

# COUNTER-PROPOSAL FOR THE SOUTH WEST REGION

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The South West region consists of the ceremonial counties of Bristol, Cornwall (*Kernow*), Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. It spans almost 2.4 million hectares, making it the largest region by total land area.

Administratively, it is made up of 33 (sometimes overlapping) council areas, of which three are designated as County Councils, twelve are unitary authorities (including one, the Isles of Scilly, that is a unitary *sui generis*) and the rest are classed as districts.

In historical terms, it covers the traditional counties of Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. It is worth noting that there is some dispute as to whether Bristol really constitutes a county in its own right or is merely a city split between two counties, whilst many consider Cornwall to be far more than just a mere county like all the others.

It is coterminous with former multi-member European Parliament constituency of South West England, on the boundaries used from 1999 to 2004. Uniquely among the English regions, it did not match up with a Euro-constituency from mid-2004 onwards because the UK statistical region does not contain the Overseas Territory of Gibraltar.

According to the Commission's own calculations, it is entitled to 58 seats, a slight increase of three on the present figure.

I suggest that the region be further divided into five sub-regions for the purposes of the current review. Four of these should simply be Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Wiltshire all considered separately. The fifth sub-region would then bring together Bristol, Gloucestershire and Somerset.

### **Local government changes**

A new local governance arrangement was announced during the first consultation period as affecting the current Somerset County Council area, but this new authority has not yet been constituted, so this cannot legally alter the conduct of the review process.

The Commission must work with the ward boundaries as they stood at the May 2019 local elections, so I shall continue to use those as the basis for any and all counter-proposals.

### **My links with the region**

I was born and raised here, as were my parents and three of my grandparents. I attended local primary and secondary schools as well as a further education college in the region.

Most of my old school friends still live here, in addition to some newer ones, as do many relatives of mine.

I have spent all but five years of my life in the region, and even during my time away I was studying so I always maintained a base here.

I have voted in elections and referenda on all but two occasions here since I was eligible. In the remaining two instances I voted in Wales and the South East of England region due to my studies.

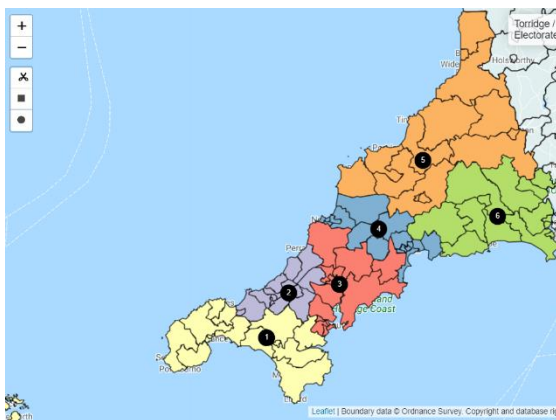
More specifically, I voted in the 2005 and 2017 general elections in the Wells constituency and in 2019 in the Bath constituency. In all four European elections in which I was able to vote, I

cast my ballot in the South West England and Gibraltar constituency.

The Commission's proposals would place me in a redrawn Bridgwater constituency. This is a move I support, but I also wish to demonstrate that it is possible to produce an improved boundary map for the region containing fewer cross-county recommendations, without losing the advantages of the positive parts of the initial suggestions.

## CORNWALL

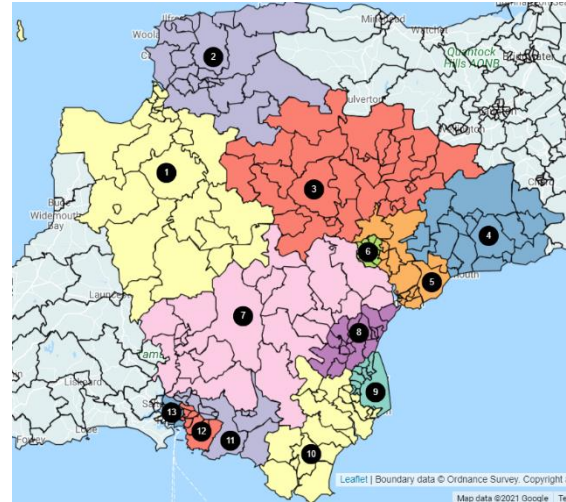
I propose the following six constituencies for Cornwall:



- 1) *St Ives CC*
- 2) *Camborne and Redruth CC*
- 3) *Truro and Falmouth CC*
- 4) *St Austell and Newquay CC*
- 5) *Bodmin and Launceston CC*
- 6) *Saltash and Liskeard CC*

## DEVON

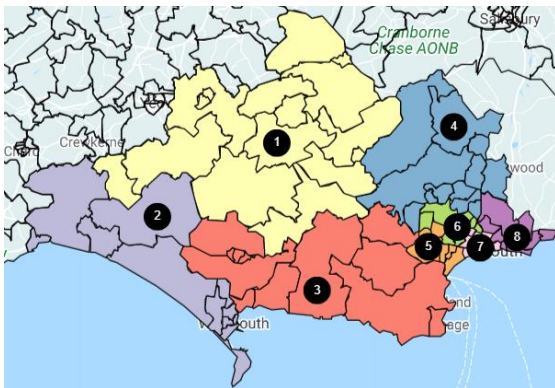
I propose the following 13 constituencies for the ceremonial county of Devon:



- 1) *Bideford and Okehampton CC*
- 2) *Barnstaple CC*
- 3) *Tiverton CC*
- 4) *Honiton CC*
- 5) *Exmouth CC*
- 6) *Exeter BC*
- 7) *Tavistock CC*
- 8) *Newton Abbot CC*
- 9) *Torbay BC*
- 10) *Totnes CC*
- 11) *Ivybridge and Plymouth Moor View CC*
- 12) *Wembury and Plymouth Sutton BC*
- 13) *Plymouth Devonport BC*

