



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

**To: The Boundary Commission for England**

**From: Leicestershire and Rutland County Members of Parliament**

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Please accept this letter as a joint submission of Members of Parliament in Leicestershire and Rutland. As local MPs we welcome the Commission's request for views on its initial proposals and thank it for its work. Whilst we accept that there is a need for some change across Leicestershire, as only Leicester South has an electorate within the permitted range, we believe that there is a better alternative arrangement available to the Commission. We believe that it is possible to have an arrangement that uses the current Harborough, South Leicestershire, Charnwood, Rutland and Melton and Loughborough constituencies as the building blocks for the new constituencies (like the Commission's proposals achieve for the three Leicester City seats and the proposed Hinkley and Bosworth and North West Leicestershire constituencies). We believe that using the existing constituencies as building blocks for the new seats results in less disruption for our constituents, ensuring that we can carry out our duties as Members of Parliament more effectively. Consequently, we urge the Commission to give serious consideration to the counter proposals that we set out below.

1. The proposed Hinkley and Bosworth and North West Leicestershire

We support the Commission's proposals in relation to these two constituencies. We accept that maintaining a North West Leicestershire based on the local authority requires the transfer of wards to keep it within the accepted range. Similarly, we acknowledge the need to reduce the size of the Bosworth constituency and, therefore, support the new Hinkley and Bosworth seat. We are pleased that this part of the County sees less change than had been proposed at previous reviews.

2. The proposed Mid Leicestershire Seat

We do not support the new Mid Leicestershire seat, as currently proposed. We accept the need for a Mid Leicestershire constituency, but believe that this should be based more on the existing Charnwood constituency. We do not believe that the Glenfield area is the most sensible fit within the City of Leicester. Ed Argar MP has received representation from the local community outlining their strong objection to being included in a Leicester City constituency. Although adjoining the City, the County Council Headquarters are based there. The parish has strong links with neighbouring communities in Blaby, for transport, shopping and schools. Although the parish is contiguous with the City boundary, the community has few links with those metropolitan areas. Our suggested proposal would base Mid Leicestershire much more on the existing Charnwood Constituency, moving only the 3 Bosworth wards and 1 additional Blaby ward into the seat, whilst losing only 5 of its Charnwood wards to the new Melton and Syston constituency (9 in total). However, the Commission's proposal would see 17 wards change between existing constituencies.

3. The proposed Loughborough Seat

We were surprised at the change proposed to the Loughborough seat, given a simple transfer of a single ward to the new Melton and Syston would bring the Loughborough seat into the accepted range. Previous reviews have also demonstrated the overwhelming links between the Wolds ward and the town of Loughborough. Therefore, we believe that the Commission should look at minimum change in this constituency, which would allow the current Loughborough to lose only one ward (Sileby) to our proposed Melton and Syston seat. Instead the Commission's proposals move 3 wards between constituencies (Wolds, Sileby and Mountsorrel).

#### 4. The proposed Melton and Syston Seat

Whilst we do not accept that it is in the best interests of service provision and residents of Melton and the Harborough villages to break the link with Rutland, nor for Rutland to be divorced from Leicestershire, it is understood that the arguments for the proposed divorce of Rutland and Leicestershire pertain to mathematical imperatives for the wider region formulated by the Commission. In the event that such divorce is unavoidable, we consider it desirable to limit any further disruption introduced by these proposals, beyond the loss of Rutland. Alicia Kearns MP has received representation from the Harborough Villages requesting to be kept with Rutland, and if not, with Melton. We believe that this can be achieved by preserving the link between the Borough of Melton and the Harborough Villages that already exists within the current Rutland and Melton constituency. Many of these villages look to Rutland first, and then Melton, for shopping and school catchment areas. Furthermore, our suggested revisions to the proposal for the Melton and Syston seat would require a movement of 21 wards (mainly in Rutland), as opposed to the Commission's proposal to move 26 wards.

