



www.lgbc-ni.org.uk
info@lgbc-ni.org.uk



Provisional Recommendations 2021-2022 Review

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Chapter 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents my Provisional Recommendations for the Review of Local Government Boundaries in Northern Ireland. These Provisional Recommendations will now be the subject of public consultation.
- 1.2 I was appointed by the Department for Communities (DfC) as Local Government Boundaries Commissioner for Northern Ireland in June 2020. My appointment was announced by the then Minister for Communities Carál Ní Chuilín MLA on 16 June 2020.
- 1.3 My task is to review and make recommendations in respect of the number, boundaries and names of the 11 local government districts and the number, boundaries and names of the wards into which each district is divided. The Department has directed me to submit my final recommendations by 31 May 2022.
- 1.4 I published a public notice on 3 February 2021 launching the LGBC website and announcing that the preparatory stage of my Review was complete. I invited proposals from councils, political parties, associations, organisations and individual members of the public in relation to the number, boundaries and names of the 11 districts; and the number, boundaries and names of the wards within the 11 districts.
- 1.5 I have asked the Department to appoint Assistant Commissioners to assist with my Review. The primary role of the Assistant Commissioners will be to consider written and oral representations made in respect of my Provisional Recommendations and to provide impartial advice to me.

- 1.6 My Review has been established during challenging times. I am supported by a small team of officers seconded from the Northern Ireland Civil Service, led by my Secretary Jenny McGuigan. My team have been working alongside a team of mapping and charting officers in Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI), a division of Land and Property Services in the Department of Finance, as well as colleagues in the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland. As everyone has been working remotely since I was appointed, to date the whole team has not met in person. I commend the team for their skills and resilience in bringing the Review to this stage, and I look forward to meeting in person when it is safe to do so.
- 1.7 I have endeavoured to make this Review as accessible and inclusive as possible. I am presenting these Provisional Recommendations in an accessible digital format that has been developed by OSNI. This approach is not only in response to the current public health situation, but also because it is my view that the quality of the digital maps is far superior to a printed version and this will allow everyone to examine my proposals in greater detail. I hope that these provisional recommendations will act as a catalyst for meaningful public discussion.

Chapter 2. Legislative Framework

2.1 This chapter sets out the legislative framework for my Review. The parameters of the Local Government Boundaries Review and the procedures for the Review that I must follow are set out in the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 as amended.

2.2 I was appointed under Part IV of the above act, Article 50 Paragraph (1) (b). Part IV of the Act provides that:

The function of a Commissioner appointed under subsection 50 (1) (b) shall be to review and make recommendations regarding

a. The number, boundaries and names of local government districts; and

b. The number, boundaries and names of the wards into which each district is divided.

2.3 Schedule 4 of the above act sets out the appointment process for a LGB Commissioner, as well as the procedure for my Review that I must follow and the rules that I must adhere to. Full details of this legislation can be found at www.lgbc-ni.org.uk/links. I set out my approach to this legislation in Section 4 of this report.

2.4 The current names and boundaries of local government districts and wards in Northern Ireland are detailed in the Local Government (Boundaries) Order 2012. A map of the current local government districts can be found at:

<https://www.lgbc-ni.org.uk/sites/lgbc/files/publications/baseline-map.pdf>.

Chapter 3. Work to Date and key milestones

- 3.1 This chapter summarises the work done to date in advance of the publication of my Provisional Recommendations for public consultation. A summary of key milestones is available at <https://www.lgbc-ni.org.uk/milestone-timeline>.
- 3.2 The data that informs the Review was provided by the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland on the Enumeration Date, the 4th January 2021.
- 3.3 I engaged with the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and received up to date population statistics to help inform my approach to the Review.
- 3.4 On 3rd February I published a notice announcing the first statutory step in my Review. The LGBC website was also launched on this date, and in addition my team notified a wide range of stakeholders that my Review was underway; including councils, political parties, associations, and organisations. I invited proposals from all these stakeholders and from individual members of the public.
- 3.5 In parallel with the data analysis and mapping work over the last number of months, working closely with OSNI mapping and charting officers, I have had a number of engagements with councils, key stakeholders and delivery partners to inform my Review.
- 3.6 In May of this year I hosted a number of ‘Meet the Commissioner’ virtual information sessions with officers and members from the 11 councils. I used these virtual sessions to raise awareness among councils about the Review, to clarify the Review process and the timescales involved. A number of the questions raised during these sessions can be found at <https://www.lgbc-ni.org.uk/faqs>.

Chapter 4. General approach to the Review

- 4.1 This chapter set out my approach to the Local Government Boundaries Review. In approaching the task, I have acted under the direction of the legislation set out in Section 3 of this report.
- 4.2 I set out below my approach to some key aspects of Schedule 4 Part III of the 1972 Act.

Readily Identifiable Boundaries

- 4.3 Paragraph 14 identifies that *'regard shall be had to the desirability of determining district and ward boundaries which are readily identifiable.'* The meaning of this phrase was considered in the previous Review of Local Government Boundaries in Northern Ireland in 2008/2009 by my predecessor Richard Mackenzie CB, who said:

'The concept of a readily identifiable boundary means a boundary that can be known or ascertained easily, or with relatively little effort. I took the view that the phrase included ground features such as road and railway lines; estuaries, lakes, rivers and upland areas; footpaths, cycle paths, garden and field boundaries, and walls; and the boundaries of open space such as parks, cemeteries and golf courses'.

I agree with Commissioner Mackenzie's assessment and I have adopted a similar approach to Paragraph 14 in respect of determining readily identifiable boundaries.

Townlands

- 4.4 Paragraph 15 imposes a duty not to split townlands unless I consider this to be unavoidable. It is often unavoidable in urban areas to split old townland boundaries because those boundary lines will have been overtaken by the more modern development on the ground. However, in rural areas where townland boundaries will still have significant relevance, I have used townland boundaries as much as possible in the delineation of boundary lines.

Severing a District

4.5 Paragraph 16 imposes a duty not to sever a district by the boundary of another district or encompass a district with the boundary of another district as far as practicable. The boundaries as delineated by me do not include such severance.

