for the Borough of Wandsworth to retain three whole seats with the Tooting BC unchanged. As in Havering we believe that the inclusion of all except one polling district of the Fairfield ward in the Putney BC is the simplest way of enlarging its electorate which would otherwise require considerable change to a number of constituencies.

- 3.6.2. We also support the minimum change proposals for the Borough of Sutton and the amendments to the Kingston & Surbiton, Richmond Park and Wimbledon constituencies which bring their electorates within five per cent of the Electoral Quota.
- 3.6.3. We wish however to make a counter proposal for the remainder of this review area. We believe that the Initial Proposals could better reflect existing constituencies and they also contain some highly contrived proposals such as the removal of the Longthornton ward from the Mitcham & Morden BC. They result in the technical abolition of one seat and the creation of two new ones which we believe is unnecessarily disruptive.
- 3.6.4. We therefore propose that there should be a successor to all the existing seats, including Dulwich & West Norwood BC which would contain the Southwark Borough wards of Dulwich Village, Dulwich Wood and Champion Hill and five wards of the Borough of Lambeth. A Lewisham West & East Dulwich seat would then include the wards of Dulwich Hill, Goose Green and Peckham Rye as well as the Lewisham Borough ward of Crofton Park, respecting ties between the two boroughs in the Honor Oak area. The Lewisham East BC would include Bellingham ward and a Lewisham North & Deptford BC would include Blackheath. We then propose that the Peckham BC should include North Walworth and Bermondsey & Borough should include St George's ward, with no other change to the proposal Vauxhall & Camberwell BC.
- 3.6.5. In the Borough of Croydon we propose that the Woodside ward should remain in the Croydon East BC respecting its long-standing ties with Addiscombe both in the existing Croydon Central and prior to 1997 the former Croydon North East constituencies. We also agree that New Addington should remain in the seat which would mean that Selsdon & Addington Village must also be in it, with Selsdon Vale & Forestdale in Croydon South BC. We believe that whichever configuration of wards is adopted in this part of the borough some ties may be broken but do not believe that there is any justification for splitting a ward. We

propose therefore that the whole of Waddon ward should be in the Croydon North BC which should also continue to include the South Norwood ward whose main road, the A213, is one of the main radial routes out of Croydon to the north. This constituency would then continue to be wholly in the Borough of Croydon.

- 3.6.6. This enables the Longthornton ward, which is an integral part of Mitcham, to remain in the Mitcham & Morden BC, and respects its ties to Pollards Hill ward whose residential areas under the Initial Proposals would be almost cut off from the rest of the constituency.
- 3.6.7. We then propose a Streatham & Thornton Heath BC which would contain three wards of the Borough of Croydon and the four wards of Lambeth which comprise most of Streatham itself, with the Clapham & Brixton BC including Brixton Hill and Tulse Hill rather than Coldharbour and Herne Hill. The Thornton ward would be divided with two polling districts in Streatham & Thornton Heath and three polling districts in Clapham & Brixton, but the Waddon ward of Croydon which would be split under the Initial Proposals would be entirely within the Croydon North constituency.

Figure 2: Labour Counter Proposal for South Central and South West London



The blank ward in the above map is Thornton (Lambeth) which is split in our proposal. See below table for more detail.

3.6.8. The full details and electorates of the counter proposal are set out in paragraph 4.7 below.

3.7. Names and Designation of Constituencies

3.7.1. We do not wish to make any detailed comment on the names and designations of constituencies in London until the Secondary Consultation Period when we know what further suggestions may have been made in the representations.

3.8. Counter Proposals

3.9. The Labour Party wishes to make counter proposals for the North Central and North West Review area affecting the following proposed constituencies:

Hornsey & Wood Green BC

Tottenham BC

- 3.10. We also wish to make counter proposals in the South East Review Area affecting the following proposed constituencies:

Bexleyheath & Crayford BC

Eltham & Chislehurst BC

Erith & Thamesmead BC

Sidcup & Welling BC

- 3.11. We also wish to make counter proposals for the South Central and South West Review Area affecting the following proposed constituencies:

Bermondsey & Borough BC

Clapham & Brixton BC

Croydon East BC

Croydon North BC

Croydon South BC

Deptford BC

Lewisham East BC

Lewisham West & Dulwich BC

Mitcham & Morden BC

Norwood BC

Peckham BC

Streatham BC

Vauxhall & Camberwell BC

- 3.12. The ward lists for the counter proposals are shown below.

