

Hendry, Angela

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 June 2017 18:03
To: FOI
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Newham boundaries - Stratford and New Town

Dear Local Government Boundary Commission for England,

I understand from publicly available documents that:

"[The LGBCE] will intervene and conduct an electoral review of a Local Authority if levels of electoral inequality meet criteria:

- more than 30% of the wards/divisions vary in their ratio of councillors to electors by more than 10% from the average for the authority; and/or
- one ward/division has a ratio of more than 30%; and the imbalance is unlikely to be corrected by population change within a reasonable period."

and that

"Every year, the Commission assesses electorate data for each local authority in England and we will intervene where 'significant' electoral inequality exists. Significant electoral inequality, sufficient to trigger a review, is where:

- 30% (or more) wards have an electoral variance of more than 10% from the average for the authority and/or:
- One (or more) ward has an electoral variance of more than 30% from the average.

The Commission's criteria for intervention are well established and were the subject of a consultation in November 2010."

I wish to understand whether these criteria have recently been applied to the London Borough of Newham (average ward size: 8,486 per Boundary Review 2018), and in particular its large Stratford and New Town ward (12,471 per Boundary Review 2018).

(a) Please provide any documents prepared in the last 24 months in respect of testing these criteria in respect of the wards of the London Borough of Newham;

(b) Please provide any documents prepared in the last 24 months in respect of testing whether the electorate data for the Newham ward of 'Stratford and New Town' has a ratio of more than 30% of the average for the London Borough of Newham";

(c) Please provide any documents prepared in the last 24 months in respect of testing whether the imbalance for 'Stratford and New Town' is unlikely to be corrected by population change within a reasonable period;

(d) Please provide any documents prepared in the last 12 months confirming that an electoral review of Newham's wards has been requested, and/or is under consideration, and/or setting out proposed timetables for review.

(e) Based on latest data available to LGBCE, is Stratford and New Town the largest ward in all of the London boroughs?

If answering all five requests is too onerous, please focus on (b) and (d).

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]


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https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/change_request/new?body=lgbce

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If you find this service useful as an FOI officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's FOI page.

Hendry, Angela

From: Cleverly, Karen
Sent: 25 July 2017 11:44
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FOI 17/11 - London Borough of Newham
Attachments: (2) Review detail request Newham.pdf

Dear [REDACTED],

Our ref: FOI 17/11

Thank you for your email of 28 June 2017, requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Commission does hold information relevant to your request. **Please note that documents 1, 3 and 4 (referred to in the body of this email) can be downloaded from our Sharefile site by clicking on the following link:**
<https://localgovboundaries.sharefile.com/d-s513f11d146b49e59>

You requested:

(a) Please provide any documents prepared in the last 24 months in respect of testing these criteria in respect of the wards of the London Borough of Newham

The Commission examines each authority in relation to the criteria you outlined on an annual basis. We calculate the average number of electors per a councillor, and then work out each ward's variance from this average. All of the data used to compile these figures, and our findings, are published on our website annually. From the link below, you can download a spreadsheet covering every year from 2011 to 2017.

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/records-and-resources/local-authorities-in-england>

The raw electoral data for Newham can be found on the *District Data* tab, whilst an analysis of said data in relation our criteria can be found on the *District Variance* tab (select Newham and choose the year you are interested in from the boxes at the top right of the spreadsheet)

Please note that we collect data in December of each year (when the registers are published post-canvass); where the spreadsheet says 2017, for example, the data referenced was collected in December 2016.

This data shows that between 2011 and 2015, Newham does not meet either criteria for undertaking a review and that in 2016 and 2017, Newham meets one of the criteria (one ward over 30% - Stratford and New Town in both years).

(b) Please provide any documents prepared in the last 24 months in respect of testing whether the electorate date for the Newham ward of 'Stratford and New Town' has a ratio of more than 30% of the average for the London Borough of Newham";

Please see above response. Stratford and Newham has had a variance of over 30% in both the 2016 (52.28%) and 2017 (65.28%) data

(c) Please provide any documents prepared in the last 24 months in respect of testing whether the imbalance for 'Stratford and New Town' is unlikely to be corrected by population change within a reasonable period;

We wrote to Newham council in June 2017 (document 1; accessed via Sharefile site here: <https://localgovboundaries.sharefile.com/d-s513f11d146b49e59>) asking whether or not, in their opinion, 'the electoral imbalances identified are likely to continue, or whether they would be countered through changes in the number and distribution of electors as a result of development (etc.) within the next three years'.