Wards

4.6 The Paragraph 17 factors that I must consider in the delineation of wards are:

- (a) *the size, population and physical diversity of the district; and*
- (b) *the desirability that there should be a proper representation of the rural and urban electorate within the district.*

These factors are also expressly identified as relevant to the Commissioner's powers and duties under paragraphs 18 and 19.

4.7 I note that in the 2008/09 Review, in determining ward boundaries, the Commissioner found that the requirement under Rule 19 to secure electoral balancing meant that it was necessary in some instances, due to the distribution of population, to link urban and rural electorates in the same ward. This may also be necessary in this Review.

Number of Wards in a District

4.8 Paragraph 18(1) presumptively sets the number of wards in each district at 60 for Belfast and 40 for the other ten districts, subject to sub-paragraphs 18(2) and (3), which give me the discretion, having regard to factors in paragraph 17, to recommend that the number of wards can be increased and decreased by a maximum of 5. I have been mindful of this discretion in developing my provisional recommendations.

4.9 In the 2008/09 Review Commissioner Mackenzie CB created 41 wards in two districts; Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon and Newry, Mourne and Down. In formulating these provisional recommendations, I have considered these increases, and I am of the view that both are and continue to be desirable in those Districts. I am not persuaded at this stage that any other or further increase or decrease of the number of wards in any district is desirable.

Wards that are *substantially the same*.

4.10 Schedule 4, para 19(1) requires that:

*Within any one district there shall, as far as is reasonably practicable having regard to paragraph 17, be **substantially the same** number of local electors in each ward*. In the *Final Recommendations Report* produced following the 2008 / 2009 Review, Commissioner Mackenzie said at para 2.12:

‘As to the meaning of ‘substantially the same’, this term has not been precisely defined and depends on local context such as the geographical distribution of the electorate, the design and layout of housing developments and the weight to be given to the factors in paragraph 17. In considering this matter, I concluded that ward electorates within a variation of not more than 10% from the district electorate average should be regarded as ‘substantially the same’. In the event, all wards are within 10% of the said average’.

4.11 The question that I must ask under para 19(1) is whether or not the number of local electors in each ward is *substantially the same*. In my view this is a question of whether numbers fall within a sufficiently narrow range as to merit being described as *substantially the same*. This is a matter for my judgement.

4.12 It is also to be noted that the ‘substantially the same’ requirement is not unqualified: the number of local electors in each ward is to be *substantially the same as far as is reasonably practicable*, and when considering that issue I am to have regard to paragraph 17.

4.13 I am satisfied that the approach that was taken in the previous Review, i.e. using 10% range above and 10 % range below the District average ward size, is a useful guidance measure for my Review. This measure, however, has been applied flexibly and taking care not to be overly reliant on the 10% +/- range as a strict measure or target. I do not wish to stray into replacing the statutory test with another of my own making.

Chapter 5. Names of Districts and Wards

- 5.1 This chapter deals with the issue of names of the Districts and wards. The Rules in Schedule 4 Part III of the 1972 Act do not provide guidance as to the naming of districts and wards.
- 5.2 A District Council may choose to brand its name in a different way to its legal name, and may seek to formalise that branding, or adopt some other name. Under the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, there is provision (section 51) to enable a District Council to apply to the Department of Communities to change its name at any time. In consequence any District Council can avail of this route to change its legal name.
- 5.3 I am not engaged in a restructure of the current model of 11 District Councils in Northern Ireland, and I am not currently persuaded that I have cause to change the existing names of any of the 11 Districts. Further, I have no authority over the question of ‘borough’, or for that matter ‘city’ status. Under section 2 of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972, a council may petition for the grant of a charter designating the district of the council as a borough.
- 5.4 There is no other legal provision enabling a ward name to be changed, which means that the issue can only be addressed in the context of local government boundaries reviews.
- 5.5 I have to date received a representation that both districts and wards should be named in Irish or bilingually with English or in a trilingual naming convention with both English and Ulster Scots. I have not included this in my provisional recommendations; I would invite further representations on this issue in the course of the wider public consultation that is now open.
- 5.6 I have further received representations requesting name changes of districts. I have received a representation that the District name for *North Down and Ards* should be changed to *Ards and North Down*. I have received a number of representations stating that the District name for *Newry, Mourne and Down* should be *Newry, Mourne, South Armagh and Down*. I have not included either in my provisional recommendations; I would invite further representations on both in the course of the wider public consultation that is now open.

Chapter 6. Methodology

6.1 In addition to the section on my interpretation of the legislation in Chapter 4 of this Report, I thought it would be useful set out the methodology that I adopted in approaching my task. My task in this Review has three strands of consideration: statistics, spatial issues and social considerations. I have also included a section on the technical methodology that underpins the 2021/22 Review.

Statistics

- 6.2 The first strand has required me to analyse the statistics supplied by the Chief Electoral Officer of Northern Ireland as at the enumeration date of 4 January 2021. This data identifies the electorate in each of the current wards. This has enabled me to reflect on the changes in the electorate throughout Northern Ireland since 2008 and to analyse the impact of these changes on the numbers within individual wards. The legislation requires each ward within a district to contain a number of electors which, as far as is reasonably practicable having regard to paragraph 17, is *substantially the same*.
- 6.3 As outlined in Chapter 4 it is my view that *substantially the same* can be a number that is up to 10% above or below the District average. The application of 10% is not a fixed or strict target and it is important to note that other statutory factors such as *size, population and physical diversity* of the districts must be taken into account when considering the delineation of new ward boundaries.
- 6.4 It was clear that many wards, since the date of the last Review, have increased or decreased in terms of electorate to the point that they were well outside their District average, in some cases by as much as 50%. In considering the statistics on a ward by ward basis, I could see that the required balance of electoral numbers per ward within a District as required by Rule 19 might be achieved by a series of internal movements of electors **with little or no intervention to the external district boundaries**.

