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**From:** Cooper, Mark  
**Sent:** 09 May 2016 10:10  
**To:** Palacky, Alex  
**Cc:** Ward, Lucy; Buck, Richard  
**Subject:** FW: Boundary Review Kent

This is the FOI and complaint.

Mark

**Mark Cooper**  
**Review Officer**  
[LGBCE](#)  
0330 500 1272

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**From:** Mayers, Mishka **On Behalf Of** reviews  
**Sent:** 09 May 2016 09:40  
**To:** Cooper, Mark <mark.cooper@lgbce.org.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: Boundary Review Kent

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 May 2016 12:41  
**To:** reviews <[reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)>  
**Cc:** [john.manzoni@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:john.manzoni@cabinet-office.gsi.gov.uk); Elizabeth Gorst <[egorst@electoralcommission.org.uk](mailto:egorst@electoralcommission.org.uk)>; [ers@electoral-reform.org.uk](mailto:ers@electoral-reform.org.uk); Boundary Commission England Information Mailbox <[information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk](mailto:information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Boundary Review Kent

Dear Sirs

I wish to say that I am most upset that despite being copied into the email below, no one has taken the opportunity of responding to my complaint.

Tunstall, a small hamlet, has been badly treated with the way in which your review was handled, by not telling the residents of your proposals, its effect upon us, or its continued impact.

Our Parish has now been split into two, Rural and Urban, and despite the rural area being considerably larger but less people, only has two elected representatives on our Parish Council, yet the Urban has five, so we can be 'outvoted' at the whim of those in a different part of our Parish.

The election last year, was, as many of you know, a complete fiasco, as ballot papers for Urban (Woodstock Tunstall Urban Parish) were recognised as being given out to those not entitled to vote, denying those who should, and with respect, the result should never have stood, particularly when two of those elected were also standing in the Borough Elections, running at the same time, so their names were familiar, yet the Parish Council were still expected to pay for a sub-standard service, recognised by the Boundary Commission Review.

Our Parish, since your review, has left Tunstall Rural in one Swale Borough Ward of West Downs, and one elected Councillor, with Tunstall Urban, in the revised Woodstock Ward with two Councillors.

Now, the same boundary changes are being used to our detriment, in the Kent County Council reviews, leaving Tunstall Rural in a Division (Swale East) stretching from Stockbury Roundabout right through to Dunkirk and all the rural villages around Faversham, which again, will leave us not being represented by those close to us, but once again, isolated.

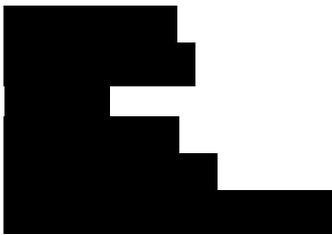
This will also be a nightmare when it comes to Parliamentary elections, as Faversham and Swale have independent areas, and just cause more and more confusion.

As it was yourselves that started this review, perhaps you can, under the Freedom of Information Act, advise how many voters were in the original Woodstock Ward (pre your revision) and how many are in it now, with a breakdown of numbers of those properties you removed into Tunstall Rural, and how many you 'put in' from Woodstock Wards new boundary?

I must object in the strongest terms possible, as I did in February, that Tunstall Rural and Tunstall Urban not be separated in the Kent Review, and we should not be incorporated into an area outside of Sittingbourne, when we are recognised as being 'South Sittingbourne' from a planning area.

I look forward to receiving an urgent reply to my emails, please.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Sent from my iPad

On 7 Feb 2016, at 19:44, Boundary Commission England Information Mailbox <[information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk](mailto:information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk)> wrote:

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The division of the parish of Tunstall into two parish wards was the result of the Swale (Electoral Changes) Order 2012 ([http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/2985/pdfs/ukxi\\_20122985\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/2985/pdfs/ukxi_20122985_en.pdf)), which followed a review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) (<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/kent/swale-electoral-review>). This order came into effect at the local council elections in May 2015.

This Commission is only responsible for reviews of parliamentary constituencies.

I have copied this reply to the LGBCE ([reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)) so that they are aware of your complaint and can take the appropriate action.

Gerald Tessier

Boundary Commission for England | Tel: 020 7276 1102

[information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk](mailto:information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk)

[www.independent.gov.uk/boundarycommissionforengland](http://www.independent.gov.uk/boundarycommissionforengland)

On 5 February 2016 at 20:43, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Sir

I wish to lodge a formal complaint to the Boundary Commissions review of Tunstall, a small village, in the Borough of Swale, in Kent, which we are still reeling from its effect.

Tunstall is a small hamlet, being mentioned in the Domesday Book, and having hosted a visit from Queen Elizabeth 1, in 1473. We are a small rural community, and wanted to stay that way, even our Parish Council objected to proposals to rip our community in two, which was ignored by the Boundary Commission.

Last year, we experienced the full force of their approach, due to the election process. On the same day, residents in Tunstall were having to get to grips, without even having the courtesy of being properly informed that they fell into two new areas, Tunstall Rural and Tunstall Urban. Those in Rural were to go to our usual polling station, but had been moved into West Downs Ward. Those in Urban stayed in Woodstock Ward, but a changed polling station.

No one bothered to send us letters, only a polling card, with our 'new' polling number, which meant many of our residents went to the wrong polling station!

On the same day as the Parliamentary and Borough Council elections, Tunstall was also having to vote for our Parish Council, but although Rural went through without a hitch (everyone went to our normal polling station, the same could not be said of Tunstall Urban.

Woodstock Ward was adjusted in the review, taking Tunstall Rural out, but putting in other bits of Sittingbourne, so why did they bother?