**DORSET**

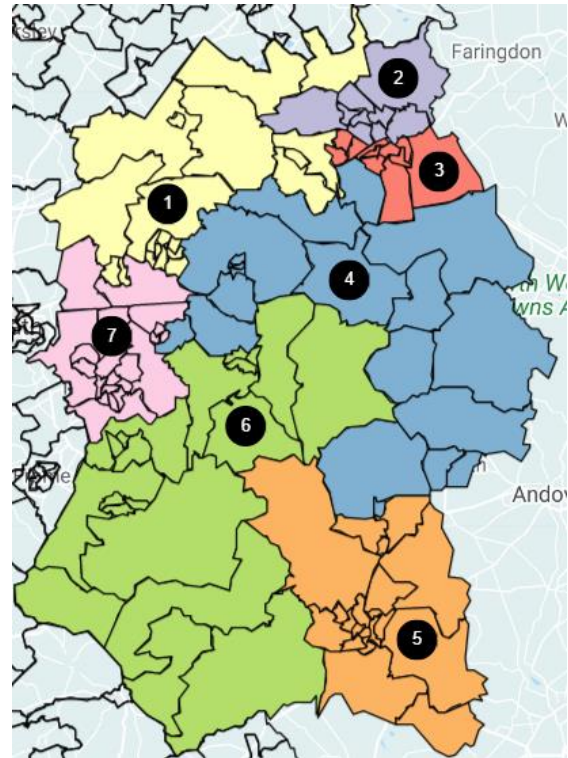
I propose the following eight constituencies for the ceremonial county of Dorset. Four are located in the Dorset Council area, whilst the other four fall entirely within the new Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) council area:



- 1) *Dorset North CC*
- 2) *Dorset West CC*
- 3) *Dorset South CC*
- 4) *Dorset East CC*
- 5) *Poole BC*
- 6) *Broadstone and Kinson CC*
- 7) *Bournemouth BC*
- 8) *Christchurch and Southbourne BC*

**WILTSHIRE**

I propose the following seven constituencies for the ceremonial county of Wiltshire:

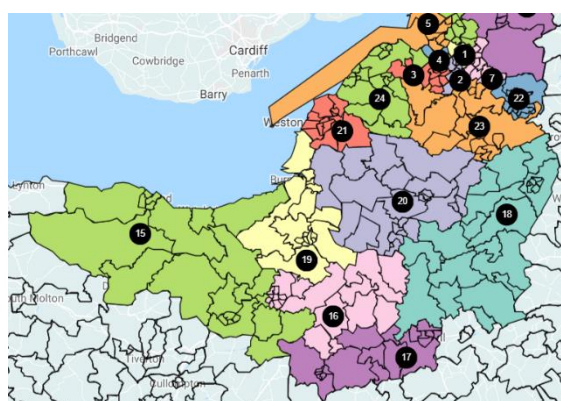
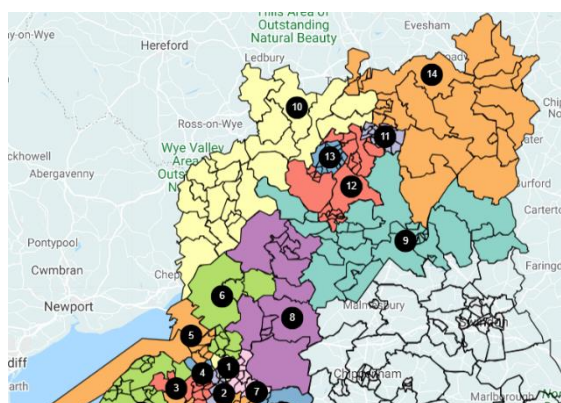


- 1) *Chippenham CC*
- 2) *Swindon North BC*
- 3) *Swindon South BC*
- 4) *Calne CC*
- 5) *Salisbury CC*
- 6) *Devizes CC*
- 7) *Trowbridge CC*

## BRISTOL, GLOUCESTERSHIRE and SOMERSET

I propose the following 24 constituencies for the Bristol, Gloucestershire and Somerset sub-region. Ten are located entirely within Somerset (including six wholly inside the Somerset County Council area), eight can be found fully in Gloucestershire (of which six fall wholly within the bounds of the Gloucestershire County Council area), three lie entirely inside the City of Bristol and there are a further three cross-county seats:

- 1) *Bristol North East BC*
- 2) *Bristol South East BC*
- 3) *Bristol South West BC*
- 4) *Bristol West BC*
- 5) *Bristol North West BC*
- 6) *Filton and Thornbury CC*
- 7) *Kingswood BC*
- 8) *Dursley and Yate CC*
- 9) *Cirencester CC*
- 10) *Forest of Dean CC*
- 11) *Cheltenham BC*
- 12) *Stroud CC*
- 13) *Gloucester BC*
- 14) *Tewkesbury CC*
- 15) *Minehead CC*
- 16) *Taunton and Somerton CC*
- 17) *Yeovil CC*
- 18) *Wincanton and Frome CC*
- 19) *Bridgwater CC*
- 20) *Wells CC*
- 21) *Weston-super-Mare CC*
- 22) *Bath BC*
- 23) *Keynsham and Peasedown CC*
- 24) *Portishead and Clevedon CC*



All maps made using the Boundary Assistant interactive website tool from [REDACTED]. Underlying technology courtesy of Google Maps. All electorate data ultimately taken from the ONS.