6.5 This observation informed my approach for the next stage of my work, which was to reconfigure the existing ward structures by means of a series of small and incremental movements of electors contained within each District. It was my desire that this approach could rebalance the current wards so that all wards within each of the districts could be described as being *substantially the same*, whilst avoiding radical reshaping of district boundary lines and the movement of electors across district boundaries.

Spatial issues

6.6 The second strand of the work in this Review was to consider the electoral statistics in a spatial context. This involved the mapping of the electoral data on an ordnance survey map of each District. This enabled me to determine exactly where the changes to boundaries could most effectively be made in order to achieve the statistical balancing required. In approaching the spatial considerations, my task was to ensure that the changes to the boundaries were made at the appropriate place in order to either reduce or increase the number of electors in a ward as necessary, but also to ensure that the new boundary lines proposed could be said to be *readily identifiable* as per Paragraph 14.

6.7 As discussed in Chapter 4, my approach to *readily identifiable* was to identify features on the ground which could assist in the delineation of logical and easily recognisable lines of separation and which make sense in the context of the physical aspects within that spatial area.

6.8 My work was enabled in this context by the digital technology and the expertise of professional mappers within OSNI, who have worked closely with myself and my team to produce spatial modelling of the highest technical quality. I am indebted to the work of my staff team and our partners at OSNI in the production of my proposed maps. This process is set out in more detail below.

6.9 An important spatial issue to highlight is the issue of **defacement**. Administrative boundaries are not often obvious on the ground and they can become defaced over time by natural occurrences such as coastal erosion and, more commonly, the new development of buildings that may have changed the features on the ground which once defined the delineation of the administrative boundary line. Whilst I have adopted an approach of minimum intervention with District boundary lines in these Proposals, I have been required to intervene with District boundaries where any defacement has been identified in order to update the boundary line to correspond with new building developments, such as new houses and roads which may have defaced the existing boundary line.

Social considerations

6.10 The next stage of the Boundary Review process is the social aspect of the proposed changes. I will be happy to receive any representations that consultees consider to be of assistance to me in my task under the 1972 Act. It will then be for me to consider, with reference to the Statutory Rules that I must adhere to <https://www.lgbc-ni.org.uk/schedule-4-rules-accordance-which-recommendations-commissioner-are-be-made>, whether, and if so how, the information provided by consultees assists me in that exercise.

6.11 I hope that these provisional recommendations will act as a catalyst for public discussion and will prompt meaningful engagement that allows me to understand the perspectives of people across the districts and wards. I am hoping to hear from as many people as possible.

Technical methodology

6.12 The use of innovative technology has been at the core of this Review. The Geographical Information System (GIS) used to facilitate the Review leverages critical datasets including electorate data and accurate and current mapping datasets. All mapping data is provided by OSNI; the key datasets being **Pointer**, **OSNI Fusion** and **OSNI Orthophotography**. These datasets and how they were used to facilitate the Review is explained below. OSNI's wealth of data and underpinning technologies has been a real asset; but equally important has been the access to staff with extensive GI knowledge and expertise. **Electorate data** was provided by the EONI. This electorate data was then subject to a **geocoding** process by OSNI.

Terminology

6.13 My OSNI colleagues have provided the explanations below for the key technical terms:

- **Pointer** - is the most comprehensive and authoritative address database for Northern Ireland. It contains over 870,000 address records and is maintained by LPS with input from the local councils and Royal Mail. Each record has full address details, a unique property reference number (UPRN), address and building status information along with Irish Grid coordinates. Pointer can be used as an address locator (UPRN) or a composite address locator (building number, street name and postcode).
- **OSNI Fusion** – is the most recent largescale vector mapping product. It consists of attributed point, line and polygon features which represent real-life readily identifiable ground features.
- **OSNI Orthophotography** – is high quality georeferenced digital aerial photography which offers a detailed bird's eye view of the landscape. All of Northern Ireland is captured on a three year cycle.
- **Electorate data** – is the number of electors who are registered to vote at Local Government and NI Assembly elections. This data consists of a postal address and Unique Property Reference (UPRN).
- **Geocoding** - is the process of assigning a location, usually in the form of coordinate values, to an address by comparing the descriptive location elements in the address to those present in the reference material. Addresses come in many forms, ranging from the common address format of house number followed by the street name and succeeding information to other location descriptors such as postcode or council area. In most cases geocoding is undertaken on a table of addresses. This process requires the table that stores the addresses you want to geocode and reference material in the form of an address locator or a composite address locator. The table of addresses is matched against the reference material/locator and each matched input record is assigned a coordinate value.

The Technical Task

- 6.14 All relevant Geographical Information (GI) is hosted on the Spatial NI Portal and restricted to the OSNI mapping team and LGBC staff. A simple web-based mapping application was created to help visualise and analyse the data. Using a statistical breakdown of the electorate in each ward in the 11 districts, an average ward size was identified. This allowed areas that need the electorate rebalanced to be easily identified, i.e. areas where the electorate count per ward was much higher or lower than this average.
- 6.15 In the first instance, the OSNI team member considered the statistical breakdown in relation to the district and using the concept of readily identifiable boundaries, proposed solutions to bring wards within the district range. In parallel, the LGBC team member used the web-based mapping application to familiarise themselves with the geography of the district and the statistical analysis. The pair then meet virtually to discuss the proposals and bring forward solutions to rebalance the electorate collaboratively.
- 6.16 The OSNI team use desktop software which has advanced functionality and tools for editing the ward boundaries hosted on the Spatial NI Portal. The LGBC team have permissions to access a restricted web-based mapping application. The mapping application requires user authentication before it will launch. This allows the LGBC team to view and query the edits in near real time. There is also additional functionality which will calculate the rebalanced electorate on the fly as boundaries are updated using the mapped electorate data. The LGBC team have been able to keep track of progress, see the edited ward boundaries, query the data to see which team has made the edit and view new rebalanced electorate figures all in a single easy to use online application.
- 6.17 Once the joint OSNI/LGBC team were content that reasonable draft solutions had been found to rebalance the electorate in each district area, the team put draft proposals including maps forward to me for consideration. It was then for me to consider the merit of the proposals against the Statutory Rules.