Table 1: Labour Counter Proposal for Haringey

Constituency and Electorate	Wards
Hornsey and Wood Green BC 73,749	<u>Haringey</u> wards of: Alexandra Park, Bounds Green, Crouch End, Harringay, Hornsey, Noel Park, Stroud Green, White Hart Lane, Woodside
Tottenham BC 75,968	<u>Hackney</u> wards of: Brownswood, Woodberry Down <u>Haringey</u> wards of: Bruce Castle, Hermitage & Gardens, Northumberland Park, Seven Sisters, South Tottenham, St Ann's, Tottenham Central, Tottenham Hale, West Green

Table 2: Labour Counter Proposal for South Central and South West London

Constituency	Description
Bermondsey and Borough BC 70,602	<u>Southwark</u> wards of: Borough & Bankside, Chaucer, London Bridge & West Bermondsey, North Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, South Bermondsey, St George's, Surrey Docks
Clapham and Brixton BC 72,546	<u>Lambeth</u> wards of: Brixton Hill, Clapham Common, Clapham Town, Ferndale, Larkhall, Tulse Hill, Thornton (part: PDs SSA, SSD, SSE)
Croydon East BC 74,250	<u>Croydon</u> wards of: Addiscombe East, Addiscombe West, New Addington North, New Addington South, Park Hill & Whitgift, Selsdon & Addington Village, Shirley North, Shirley South, Woodside
Croydon North BC 76,287	<u>Croydon</u> wards of: Bensham Manor, Broad Green, Fairfield, Norbury & Pollards Hill, Selhurst, South Norwood, Waddon, West Thornton
Croydon South BC 74,718	<u>Croydon</u> wards of: Coulsdon Town, Kenley, Old Coulsdon, Purley & Woodcote, Purley Oaks & Riddlesdown, Sanderstead, Selsdon Vale & Forestdale, South Croydon
Dulwich and West Norwood BC 74,314	<u>Lambeth</u> wards of: Coldharbour, Gipsy Hill, Herne Hill, Knight's Hill Thurlow Park <u>Southwark</u> wards of: Champion Hill, Dulwich Village, Dulwich Wood

Constituency	Description
Lewisham East BC 71,706	<u>Lewisham</u> wards of: Bellingham, Catford South, Downham, Grove Park, Hither Green, Lee Green, Rushey Green
Lewisham North and Deptford BC 73,504	<u>Lewisham</u> wards of: Blackheath, Brockley, Deptford, Evelyn, Ladywell, Lewisham Central, New Cross, New Cross Gate
Lewisham West and East Dulwich BC 69,904	<u>Lewisham</u> wards of: Crofton Park, Forest Hill, Perry Hill, Sydenham <u>Southwark</u> wards of: Dulwich Hill, Goose Green, Peckham Rye
Mitcham and Morden BC 76,877	<u>Merton</u> wards of: Cannon Hill, Colliers Wood, Cricket Green, Figge's Marsh, Graveney, Lavender Fields, Longthornton, Lower Morden, Pollards Hill, Ravensbury, St Helier
Peckham BC 71,176	<u>Southwark</u> wards of: Faraday, North Walworth, Nunhead & Queen's Road, Old Kent Road, Peckham, Rye Lane, St Giles
Streatham and Thornton Heath BC 71,408	<u>Croydon</u> wards of Crystal Palace & Upper Norwood, Norbury Park, Thornton Heath <u>Lambeth</u> wards of: St Leonard's, Streatham Hill, Streatham South, Streatham Wells, <i>Thornton (part PDs SSB, SSC)</i>
Vauxhall and Camberwell BC 69,995	<u>Lambeth</u> wards of: Bishop's, Oval, Prince's Stockwell, Vassall <u>Southwark</u> wards of: Camberwell Green, Newington

Table 3: Labour Counter Proposal for South East London

Constituency	Description
Bexleyheath and Crayford BC 73,614	<u>Bexley</u> wards of: Barnehurst, Bexleyheath, Crayford, Crook Log, East Wickham, Northumberland Heath, West Heath
Eltham BC 71,262	<u>Bromley</u> ward of Mottingham & Chislehurst North <u>Greenwich</u> wards of: Coldharbour & New Eltham, Eltham North, Eltham South, Eltham West, Kidbrooke & Hornfair, Middle Park & Sutcliffe, Shooters Hill
Erith and Thamesmead BC 75,436	<u>Bexley</u> wards of: Belvedere, Erith, Slade Green & Northend, Thamesmead East <u>Greenwich</u> wards of: Abbey Wood, Glyndon, Plumstead, Thamesmead Moorings

Constituency	Description
Sidcup and Chislehurst BC 74,860	<u>Bexley</u> wards of: Blackfen & Lamorbey, Blendon & Penhill, Falconwood & Welling, Longlands, Sidcup, St Mary's & St James <u>Bromley</u> ward of: Chislehurst