#### 5. The proposed Blaby, Oadby and Wigston and Harborough Seats

The Commission's proposals have had to effectively split the existing South Leicestershire and Harborough constituencies into two halves and add back in a different fifty percent of voters on each occasion. We consider this too disruptive to the existing constituencies and too far a radical departure from the requirement to use the current seats as building blocks for the new ones. The consequences for communities are that existing local ties are broken by the Commission's proposals. We would strongly urge a rethink of this policy. Our counter proposal would be to keep a South Leicestershire constituency and restore the link between Harborough and most of Oadby and Wigston Borough. Whilst we accept that to do this we have to place 2 Oadby wards (Oadby Grange and Oadby Uplands) into Leicester East, we believe this to be a better alternative to Glenfield. There are good transport links between these areas and the City, as well as a seamless merging of roads between the City and Oadby. The area shares strong work and family ties to the City and houses a campus for the University of Leicester at Oadby Student Village. Additionally, there is also the advantage of a clear boundary created by the Harborough Road to the West and Wash Brook to the South. Given that change must happen somewhere, this is by far the least disruptive option. Our counter proposal retains a South Leicestershire seat, with only one ward (Winstanley) transferring to our proposed Mid Leicestershire seat from the existing South Leicestershire constituency. The existing Harborough would only have to lose the two wards outlined above to our proposed Leicester East seat. However, the Commission's proposal would displace no less than 17 wards from their existing constituencies, placing the 10 Oadby and Wigston wards from Harborough into the new Blaby, Oadby and Wigston seat; and 7 wards from South Leicestershire into the proposed Harborough seat. The Commission's proposal also has an irregular shape due to taking in the two rural Blaby wards of Croft Hill and Stanton and Flamville.

#### 6. Leicester West, Leicester South and Leicester East

We acknowledge the advantage the Commission sees in placing outside areas within the City, despite on paper there being enough electors to enable the drawing of three seats entirely within the City Unitary Authority area. Were this to be done, then it would necessitate a significant re-drawing of the three Leicester City seats. As previously stated, we consider the Commission's statutory duty to use existing constituencies as the building blocks for the new seats to be of paramount importance. This is because it enables Members of Parliaments to maintain stable and consistent representation of their electorates, which is vital to effective representation. We, however, as outlined above, believe that a link with part of Oadby offers a better solution to avoid a significant redrawing of the Leicester constituencies. Our proposal for Leicester East allows the one seat within the City within the permitted range (Leicester South) to be unaltered. Whilst Leicester West, as in the Commission's proposal, picks up the Belgrave ward from Leicester East. In short, by having a link with Oadby, as opposed to with Glenfield, our proposal only requires the movement of 1 Leicester City Ward.

In conclusion, we believe that the Commission's proposals for Leicestershire can be significantly improved by aligning the new constituencies with the existing ones, rather than prioritising the coterminosity of Harborough District. By doing this, less change is required. Our proposals move fewer wards than the Commission's proposal. Consequently, fewer local ties are broken, which enables the stable representation of our voters in our roles as Members of Parliament.