Woodstock Ward is now made up of three areas, Woodstock East (WOE); Woodstock West (WOW) and Woodstock Tunstall Urban Parish (WOTUP), so on polling day, those in WOW & WOE should have received two ballot papers, one for our MP, and one for our Borough Councillors, but those in WOTUP only should have had the third, for our Parish Council.

Unfortunately, the polling station staff made a huge error, and gave WOTUP ballot papers to those not entitled to vote, resulting in 5 of our 7 Parish Councillors being undemocratically elected, as the Returning Officer was instructed to 'declare the result'.

We, as a Community did not want to be split, nor do we wish to stay that way, and this has clearly shown our Borough Council is unable to adequately manage the split. We are also now faced with having a Parish Council, with 7 members, and the 2 in Rural can easily be 'outvoted' by the 5 undemocratically elected members. That is unacceptable to Tunstall Residents. We are also now faced with being in a position of being in two wards, with one Councillor representing Rural, and two Councillors for Urban.

Now we are due to face exactly the same issue with our County Council elections, as the Boundary Review has placed Tunstall Rural in one area, and Tunstall Urban in another.

If the purpose of a Boundary Review was to make life as difficult as possible for those who

live in one village, then they have, without doubt, succeeded.

Tunstall Parish Council objected to any split, and this was ignored. Residents in Tunstall want to remain in Tunstall, we do not wish to be known as Rural or Urban, we want to stay, as we have been for hundreds of years, we are Tunstall.

The Boundary Commission has made a mistake, and it should not take until a future review to put us back together, and if necessary, we will ask our Parish Council to look at contacting the Secretary of State DCLG, under the Sustainable Communities Act.

I trust we, as a Community, will not have to do that, but that common sense will prevail.

Yours faithfully

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Palacky, Alex  
**Sent:** 09 May 2016 15:44  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** LGBCE - Boundary Review Kent & FOI Request: FOI 16/05

Dear [REDACTED],

### **Your complaint regarding the Electoral Review of Swale and Kent.**

Thank you for your email of May 7 2016. I am sorry that you are disappointed by the outcome of these reviews.

The **Swale** review was completed when the Commission's Final Recommendations were published on 4 December 2012. Once the Commission has published its final recommendations, they cannot be changed. In this case, the Commission has already made an order to implement its recommendations.

The **Kent County Council** review was completed when the Commission's Final Recommendations were published on 26 January 2016. Once the Commission has published its final recommendations, they cannot be changed. In this case, the Commission has already made an order to implement its recommendations.

The Commission does not regard comments on the outcome of reviews that have been completed as complaints because interested parties have the opportunity to make their views known during consultation periods. You provided a submission during the Swale consultation period which is published on our website [here](#). You can view all of the submissions for the Kent County Council Review on our website [here](#). The Commission takes into account all submissions received during consultation.

Following the email from the Boundary Commission for England on 7 February 2016 the LGBCE has provided responses to that email and any subsequent emails from you. We apologise if you are unhappy with the outcomes of these responses.

A copy of our Complaints Policy can be viewed [here](#). Further information about the review process, and the Final Recommendations for the review of Swale and Kent County Council are published on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

### **Your Freedom of Information Request**

In addition you have requested information on 7 May 2016 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You have requested

**“Advise how many voters were in the original Woodstock Ward (pre your revision) and how many are in it now, with a breakdown of numbers of those properties you removed into Tunstall Rural, and how many you 'put in' from Woodstock Wards new boundary”**

The Commission aims to respond promptly to your FOI request and within the statutory deadline of 20 working days. Please expect a response by **3 June 2016**.

Your FOI request reference number is **16/05**.

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me on the details provided below. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Kind regards,

--

**Alex Palacky**

**Office Manager**

LGBCE

14<sup>th</sup> Floor Millbank Tower

London SW1P 4QP

0330 500 1264

alex.palacky@lgbce.org.uk

The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England



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

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**From:** Palacky, Alex  
**Sent:** 31 May 2016 14:55  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** 'Boundary Commission England Information Mailbox'  
**Subject:** LGBCE FOI Request: FOI 16/05

Dear [REDACTED],

**Our ref: FOI 16/04**

Thank you for your email which was received on 7 May 2016, requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You have requested

**“Advise how many voters were in the original Woodstock Ward (pre your revision) and how many are in it now, with a breakdown of numbers of those properties you removed into Tunstall Rural, and how many you 'put in' from Woodstock Wards new boundary”**

**How many voters were in the original Woodstock Ward (pre your revision)?**

According to the electorate proforma submitted by Swale Borough Council, the electorate of Woodstock ward prior to the Swale Review was 4,063 (2010 figure).

**How many are in it now?**

We do not keep running figures of ward electorate once a review has finished but we can provide the figures that were cited in the report issued at the conclusion of the Swale review in 2012 which is 4,488 (2011) with a forecast of 4,680 (2017) This is according to the Swale report available on the website - [http://www.lgbce.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/10263/swale-final-recommendations-report-2012-08-22.pdf](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/10263/swale-final-recommendations-report-2012-08-22.pdf)

**A breakdown of numbers of those properties you removed into Tunstall Rural, and how many you 'put in' from Woodstock Wards new boundary?**

We do not count by property but by elector. Tunstall Parish was divided between Woodstock ward and West Downs ward. The parish ward of Tunstall Urban was included in Woodstock ward and numbered 597 electors. The parish ward of Tunstall Rural was included in West Downs ward and numbered 158 electors.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me, quoting the reference number above in any correspondence.

If you are not content with the outcome of your request, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Details of this procedure can be found on the ICO website: <http://www.ico.gov.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,

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**Alex Palacky**

**Office Manager**

LGBCE

14<sup>th</sup> Floor Millbank Tower

London SW1P 4QP

0330 500 1264

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Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England



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