

10 July 2008

Dear Sir or Madam:

UNITARY ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WILTSHIRE

Clarification of the BCFE draft recommendations in respect of the Wootton Bassett area

As you will be aware we published our draft recommendations for the new Wiltshire unitary authority on 01 July 2008. We have previously forwarded you a summary of these draft recommendations and indicated that the full draft recommendations report (and maps), along with all of the submissions received during the initial public consultation are available on our website at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk.

Following the publication of the draft recommendations it has become apparent that an unfortunate breakdown of communication has occurred between the Committee and Wiltshire County Council in respect of their Stage One submission. This has led to the Committee failing to take full account of an updated submission received from Wiltshire County Council on 1st May 2008 in respect of the Wootton Bassett area and relying instead on mapping presented in the County Council's original submission on 21st April 2008 that has since been withdrawn.

As a result, the Committee's draft recommendations contain inaccurate mapping of the County Council's proposal in respect of the divisions of Wootton Bassett North, Wootton Bassett Central, as well as Wootton Bassett South & The Lydiards (Map 3A). We have placed the updated mapping and submission received from Wiltshire County Council on 01 May 2008 on our website. We would note that the electorate numbers contained in Appendix C of the draft recommendations for these divisions are accurate in respect of the updated mapping. The Committee would like to apologise for any misunderstanding that may have resulted from the misleading mapping contained in our draft recommendations.

This letter is not intended as an amendment to our draft recommendations but rather an acknowledgement of a misrepresentation of Wiltshire County

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Council's submission. It is intended to ensure that the current Stage Three consultation is as effective as possible by guaranteeing that all relevant stakeholders can provide submissions within an accurate context of previous submissions.

As such, this letter is being sent to Wiltshire County Council, North Wiltshire District Council, Wootton Bassett Town Council, Lydiard Tregoze parish council, Lydiard Millicent parish council, Broad Town parish council, along with any parties who made submissions with respect to the Wootton Bassett and neighbouring areas. This letter will be placed on our website (along with copies of both iterations of the County Council submission for the sake of clarity). Please feel free to distribute this clarification to any further parties whom you believe may be interested in the electoral arrangements in this area.

The Committee is keen to state that despite the clarifications above, we have not amended our draft recommendations at the current time. We would urge any parties who support or oppose our draft recommendations in this area to provide further submissions during Stage Three in support of their view. This period of public consultation will end on 25 August 2008.

The Committee has three main considerations, which we would urge all parties to have regard to when making submissions during Stage Three of this review. These are equalising the number of electors each councillor represents, reflecting community identity, and providing for convenient and effective local government.

If you would like any clarification of the details contained in this letter then please contact me by email, post or over the phone.

Yours sincerely,



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