Yours thankfully,



Alberto Costa MP  
Member of Parliament for South Leicestershire



Ed Argar MP  
Member of Parliament for Charnwood



Andrew Bridgen MP  
Member of Parliament for North West Leicestershire



Luke Evans MP  
Member of Parliament for Bosworth



Jane Hunt MP  
Member of Parliament for Loughborough



Alicia Kearns MP  
Member of Parliament for Melton & Rutland



Neil O'Brien MP  
Member of Parliament for Harborough

## Appendix

South Leicestershire	Normanton	2185
South Leicestershire	Blaby South	3987
South Leicestershire	Cosby with South Whetstone	4185
South Leicestershire	Countesthorpe	6145
South Leicestershire	Croft Hill	1928
South Leicestershire	Enderby and St John's	4244
South Leicestershire	Narborough and Littlethorpe	4046
South Leicestershire	North Whetstone	4048
South Leicestershire	Pastures	3777
South Leicestershire	Saxondale	5601
South Leicestershire	Stanton and Flamville	6832
South Leicestershire	Broughton Astley-Primethorpe and Sutton	4011
South Leicestershire	Broughton Astley South and Leire	3666
South Leicestershire	Lutterworth East	3844
South Leicestershire	Lutterworth West	3825
South Leicestershire	Ullesthorpe	2261
South Leicestershire	Dunton	2095
South Leicestershire	Misterton	2097
South Leicestershire	Ravenhurst and Fosse	4915
South Leicestershire	Millfield	1925
	<b>Total</b>	<b>75617</b>
Harborough	Lubenham	1698
Harborough	South Wigston	5975
Harborough	Wigston All Saints	4775
Harborough	Wigston Meadowcourt	4814
Harborough	Wigston St Wolstan's	5066
Harborough	Market Harborough-Great Bowden and Arden	4283
Harborough	Market Harborough-Logan	6075
Harborough	Market Harborough-Welland	4546
Harborough	Market Harborough-Little Bowden	4257
Harborough	Glen	4339
Harborough	Kibworths	6297
Harborough	Oadby Brocks Hill	3099
Harborough	Oadby St Peter's	3342
Harborough	Oadby Woodlands	3494
Harborough	Wigston Fields	5108
Harborough	Fleckney	4415
Harborough	Bosworth	2442
	<b>Total</b>	<b>74025</b>
Bosworth	Hinckley Trinity	5419
Bosworth	Ambien	3005
Bosworth	Barlestone, Nailstone and Osbaston	2634
Bosworth	Barwell	6917
Bosworth	Burbage St Catherines and Lash Hill	4733
Bosworth	Burbage Sketchley and Stretton	8148
	Cadeby, Carlton and Market Bosworth with	
Bosworth	Shackerstone	2973
Bosworth	Earl Shilton	7917
Bosworth	Hinckley Castle	4957
Bosworth	Hinckley Clarendon	6972

Bosworth	Hinckley De Montfort	8148
Bosworth	Newbold Verdon with Desford and Peckleton	7033
Bosworth	Twycross and Witherley with Sheepy	2649
Bosworth	Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe	2170
Bosworth	Appleby	2008
	<b>Total</b>	<b>75683</b>

NW Leicestershire	Ashby Castle	2509
NW Leicestershire	Ashby Holywell	2151
NW Leicestershire	Ashby Ivanhoe	2456
NW Leicestershire	Ashby Money Hill	2207
NW Leicestershire	Ashby Willesley	2136
NW Leicestershire	Ashby Woulds	2130
NW Leicestershire	Blackfordby	2314
NW Leicestershire	Broom Leys	2108
NW Leicestershire	Castle Donington Castle	2114
NW Leicestershire	Castle Donington Central	1981
NW Leicestershire	Castle Donington Park	1521
NW Leicestershire	Coalville East	2107
NW Leicestershire	Coalville West	1816
NW Leicestershire	Daleacre Hill	1885
NW Leicestershire	Ellistown and Battleflat	2083
NW Leicestershire	Greenhill	2086
NW Leicestershire	Hermitage	1845
NW Leicestershire	Holly Hayes	2009
NW Leicestershire	Hugglescote St John's	1673
NW Leicestershire	Hugglescote St Mary's	2322
NW Leicestershire	Ibstock East	1954
NW Leicestershire	Ibstock West	2277
NW Leicestershire	Kegworth	1843
NW Leicestershire	Long Whatton and Diseworth	2166
NW Leicestershire	Measham North	1986
NW Leicestershire	Measham South	1997
NW Leicestershire	Ravenstone and Packington	2390
NW Leicestershire	Sence Valley	2386
NW Leicestershire	Snibston North	1965
NW Leicestershire	Snibston South	1790
NW Leicestershire	Thornborough	2078
NW Leicestershire	Thringstone	2064
NW Leicestershire	Valley	2315
NW Leicestershire	Worthington and Breedon	2426
NW Leicestershire	Bardon	2223
NW Leicestershire	Castle Rock	2060
	<b>Total</b>	<b>75373</b>

