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**From:**  
**Sent:**  
**To:**  
**Cc:**

[REDACTED]  
06 January 2013 20:09

Reviews@

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** The Boundary Commission and Whitnash

Dear Sir,

With regard to the proposals being made by the Boundary Commission in the interests of Electoral Equality I have been giving some thoughts to the concept of why this is being carried out under the present financial crisis that we living with. It has led me to the logical question of WHY this is being carried out rather than being pigeon holed into a debate on HOW it is being carried out.

It has become clear to me that the following questions should have been asked by responsible people before embarking on the costly exercise now in full swing by the Boundary Commission.

Accordingly would you please add the following questions and comments as an addendum to my previous submissions.

1. **Question.** Does it really have any important significance if Electoral Equality varies between the many wards in the whole of the country?

**Comment (a).** I believe it makes little difference to the individual or the elected candidates. I also believe it would make no difference to the outcome of elections. Without the unwieldy and messy constantly chopping up established communities it would a simple matter to factor the voting mathematically to keep it absolutely equal. This could be kept up to date daily as required. Or is that too simple?

**Comment (b).** Electoral Equality will change over time, like most things, and probably swing one way or the other. So why not just leave it to find its own level. Remember 'The Swing of the Pendulum'. If it changes sufficiently then just adjust the number of elected candidates. Who said this must be maintained within certain limits? Unlike the present radical proposals this would cause no upset to established communities.

2. **Question.** What is the cost to the taxpayer of keeping the Boundary Commission running?

**Comment.** Under the *Freedom of Information Act*, I request the total annual budget of financing the Boundary Commission plus the estimated cost of making the changes that are proposed. I would like this information quickly.

**Comment (a).** When you have made this cost available I will be making proposals to my MP to request the curtailment of this futile exercise and the shutting down of unnecessary quangos. The public are experiencing drastic changes to their living standards while the Boundary Commission are spending funds that simply add to the debt. I was under the impression that our government was closing quangos but it appears that they have missed this one. I understand the definition of Quango fairly fits the Boundary Commission.

i.e. Definition of **quango**

**noun (plural quangos)** Definition of quango Definition of **quango**

noun (plural **quangos**)

British, chiefly derogatory

- a semi-public administrative body outside the civil service but receiving financial support from the government, which makes senior appointments to it.

**Origin:** 1970s (originally US): acronym from *quasi* (or *quasi-autonomous*) *non-government(al) organization*

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3. **Question.** Considering the current state of the economy, and that it is not likely to see any great improvement for the foreseeable future due to irresponsible spending by our Government, do you not agree that the work of the Boundary Commission should be shelved for the foreseeable future?

**Comment (a).** The final cost to the taxpayer when the proposals of the Boundary Commission are completed will run into many millions. Are you not aware that the cost of scrapping and reprinting official paperwork alone will amount to literally many tons of paper. Maps will need reprinting and much more that could be added to this. This should be a prime consideration at any time. At this time it should be mandatory.

**Comment (b).** I consider that to continue with the proposals is highly irresponsible when the public are facing more and more cuts on a never ending cycle.

**Comment (c).** It would be admirable if the Boundary Commission in making its presentation to government would admit that the proposals are not strictly necessary and could be shelved for 10 years. By that time I suspect that no harm will have been done and we can just forget it ever existed. That is the way of quangos.

4. **Question.** By now it must be clear to the Boundary Commission their proposals are being seen as contentious and having total disregard of the effects on communities for no good reason. What do you propose to do about this?

**Comment (a).** Judging by the outcry within the Whitnash area, it is very clear that the proposals are likely to infuriate the greater public if they will be suffering the same kind of treatment.

5. **Question (b).** I suspect that my local area of Whitnash is just one example of what is being proposed nationwide. This will have upset large areas within the nation and set them off on a defensive tack to explain to the Boundary Commission why it is not acceptable. I ask you to consider my comments as an attack on the whole concept of the Boundary Commission who are simply seen as justifying their role to carry out their task to government, regardless of changed circumstances..

**Comment (c)**

. It must be clear to anyone that to be spending taxpayers money on anything that is not reducing the national debt is irresponsible. I contend that the work of the Boundary Commission falls within this description.

**Comment (d).** We are seeing too many examples of government comments to take away the freedom of the individual. e.g Abolishing District Councils; Changing Planning Regulations to allow mass building projects by developers; More to the point the appointment of the unelected Boundary Commission to make proposals that they should know will be unpopular. Why is the Boundary Commission so out of touch with the needs of the communities?

**Comment (e).** Any such proposals are seen as undemocratic and taking away the right of the public in deciding how the country should be run. The public are being considered a nuisance by those who would like to dictate to us. This will never be tolerated.



The above is for free circulation by all recipients

The  
Local Government  
Boundary Commission  
for England

[REDACTED]  
By Email

[REDACTED]  
11 January 2013

Dear [REDACTED]

**Our ref: 02/13**

Thank you for your email of 6 January 2013, which was received on 7 January 2013, requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You have requested:

**“What is the cost to the taxpayer of keeping the Boundary Commission running? ...the total annual budget of financing the Boundary Commission plus the estimated cost of making the changes that are proposed.”**

The Commission does hold information relevant to your request. The information is published in the LGBCE Corporate Plan and the Annual Report and Accounts, both of which are published on our website at:

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/guidance-policy-and-publications/corporate-publications>

The cost of the Warwick review will not be known until the review is completed. However, the average total direct cost of a district level review is £32k.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me, quoting the reference number above in any correspondence. I should mention that the Commission's Director of Reviews, Archie Gall, will be writing to you separately to

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House, 76-86 Tummill Street, London EC1M 5LG

Tel: 020 7664 8534

[reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

[www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

respond to the more general, non-FOI questions, you have raised in more recent correspondence.

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

Sarah Vallotton  
Business & Committee Services Manager  
Local Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
76-86 Turnmill Street  
London  
EC1M 5LG

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: <http://www.ico.gov.uk>.

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

Yours sincerely,



Dean Faccini  
Freedom of Information Officer  
[Dean.faccini@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:Dean.faccini@lgbce.org.uk)  
020 7664 8533