Challenges

6.18 The EONI Local Government Electoral Register holds address information that has not been standardised/ aligned to **Pointer**. There is variability in the way some addresses are represented which means the geocoding process is not always straightforward. Difficulties arise when, for example

- distinguishing between ambiguous addresses such as 39 Molly Road and 39 Upper Molly Road
- attempting to geocode incomplete addresses where some information is missing
- attempting to geocode old addresses for buildings which have been demolished and removed from Pointer
- attempting to geocode addresses for a street that has undergone a name change and not been updated in Pointer; and
- attempting to geocode new addresses for a street that has not been added to Pointer.

6.19 Using the Pointer address locator to geocode addresses resulted in a 98.9% match. The 1.1% which did not match using the Pointer address locator needed to be geocoded manually. To ensure a consistent approach there were a number of logical steps applied to this process, as follows:

- Use the provided postcode to find all matching Pointer address records and assign coordinates based on the correct building number/ street name
- Use the provided postcode to find all matching Pointer address records and assign coordinates based on similar building number/ street name (if electorate address is 39A Molly Road a similar address match may be 39 Molly Road)
- Use the provided postcode to find all matching Pointer address records and assign coordinates based on nearest neighbour to correct building number/ street name (if electorate address is 39 Molly Road nearest neighbour match may be 37 Molly Road)

- Use the provided postcode to find all matching Pointer address records and assign coordinates based on closest to correct building number/ street name (if electorate address is 39 Molly Road closest match may be 39 Upper Molly Road)
- Use the provided postcode to find all matching Pointer address records, where there is no match based on the above criteria then we use other sources of intelligence such as locality descriptions like place names/ townlands if included in the address information, and orthophotography to see a bird's eye view of the locality to identify new addresses

6.20 Where there is no logical match, based on above, the address will remain unmatched. Using the Pointer address locator combined with manual geocoding resulted in a 99.99% match. The 1.1% of addresses geocoded manually will not be accurate but it is reasonable to assume these will be located in close proximity to the actual address, based on all available intelligence. There remains 138 electors (0.01%) unmatched.

6.21 The manual geocoding process results in very small and statistically insignificant differences in the final electorate figures used for the Review, and the figures published by EONI on the enumeration date.

Chapter 7. Provisional Recommendations for the 11 Districts.

7.1 Antrim and Newtownabbey District

District boundary

7.1.1 I recommend that the district boundary should be altered to take into account the defacements of the boundary with Mid and East Antrim district at Farm Lodge Road and Upper Road Greenisland in order to move properties in a recently built housing development to the Mid and East Antrim district.

Number and boundaries of wards

7.1.2 I recommend that the district should remain comprised of 40 wards and the table below lists the ward names and their electorates. There has been some alteration to ward boundaries to satisfy the legislative requirement for each ward within the district to have substantially the same number of electors. There is a total of 100909 electors within the district which averages at 2522 electors per ward and my recommended changes are designed to balance the electorate as required.

7.1.3 The ward boundary changes that I have proposed can be accessed by clicking [Antrim and Newtownabbey](#).

7.1.4 The current electorate per ward (as at 4 January 2021) and proposed new electorate per ward are set out in the table below.

Table 1. Antrim and Newtownabbey

Number of wards – 40	Total electorate – 10909	Average ward size – 2522
Ward name	Current Electorate¹	Proposed Electorate
Abbey	2404	2404
Aldergrove	2728	2728
Antrim Centre	2796	2726
Ballyclare East	2684	2767
Ballyclare West	2838	2748
Ballyduff	2331	2331
Ballyhenry	2076	2704
Ballynure	2620	2620
Ballyrobert	2728	2735
Burnthill	2639	2393
Carnmoney	2092	2338
Carnmoney Hill	2363	2364
Clady	2733	2733
Collinbridge	2320	2320
Cranfield	2304	2304
Crumlin	2632	2632
Doagh	2533	2533
Fairview	2204	2356
Fountain Hill	2270	2307
Glebe	2367	2367
Glengormley	2337	2337
Greystone	2091	2433
Hightown	2202	2632
Jordanstown	2552	2543
Mallusk	3812	2754

¹ The manual geocoding process described in Chapter 6 results in very small and statistically insignificant differences in the final electorate figures used for the Review, and the figures published by EONI on the enumeration date.

Monkstown	2480	2480
Mossley	2657	2505
O'Neill	2285	2285
Parkgate	2464	2464
Randalstown	2545	2545
Rathcoole	2290	2290
Rostulla	2736	2736
Shilvodan	2627	2710
Springfarm	3306	2771
Steeple	2338	2748
Stiles	2622	2355
Templepatrick	2584	2584
Toome	2699	2699
Valley	2393	2280
Whitehouse	2235	2348

7.2 Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

District boundary

7.2.1 I recommend that the district boundary line should remain unchanged.

Number and boundaries of wards

7.2.2 I recommend that the district should remain comprised of 41 wards and the table below lists the ward names and their electorates. There has been some alteration to ward boundaries to satisfy the legislative requirement for each ward within the district to have substantially the same number of electors. There is a total of 149505 electors within the district which averages at 3646 electors per ward and my recommended changes are designed to balance the electorate across the district.

7.2.3 The ward boundary changes that I have proposed can be accessed by clicking: [Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon](#).

7.2.4 The current electorate per ward (as at 4 January 2021) and proposed new electorate per ward are set out in the table below.

Table 2. Armagh, Craigavon and Banbridge

Number of wards - 41	Total electorate 149505	Average ward size 3646
Ward name	Current electorate ²	Proposed Electorate
Aghagallon	3698	3698
Ballybay	3376	3776
Banbridge East	3337	3533
Banbridge North	3179	3331
Banbridge South	3511	3511
Banbridge West	3768	3768
Blackwatertown	3946	3946
Bleary	3525	3525
Brownlow	4071	3902
Cathedral	3364	3364
Corcrain	3485	3485
Craigavon Centre	4202	3743
Demesne	3750	3750
Derrytrasna	3606	3606
Donaghcloney	3476	3378
Dromore	3396	3396
Gilford	3341	3341
Gransha	3469	3469
Hamiltonsbawn	3624	3624
Keady	3695	3695
Kernan	3892	3971
Killycomain	3458	3917
Knocknashane	3269	3296

² The manual geocoding process described in Chapter 6 results in very small and statistically insignificant differences in the final electorate figures used for the Review, and the figures published by EONI on the enumeration date.

