

**From:** Sarah Stead [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 May 2016 10:48  
**To:** reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>  
**Subject:** Electoral review Lincolnshire

Letter attached.

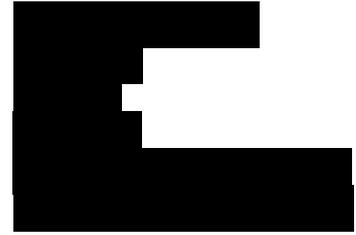
*Sarah Stead*

Parish Clerk  
**Branston & Mere Parish Council**

[REDACTED]

Web: <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/BranstonandMere>

# BRANSTON & MERE PARISH COUNCIL



**Clerk to the Council**  
**Mrs Sarah Stead**

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Review Officer (Lincolnshire)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Millbank Tower  
Millbank  
London  
SW1P 4QP

26 May 2016

Dear Commission,

Whilst acknowledging the merit of the proposed alternative division patterns, it would appear that there remain unresolved anomalies as far as Branston & Mere is concerned.

My Council accepts the rationale behind the electoral review but considers that the boundaries are wrong; do not recognise natural clusters and neither do they satisfy your own criteria.

Branston, Heighington and Washingborough are closely woven communities where residents share many services – GPs, Schools, bus routes, Police officers – and issues – crime, ASB, highways, oversubscribed services.

With Canwick, the Four Parish Cluster was formed nearly 30 years ago, primarily to work towards the common interest in the plans for an Eastern Bypass. With so many shared interests, the parish councils of Branston, Heighington and Washingborough work well together and this proposal, as with the fifth review, is contrary to the natural pattern and is not effective nor convenient for local government in Branston.

The fifth review linked Branston to the ‘cliff villages’ and Navenby. While the boundary is perhaps only a couple miles as the crow flies, in effect, travelling from Branston to Navenby is less easy and requires taking a bus into Lincoln and another out of the city to Navenby or by car, crossing the divisive A15 on a nine mile journey.

The proposals in the sixth review do not solve that problem by now linking Branston with Harmston but maintain the existing separation.

This proposal is again being forced on the communities when there is an opportunity to further strengthen localism through this review. This proposal might meet the aim to even out the electorate between councillors but it fails to ‘reflect the interests and identities of local communities’ and to ‘provide for effective and convenient local government’ for the reasons detailed.

My Council asks that the boundaries are reconsidered and more closely linked to your aims while still at the draft stage.

Yours Sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Sarah Stead.

Sarah Stead