

Boundaries.  
G.L.A.

# Conservative Central Office Greater London Area

32 Smith Square Westminster SW1P 3HH Telephone 01-222 9000 Telegrams Constitute London SW1

Central Office Agent: DONALD STRINGER  
Deputy Central Office Agents: MISS MARGARET PALMER  
KENNETH HARRIS  
DAVID TROWBRIDGE  
Local Government Officer: W. A. PURNELL, MA

14 June 1979



MEMO FROM DONALD STRINGER TO:

- London Conservative MPs ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~
- Conservative GLC Members
- Constituency Chairmen
- Constituency Agents
- Leaders of Conservative Groups on London Borough Councils
- Area Officers - for information
- Mr A S Garner - for information
- Mr O C D Mitchell - for information



PROPOSED CHANGES IN PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES IN GREATER LONDON

The Commission's provisional recommendations for the parliamentary constituencies in each of the London Boroughs except Enfield have been published today. They are part of a general review of parliamentary constituency boundaries announced by the Boundary Commission for England on 17th February 1976.

The Commission have decided that they should not review the parliamentary constituencies in Enfield until the results of litigation on local electoral arrangements are known. However, they do not propose to change the number of constituencies (3) allocated to Enfield London Borough.

There are at present ninety-two constituencies in Greater London. The effect of the Commission's recommendations is that there should be eight constituencies fewer - 84.

The Commission are required to follow London Borough boundaries as far as is practicable in recommending constituencies, and the constituencies proposed are contained within the London Borough boundaries. The Commission also propose that the inclusion of the name of the London Borough in the name of each parliamentary constituency should be discontinued.

Rules for redistribution

The House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Acts 1949 and 1958 place a limit on the total number of constituencies. County and London Borough boundaries are to be followed as far as is practicable. Subject to these requirements the electorates of constituencies are to be as nearly equal as possible, but the Commission can depart from these rules if special geographical



considerations make this desirable. The 1958 Act also relieves the Commission of the obligation to give full effect to the rules if, for example, changes would break local ties.

In considering the size of constituency electorates the Commission work to the electoral quota, which is the total electorate in England (nearly 34 million) divided by the existing number of seats (516). The Commission must use the 1976 electoral quota in the general review and this is 65,753.

The electorate in Greater London has fallen from 5,460,182 in 1965 at the start of the last general review, by 3.7% to 5,258,315 in 1976. The Commission have proposed in their provisional recommendations that in Greater London, where there are now 92 constituencies, there should be 84 constituencies.

#### Representations

The Commission are required to consider representations made about their provisional recommendations within one month of local publication. However, in the case of Greater London they expect to be able to take into consideration any representations received by them during the period up to 31st July 1979. These representations should be addressed to The Secretary, Boundary Commission for England, St Catherines House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP.

Where representations are made by an interested local authority or by a body of 100 or more electors, the Commission cannot proceed with their final recommendations to the Home Secretary until a local inquiry has been held. If the Commission decide to alter their recommendations, the revised recommendations must also be published but a further local inquiry is not obligatory.

#### Implementation of the recommendations

The Commission must submit their report on the general review for the whole of England to the Home Secretary before April 1984. The Home Secretary is then required to submit the report to Parliament with the draft Order in Council to give effect to the recommendations, with or without modifications. If modifications are proposed, the Home Secretary must at the same time present a statement of the reasons for them. The Order in Council requires the approval of both Houses of Parliament and the redistribution takes effect at the General Election following approval of the Order.

As I said in my letter to Constituency Agents dated 6th June, I intend to arrange for Borough meetings to be held, where appropriate, in the near future, to be attended by Constituency Chairmen and Agents, Members of Parliament, GLC Members and representatives of our Borough Council Groups. It really is most important, as I am sure you will agree, that we achieve a common approach to the recommendations in the best interests of the Party. We in the Party will then be able to speak with one voice either supporting the recommendations, or in making counter-proposals.

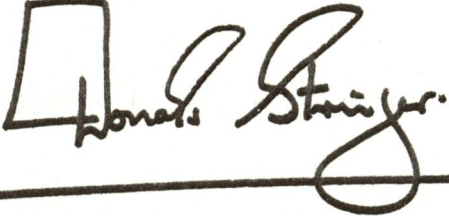
It is important that within the time available for representations to be made, as many individuals and sections of the Party as possible write to the Commission, putting the Party point of view. These will all be published later and if there are a large number of letters from the Associations, Borough Councillors, GLC Members, Members of Parliament, it will help to create an impression of support for the proposals we are putting forward, even if this is merely acceptance of the recommendations as they stand.



There is no need to prepare a detailed plan of counter-proposals if we are not satisfied with the recommendations being put forward by the Boundary Commission. In such cases it is important that as many sections of the Party as possible express in general terms their opposition to the recommendations, asking for an inquiry. In practice, if any constituency organisation of any political party argues for a public inquiry, then one must be held.

It is very unlikely indeed that a public inquiry will be held for at least three months after the last time for making representations. By that time our case must be prepared in detail and the Associations concerned should agree on the method in which their proposals are to be put to the Inquiry. In cases where it seems that we may be at risk and may possibly lose a seat it is hoped that the constituencies concerned will jointly agree to be represented by counsel. A list of barristers considered to have special talents in this sort of case will be obtainable from me.

If there are any matters concerning the recommendations which you would like to discuss with me please do not hesitate to get in touch, or if I am not available Margaret Palmer, Ken Harris or David Trowbridge will be pleased to help.

  
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donald Sturges". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'D'. Below the signature is a horizontal line.