Lough Road	3802	3802
Loughbrickland	3981	3633
Loughgall	3928	3928
Magheralin	3669	3669
Mahon	3532	3532
Markethill	3847	3847
Mourneview	3512	3706
Navan	3749	3749
Parklake	3719	3719
Quilly	3197	3295
Rathfriland	3447	3447
Richhill	3588	3588
Seagahan	3951	3951
Shankill	4057	3836
Tandragee	3640	3640
The Birches	4118	3718
The Mall	3576	3576
Waringstown	3844	3844

7.3 Belfast

District boundary

7.3.1 I recommend that the district boundary line should remain unchanged.

Number of boundaries of wards

7.3.2 I recommend that Belfast district should remain comprised of 60 wards and the table below lists the ward names and their electorates. There has been some alteration to ward boundaries to satisfy the legislative requirement for each ward within the district to have substantially the same number of electors. There is a total of 230236 electors within the district which averages at 3837 electors per ward and my recommended changes are designed to balance the electorate across the district.

7.3.3 The ward boundary changes that I have proposed can be accessed by clicking: [Belfast](#)

7.3.4 The current electorate per ward (as at 4 January 2021) and proposed new electorate per ward are set out in the table below.

Table 3. Belfast

Number of wards – 60	Total electorate - 230236	Average ward size - 3837
Ward name	Current Electorate³	Proposed Electorate -
Andersonstown	3713	3713
Ardoyne	3665	4018
Ballygomartin	4168	4129
Ballymacarrett	3819	3819
Ballymurphy	3598	3598
Ballysillan	3449	3651
Beechmount	3605	3605
Beersbridge	4076	3611
Bellevue	3672	3672
Belmont	3608	3608
Belvoir	3681	3681
Blackstaff	4398	4209
Bloomfield	3919	3618
Cavehill	3403	3513
Central	5282	4214
Chichester Park	3970	3860
Cliftonville	3896	3896
Clonard	3956	3828
Collin Glen	4089	4089
Connswater	3975	3975
Cregagh	3402	3577
Duncairn	4584	4088
Dunmurry	3878	3878

³ The manual geocoding process described in Chapter 6 results in very small and statistically insignificant differences in the final electorate figures used for the Review, and the figures published by EONI on the enumeration date

Falls	3329	3457
Falls Park	3707	3707
Finaghy	3539	4217
Forth River	3307	3479
Fortwilliam	3393	3876
Garnerville	3553	3553
Gilnahirk	3740	3740
Hillfoot	3630	3630
Innisfayle	3932	3932
Knock	3855	3649
Ladybrook	3728	3927
Lagmore	5070	3986
Legoniel	3974	3772
Malone	3754	4202
Merok	3193	3513
Musgrave	3705	4219
New Lodge	3447	3460
Orangefield	3568	3713
Ormeau	4200	3911
Poleglass	3969	4131
Ravenhill	3399	3688
Rosetta	4028	3853
Sandown	3287	3794
Shandon	4000	4000
Shankill	4415	4086
Shaw's Road	3984	3984
Stewartstown	3644	3644
Stormont	3791	3791

Stranmillis	4391	4184
Sydenham	3732	3732
Turf Lodge	3521	3521
Twinbrook	3475	4198
Upper Malone	3707	4218
Water Works	4307	3954
Windsor	4865	4178
Woodstock	3793	3793
Woodvale	3498	3694

7.4 Causeway Coast and Glens

District Boundary

7.4.1 I recommend that the district boundary should be altered to take into account the defacements of the boundary with Mid and East Antrim district at Tillykittagh Road resulting in the movement of 2 electors from Causeway Coast and Glens to the Mid and East Antrim district.

Number and boundaries of wards

7.4.2 I recommend that the district should remain comprised of 40 wards and the table below lists the ward names and their electorates. There has been some alteration to ward boundaries to satisfy the legislative requirement for each ward within the district to have substantially the same number of electors. There is a total of 99547 electors within the district which averages at 2488 electors per ward and my recommended changes are designed to balance the electorate across the district.

7.4.3 The ward boundary changes that I have proposed can be accessed by clicking: [Causeway Coast and Glens](#).

7.4.4 The current electorate per ward (as at 4 January 2021) and proposed new electorate per ward are set out in the table below.

Table 4. Causeway Coast and Glens

Number of wards – 40	Total Electorate count - 99547	Average ward size - 2488
Ward name	Current Electorate⁴	Proposed Electorate
Aghadowey	2562	2562
Altahullion	2241	2254
Atlantic	2613	2613
Ballycastle	2386	2386
Ballykelly	2290	2572
Ballymoney East	2145	2306
Ballymoney North	2502	2341
Ballymoney South	2318	2318
Castlerock	2621	2694
Churchland	2641	2643
Clogh Mills	2646	2646
Coolessan	1897	2256
Dervock	2480	2480
Drumsumn	2548	2265
Dundooan	2588	2665
Dungiven	2511	2511
Dunloy	2574	2574
Feeny	2487	2487
Garvagh	2362	2362
Giant's Causeway	2463	2436
Greysteel	3143	2654
Greystone	2388	2379
Hopefield	2593	2593

⁴ The manual geocoding process described in Chapter 6 results in very small and statistically insignificant differences in the final electorate figures used for the Review, and the figures published by EONI on the enumeration date

Kilrea	2661	2661
Kinbane	2709	2709
Loughguile and Stranocum	2626	2624
Lurigethan	2136	2258
Macosquin	2499	2655
Magilligan	2308	2252
Mountsandel	2611	2611
Portrush and Dunluce	2186	2265
Portstewart	2201	2302
Quarry	2768	2590
Rasharkin	2712	2712
Roeside	2077	2260
Route	2396	2396
Torr Head and Rathlin	2654	2532
University	2278	2456
Waterside	2962	2731
Windy Hall	2766	2536

7.5 Derry and Strabane

District Boundary

7.5.1 I recommend that the district boundary line should remain unchanged.

Number and boundaries of wards

7.5.2 I recommend that the district should remain comprised of 40 wards and the table below lists the ward names and their electorates. There has been some alteration to ward boundaries to satisfy the legislative requirement for each ward within the district to have substantially the same number of electors. There is a total of 109899 electors within the district which averages at 2747 electors per ward and my recommended changes are designed to balance the electorate across the district.