Newham council responded (Attachment document 2: review detail request: Newham). Attached to their response was the set of internal projections referenced in the response (document 3: accessed via Sharefile site here: <https://localgovboundaries.sharefile.com/d-s513f11d146b49e59>).

(d) Please provide any documents prepared in the last 12 months confirming that an electoral review of Newham's wards has been requested, and/or is under consideration, and/or setting out proposed timetables for review.

Officers of the LGBCE prepared a draft time-table for consideration at its April 2017 Commission meeting. This can be accessed here (document 4: accessed via Sharefile site here: <https://localgovboundaries.sharefile.com/d-s513f11d146b49e59>). This sets out a draft programme for 2018/19 (it is subject to the responses received from authorities that we wrote to on 12 June 2017, including Newham (document 1)).

You will note that a number of other authorities and their associated data have been redacted.

(e) Based on latest data available to LGBCE, is Stratford and New Town the largest ward in all of the London boroughs?

Of the 629 wards across all London boroughs, Stratford and New Town has the highest level of variance and the largest number of registered electors.

If you have any further queries or if you have any difficulties downloading any of the documents, please do not hesitate to contact me, quoting the reference number above in any correspondence. Documents will be available for downloading from the Sharefile site for approximately 30 days.

If you wish to request a review of our decision, you should write to:

Lynn Ingram
Finance Director
Local Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor, Millbank Tower
Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint or review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Details of this procedure can be found on the ICO website: <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Cleverly

Finance Lead

LGBCE

14th Floor Millbank Tower

London SW1P 4QP

0330 500 1260

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How are we doing? Click [here](#) to give us your views.

From: Paul.Libreri@newham.gov.uk [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 July 2017 11:33
To: Tudge, Alex <Alex.Tudge@LGBCE.ORG.UK>
Subject: RE: LGBCE Electoral Review Programme 2018/19

Dear Alex

Yes, that's what our projections suggest. I've had a look at the reviews conducted in Tower Hamlets and Hackney and I see that the timescale from beginning to the final recommendations was about a two year period with the changes to wards taking effect in Time for the 2014 Local Elections.

If a review of Newham's wards goes ahead are we looking at implementation of any changes for the 2022 local elections rather than for the 2018 elections. I also note that in the case of Hackney and Tower Hamlets that neither the Electoral Registration Officer or the Returning Officer made submissions to the review. Is it usually the case that the RO and ERO do not make submissions reviews?

Regards.

Paul Libreri
Head of Registration and Electoral Services
Resources Directorate
London Borough of Newham
Town Hall, Barking Road, E6 2RP
DDI: 020 3373 33134



www.gov.uk/registertovote

From: Tudge, Alex [<mailto:Alex.Tudge@LGBCE.ORG.UK>]
Sent: 04 July 2017 09:45
To: Paul Libreri
Subject: RE: LGBCE Electoral Review Programme 2018/19

Thanks for this Paul.

So to clarify, you believe that at least one ward will remain at over 30% variance, and another (Stratford and New Town) will significantly exceed even this level?

In addition, 50% of wards will have a variance of over 10%?

Reagrds,

Alex Tudge

Data and Information Officer

LGBCE

14th Floor Millbank Tower

London SW1P 4QP

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How are we doing? Click [here](#) to give us your views.

From: Paul.Libreri@newham.gov.uk [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 July 2017 21:10
To: Tudge, Alex <Alex.Tudge@LGBCE.ORG.UK>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: LGBCE Electoral Review Programme 2018/19

Dear Alex

In response to your letter of 14 June 2017 to the Chief Executive, Mr Kim Bromley – Derry, please see our Corporate GIS team’s projections for Newham’s population 2017-2021.

Whereas your figures are based on the published 2016 electorate, the table attached uses the projected population by ward and the projected 16 + population. The unknown, of course, is the percentage of the 16 + population who are eligible to register and the percentage of those eligible who will register.

The first table is the base GLA BPO projection showing Total Population and Population aged 16+ for each ward and the for the Borough.

Table 2 which shows both total population and population 16+ per councillor.

The third table then gives the percentage +/- of this figure to the borough average. Those over thirty are then highlighted.

The final figures show the % of wards where the difference is +/- 10%.

Regards.

Paul Libreri
Head of Registration and Electoral Services
Resources Directorate
London Borough of Newham
Town Hall, Barking Road, E6 2RP
DDI: 020 3373 33134



www.gov.uk/registertovote

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