Loughborough	Shepshed West	5885
Loughborough	Barrow and Sileby West	5736
Loughborough	Loughborough Ashby	5178
Loughborough	Loughborough Dishley and Hathern	5004
Loughborough	Loughborough Garendon	4447
Loughborough	Loughborough Hastings	4321
Loughborough	Loughborough Lemyngton	4588
Loughborough	Loughborough Nanpantan	3965
Loughborough	Loughborough Outwoods	4628

Loughborough	Loughborough Shelthorpe	6434
Loughborough	Loughborough Southfields	5417
Loughborough	Loughborough Storer	4787
Loughborough	Quorn and Mountsorrel Castle	5702
Loughborough	Shepshed East	5209
Loughborough	The Wolds	2601
	<b>Total</b>	<b>73902</b>

Melton and Syston	Melton Newport	4105
Melton and Syston	Asfordby	2672
Melton and Syston	Bottesford	2946
Melton and Syston	Croxton Kerrial	1496
Melton and Syston	Frisby-on-the-Wreake	1486
Melton and Syston	Gaddesby	1417
Melton and Syston	Long Clawson and Stathern	3370
Melton and Syston	Melton Craven	2719
Melton and Syston	Melton Dorian	3966
Melton and Syston	Melton Egerton	2806
Melton and Syston	Melton Sysonby	3991
Melton and Syston	Melton Warwick	2648
Melton and Syston	Old Dalby	1568
Melton and Syston	Somerby	1485
Melton and Syston	Waltham-on-the-Wolds	1305
Melton and Syston	Wymondham	1279
Melton and Syston	Billesdon and Tilton	2079
Melton and Syston	Nevill	2284
Melton and Syston	Wreake Villages	2409
Melton and Syston	Queniborough	3476
Melton and Syston	Thurnby and Houghton	6676
Melton and Syston	East Goscote	2307
Melton and Syston	Syston West	5031
Melton and Syston	Sileby	6171
Melton and Syston	Syston East	5471
	<b>Total</b>	<b>75163</b>

Mid Leicestershire	Rothley and Thurmaston	6261
Mid Leicestershire	Forest Bradgate	2780
Mid Leicestershire	Groby	5444
Mid Leicestershire	Markfield, Stanton and Fieldhead	4890
Mid Leicestershire	Anstey	5734
Mid Leicestershire	Birstall Wanlip	5733
Mid Leicestershire	Birstall Watermead	5148
Mid Leicestershire	Thurmaston	7491
Mid Leicestershire	Ratby, Bagworth and Thornton	5703
Mid Leicestershire	Mountsorrel	5402
Mid Leicestershire	Ellis	4444
Mid Leicestershire	Fairestone	3751
Mid Leicestershire	Muxloe	3357
Mid Leicestershire	Forest	5869
Mid Leicestershire	Winstanley	4817
	<b>Total</b>	<b>76824</b>

Leicester West	Western	13302
Leicester West	Abbey	12595

Leicester West	Beaumont Leys	11676
Leicester West	Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields	12491
Leicester West	Fosse	7384
Leicester West	Westcotes	7106
Leicester West	Belgrave	11349
	<b>Total</b>	<b>75903</b>
Leicester South	Aylestone	8294
Leicester South	Castle	11372
Leicester South	Eyres Monsell	7805
Leicester South	Knighton	12503
Leicester South	Saffron	7492
Leicester South	Stoneygate	12617
Leicester South	Wycliffe	8364
Leicester South	Spinney Hills	8565
	<b>Total</b>	<b>77012</b>
Leicester East	Rushey Mead	12003
Leicester East	Evington	12333
Leicester East	Humberstone and Hamilton	13856
Leicester East	North Evington	11849
Leicester East	Thurncourt	8217
Leicester East	Troon	9147
Leicester East	Oadby Grange	4278
Leicester East	Oadby Uplands	3364
	<b>Total</b>	<b>75047</b>