7.5.3 The ward boundary changes that I have proposed can be accessed by clicking: [Derry and Strabane](#).

7.5.4 The current electorate per ward (as at 4 January 2021) and proposed new electorate per ward are set out in the table below.

Table 5. Derry and Strabane

Number of wards – 40	Total Electorate - 109899	Average ward size - 2747
Ward name	Current Electorate⁵	Proposed Electorate
Artigarvan	2653	2653
Ballycolman	2761	2636
Ballymagroarty	2820	2820
Brandywell	2573	2573
Carn Hill	2331	2996
Castledearg	2536	2536
Caw	2959	2959
City Walls	2457	2457
Claudy	2605	2605
Clondermot	2877	2877
Creggan	2820	2820
Creggan South	2843	2843
Culmore	3210	2790
Drumahoe	3010	3010
Dunnamanagh	2585	2585
Ebrington	2746	2746
Eglinton	2868	2868
Enagh	2930	2930
Finn	3006	2654
Foyle Springs	2624	2624
Galliagh	2823	2891
Glenderg	2479	2479
Glenelly Valley	2532	2532

⁵ The manual geocoding process described in Chapter 6 results in very small and statistically insignificant differences in the final electorate figures used for the Review, and the figures published by EONI on the enumeration date

Kilfennan	2998	2998
Lisnagelvin	2496	2496
Madam's Bank	2428	2923
New Buildings	2824	2824
Newtownstewart	2291	2643
Northland	2985	2985
Park	2574	2574
Shantallow	2879	2980
Shantallow East	3293	3021
Sheriff's Mountain	2591	2591
Sion Mills	2749	2749
Skeoge	3480	2843
Slievekirk	2612	2612
Springtown	2534	2534
Strabane North	2767	2767
Strabane West	2421	2546
Victoria	2929	2929

7.6 Fermanagh and Omagh

District boundary

7.6.1 I recommend that the district boundary line should remain unchanged.

Number and boundaries of wards

7.6.2 I recommend that the district should remain comprised of 40 wards and the table below lists the ward names and their electorates. There has been some alteration to ward boundaries to satisfy the legislative requirement for each ward within the district to have substantially the same number of electors. There is a total of 84713 electors within the district which averages at 2117 electors per ward and my recommended changes are designed to balance the electorate across the district.

7.6.3 The ward boundary changes that I have proposed can be accessed by clicking: [Fermanagh and Omagh](#).

7.6.4 The current electorate per ward (as at 4 January 2021) and proposed new electorate per ward are set out in the table below.

Table 6. Fermanagh and Omagh

Number of wards – 40	Total Electorate - 84713	Average ward size - 2117
Ward name	Current Electorate⁶	Proposed Electorate
Ballinamallard	2192	2098
Belcoo and Garrison	2121	2121
Belleek and Boa	2375	2237
Beragh	2109	2109
Boho, Cleenish and Letterbreen	2493	2312
Brookeborough	1920	1985
Camowen	2186	2186
Castlecoole	2284	2284
Coolnagard	2348	2072
Dergmoney	1847	2123
Derrygonnelly	2072	2072
Derrylin	2032	1988
Donagh	2030	2000
Dromore	2986	1986
Drumnakilly	2161	2161
Drumquin	2149	2149
Ederney and Kesh	2085	2223
Erne	2122	2122
Fairy Water	2209	2209
Fintona	1827	1937
Florence Court and Kinawley	2243	2243
Gortin	2257	2257

⁶ The manual geocoding process described in Chapter 6 results in very small and statistically insignificant differences in the final electorate figures used for the Review, and the figures published by EONI on the enumeration date

Gortrush	2217	2217
Irvinestown	2284	2284
Killyclogher	2273	2124
Lisbellaw	2232	2232
Lisnarrick	2444	2239
Lisnaskea	1853	2042
Maguiresbridge	2462	2007
Newtownbutler	1915	1977
Newtownsaville	2166	2166
Owenkillew	2086	2086
Portora	2255	2255
Rosslea	1775	1988
Rossorry	1830	2011
Sixmilecross	2033	2033
Strule	1854	2003
Tempo	2142	2142
Termon	1960	1960
Trillick	1884	2073

7.7 Lisburn and Castlereagh

District Boundary

7.7.1 I recommend that the district boundary line should remain unchanged.

Number and boundaries of wards

7.7.2 I recommend that the district should remain comprised of 40 wards and the table below lists the ward names and their electorates. There has been some alteration to ward boundaries to satisfy the legislative requirement for each ward within the district to have substantially the same number of electors. There is a total of 104519 electors within the district which averages at 2612 electors per ward and my recommended changes are designed to balance the electorate as required.

7.7.3 The ward boundary changes that I have proposed can be accessed by clicking [Lisburn and Castlereagh](#).

7.7.4 The current electorate per ward (as at 4 January 2021) and proposed new electorate per ward are set out in the table below.

Table 7. Lisburn and Castlereagh

Number of wards – 40	Total electorate - 104519	Average ward size - 2612
Ward name	Current Electorate⁷	Proposed Electorate
Ballinderry	2872	2872
Ballyhanwood	2351	2351
Ballymacash	2343	2797
Ballymacbrennan	2374	2374
Ballymacoss	3590	2806
Beechill	2547	2513
Blaris	2467	2467
Cairnshill	2678	2678
Carrowreagh	3936	2788
Carryduff East	2709	2624
Carryduff West	2528	2483
Derryaghy	2871	2871
Dromara	2468	2468
Drumbo	2333	2378
Dundonald	2393	2393
Enler	2209	2742
Galwally	2437	2437
Glenavy	2743	2743
Graham's Bridge	2227	2842
Harmony Hill	2305	2449
Hilden	2562	2469
Hillhall	2766	2766
Hillsborough	2660	2660

⁷ The manual geocoding process described in Chapter 6 results in very small and statistically insignificant differences in the final electorate figures used for the Review, and the figures published by EONI on the enumeration date

Knockbracken	2678	2482
Knockmore	2839	2851
Lagan	2528	2528
Lagan Valley	2122	2355
Lambeg	2535	2535
Lisnagarvey	2344	2793
Maghaberry	2931	2822
Magheralave	2835	2691
Maze	2352	2352
Moira	2716	2716
Moneyreagh	2309	2394
Newtownbreda	2124	2354
Old Warren	2563	2779
Ravernet	2396	2396
Stonyford	2283	2814
Wallace Park	2651	2847
White Mountain	3944	2839

7.8 Mid and East Antrim

District boundary

7.8.1 I recommend that the district boundary should be altered to take into account the defacements of the boundary with Antrim and Newtownabbey district at Farm Lodge Road and Upper Road Greenisland in order to move recently built properties in a housing development to the Mid and East Antrim district. I recommend a further alteration to the district boundary with Causeway Coast and Glens district to amend a defacement at Tillykittagh Road set out at 7.4.1.

Number and boundaries of wards

7.8.2 I recommend that the district should remain comprised of 40 wards and the table below lists the ward names and their electorates. There has been some alteration to ward boundaries to satisfy the legislative requirement for each ward within the district to have substantially the same number of electors. There is a total of 99421 electors within the district which averages at 2485 electors per ward and my recommended changes are designed to balance the electorate across the district.

7.8.3 The ward boundary changes that I have proposed can be accessed by clicking: [Mid and East Antrim](#).

7.8.4 The current electorate per ward (as at 4 January 2021) and proposed new electorate per ward are set out in the table below.

Table 8. Mid and East Antrim

Number of wards – 40	Total Electorate - 99421	Average ward size - 2485
Ward name	Current Electorate⁸	Proposed Electorate
Academy	2119	2241
Ahoghill	2650	2316
Ardeevin	2581	2311
Ballee and Harryville	2311	2259
Ballycarry and Glynn	2731	2731
Ballykeel	2137	2354
Boneybefore	2373	2479
Braidwater	2344	2245
Broughshane	2790	2546
Burleigh Hill	2217	2713
Cairncastle	2665	2675
Carnlough and Glenarm	2346	2346
Castle	2656	2656
Castle Demesne	2260	2260
Craigyhill	2631	2730
Cullybackey	2061	2259
Curran and Inver	2477	2477
Fair Green	2356	2311
Galgorm	2465	2426
Gardenmore	2394	2457
Glenravel	2533	2535
Glenwhirry	2362	2644
Gortalee	2532	2536

⁸ The manual geocoding process described in Chapter 6 results in very small and statistically insignificant differences in the final electorate figures used for the Review, and the figures published by EONI on the enumeration date.

Grange	2699	2699
Greenisland	2552	2557
Islandmagee	2361	2361
Kells	2484	2484
Kilroot	3088	2708
Kilwaughter	3188	2734
Kirkinriola	2296	2360
Love Lane	2421	2421
Maine	2235	2510
Park	2099	2243
Portglenone	2324	2324
Slemish	2361	2424
Sunnylands	2686	2686
The Maidens	2473	2473
Victoria	2913	2691
Whitehead South	2536	2536
Woodburn	2703	2703

7.9 Mid Ulster

District boundary

7.9.1 I recommend that the district boundary line should remain unchanged.

Number and boundaries of wards

7.9.2 I recommend that the district should remain comprised of 40 wards and the table below lists the ward names and their electorates. There has been some alteration to ward boundaries to satisfy the legislative requirement for each ward within the district to have substantially the same number of electors. There is a total of 101427 electors within the district which averages at 2535 electors per ward and my recommended changes are designed to balance the electorate across the district.

7.9.3 The ward boundary changes that I have proposed can be accessed by clicking: [Mid Ulster](#).

7.9.4 The current electorate per ward (as at 4 January 2021) and proposed new electorate per ward are set out in the table below.

Table 9. Mid Ulster

Number of wards – 40	Total Electorate - 101427	Average ward size - 2535
Ward name	Current Electorate⁹	Proposed Electorate
Ardboe	2690	2690
Augher and Clogher	2498	2474
Aughnacloy	2501	2501
Ballygawley	2613	2613
Ballymaguigan	2809	2781
Ballysaggart	2846	2639
Bellaghy	2714	2714
Caledon	2686	2686
Castlecaulfield	2567	2567
Castledawson	2583	2611
Coagh	2345	2386
Coalisland North	2556	2667
Coalisland South	2866	2755
Cookstown East	2326	2326
Cookstown South	2323	2330
Cookstown West	2522	2515
Coolshinny	2728	2728
Donaghmore	2618	2547
Draperstown	2179	2290
Fivemiletown	2270	2294
Glebe	2609	2609
Killyman	2403	2608
Killymeal	2873	2668

⁹ The manual geocoding process described in Chapter 6 results in very small and statistically insignificant differences in the final electorate figures used for the Review, and the figures published by EONI on the enumeration date.

Lissan	2518	2518
Loughry	2071	2276
Lower Glenshane	2363	2363
Maghera	2370	2370
Moy	2472	2472
Moygashel	2345	2552
Mullaghmore	2763	2763
Oaklands	2384	2384
Pomeroy	2669	2464
Stewartstown	2238	2309
Swatragh	2495	2495
Tamlaght O'Crilly	2611	2611
The Loup	2798	2757
Tobermore	2535	2424
Town Parks East	2493	2493
Valley	2542	2542
Washing Bay	2635	2635

7.10 Newry, Mourne and Down

District boundary

7.10.1 I recommend that the district boundary line should remain unchanged.

Number and boundaries of wards

7.9.5 I recommend that the district should remain comprised of 41 wards and the table below lists the ward names and their electorates. There has been some alteration to ward boundaries to satisfy the legislative requirement for each ward within the district to have substantially the same number of electors. There is a total of 127075 electors within the district which averages at 3099 electors per ward and my recommended changes are designed to balance the electorate across the district.

7.9.6 The ward boundary changes that I have proposed can be accessed by clicking: [Newry, Mourne and Down](#).

7.10.4 The current electorate per ward (as at 4 January 2021) and proposed new electorate per ward are set out in the table below.

Table 10. Newry Mourne and Down

Number of wards – 41	Total Electorate - 127075	Average ward size - 3099
Ward name	Current Electorate¹⁰	Proposed Electorate
Abbey	2759	3271
Annalong	3111	3111
Ballybot	3582	3351
Ballydugan	2689	2807
Ballynahinch	3058	3058
Ballyward	3223	3223
Bessbrook	3348	3348
Binnian	3029	3029
Burren	3123	3123
Camlough	2936	2936
Castlewellan	2923	2923
Cathedral	2698	2817
Crossgar and Killyleagh	3070	3070
Crossmaglen	2949	2949
Damolly	3138	3369
Derryboy	3028	3028
Derryleckagh	3455	3100
Donard	2753	2860
Drumalane	3486	3355
Drumaness	2996	2996
Dundrum	3120	3120
Fathom	3157	3288
Forkhill	3059	3059

¹⁰ The manual geocoding process described in Chapter 6 results in very small and statistically insignificant differences in the final electorate figures used for the Review, and the figures published by EONI on the enumeration date.

Hilltown	3560	3397
Kilkeel	2572	2847
Kilmore	2926	2926
Knocknashinna	3115	2996
Lecale	3077	2959
Lisnacree	3346	3071
Mayobridge	3559	3402
Mullaghbane	3154	3154
Murlough	3343	3236
Newtownhamilton	2944	2944
Quoile	2902	2902
Rostrevor	3312	3312
Saintfield	3003	3003
St Patrick's	3407	3407
Strangford	3010	3010
Tollymore	3026	3189
Warrenpoint	3237	3237
Whitecross	2892	2892

7.11 North Down and Ards.

District boundary

7.11.1 I recommend that the district boundary line should remain unchanged.

Number of boundaries and wards

7.11.2 I recommend that the district should remain comprised of 40 wards and the table below lists the ward names and their electorates. There has been some alteration to ward boundaries to satisfy the legislative requirement for each ward within the district to have substantially the same number of electors. There is a total of 118537 electors within the district, which averages at 2963 electors per ward and my recommended changes are designed to balance the electorate across the district.

7.11.3 The ward boundary changes that I have proposed can be accessed by clicking: [North Down and Ards](#).

7.11.4 The current electorate per ward (as at 4 January 2021) and proposed new electorate per ward are set out in the table below.

Table 11. North Down and Ards

Number of wards – 40	Total electorate - 118537	Average ward size - 2963
Ward name	Current Electorate¹¹	Proposed Electorate per ward
Ballycrochan	2563	2887
Ballygowan	3222	3222
Ballygrainey	3683	3251
Ballyholme	2975	2975
Ballymagee	3080	2861
Ballywalter	3287	3258
Bloomfield	2966	3197
Broadway	2749	3081
Bryansburn	2949	2834
Carrowdore	3031	3060
Castle	2835	2835
Clandeboye	2934	2750
Comber North	2790	2790
Comber South	2859	2859
Comber West	2828	2828
Conway Square	2853	2940
Cronstown	3307	3083
Cultra	3094	3141
Donaghadee	2955	2955
Glen	3299	3212
Gregstown	2466	2826
Groomsport	2881	2881
Harbour	3408	3076

¹¹ The manual geocoding process described in Chapter 6 results in very small and statistically insignificant differences in the final electorate figures used for the Review, and the figures published by EONI on the enumeration date.

Helen's Bay	3023	3023
Hollywood	3267	3220
Kilcooley	2870	2870
Killinchy	2815	2815
Kircubbin	3157	2849
Loughries	3064	3141
Loughview	3106	3106
Movilla	2834	2698
Portaferry	2558	2866
Portavogie	2707	2707
Rathgael	2543	2727
Rathmore	2924	2924
Scrabo	3208	3208
Silverbirch	2892	2892
Silverstream	2566	2681
Warren	3153	3172
West Winds	2836	2836

Chapter 8. Next Steps

- 8.1 The public consultation on my Provisional Recommendations is now open. The deadline for written representations is 21st September 2021.
- 8.2 Full details on how to access and respond to the consultation on my Provisional Recommendations is at <https://www.lgbc-ni.org.uk/consultation>.
- 8.3 Following this period of public consultation, my team will convene public hearings to allow everyone who wishes to have their say on the proposals in a public forum. There will be a public hearing for each district, which will be chaired by an Assistant Commissioner. Recruitment of the Assistant Commissioners is currently underway.
- 8.4 In order to maximise public participation in the hearings, and to mitigate against any public health restrictions that may be in place on numbers of participants at the events, I am planning a hybrid format for the hearings that will allow for in person and online participation. The public hearings will be held in late September and early October and details will be on the LGBC website in due course.
- 8.5 Once I have considered the oral and written representations made in response to these proposals, I will publish Revised Recommendations. There will be a further period of consultation on these Revised Recommendations in January 2022. The timeline for my Review can be accessed at www.lgbc-ni.org.uk/milestone-timeline.
- 8.6 Finally, I would encourage everyone to participate in the consultation process, either through the online portal at:
<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc/lgbc-provisional-recommendations/>
 or by e-mail to: consultation@lgbc-ni.org.uk.
 If you need any assistance accessing the proposals or need them in an alternative format please contact my team on info@lgbc-ni.org.uk. I look forward to hearing your views.

