



## RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

---

please ask for: Michelle Haworth  
direct line: 01200 425111  
e-mail:  
my ref:  
your ref:  
date: 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Council Offices  
Church Walk  
CLITHEROE  
Lancashire BB7 2RA

Switchboard: 01200 425111  
Fax: 01200 414488  
[www.ribblevalley.gov.uk](http://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find below Ribble Valley Borough Council's formal response to the consultation on the Boundary Review of Parliamentary Constituencies 2023.

The Council's cross-party Working Group has considered the North West Initial proposals report in relation to the Ribble Valley constituency.

Ribble Valley Borough Council supports the principle of creating constituencies of roughly similar sized electorate, and is strongly of the view that the 2023 proposals are a significant improvement on those put forward in 2016.

The Council wishes to thank the Boundary Commission for recognising and respecting Ribble Valley as a constituency. However, the Council feels that it would clearly be preferable to retain the current co-terminous boundary between the borough council and the Parliamentary constituency by retaining the three wards of Billington & Langho, East Whalley, Read & Simonstone, and Whalley & Painter Wood.

These three Ribble Valley wards have strong and distinct geographical links to Ribble Valley and look to the town of Clitheroe, the historic market town which is the administrative centre for the borough, for many services including the provision of supermarkets, other large retail shops and education. The wards are in the catchment area for the town's main secondary school.

There is greater ease for these wards to access services and employment in Ribble Valley by both road and public transport. There are very few bus services to Hyndburn. The number 14 and 15 bus services from Clitheroe to Great Harwood only run on a sporadic basis and infrequently on a weekend. The main bus services (the number 8 and 231) are used by a very small number of passengers. Both services only carry around 525 passengers per month between them (131 per week or 19 per day). Most of these passengers are BAE Employees commuting onwards to Samlesbury. Data shows that very few residents make the commute out of Ribble Valley towards Hyndburn for employment purposes. In fact far fewer than make the commute from Hyndburn to Ribble Valley (574 residents of Hyndburn have regular employment in the Ribble Valley compared to 358 Ribble residents having regular employment in Hyndburn).

Local ties would be broken in the village of Whalley by dividing it across two constituencies. It was only in the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's 2017 review that the wards of East Whalley, Read & Simonstone, Whalley & Painter Wood

and Nethertown were created out of the old Whalley ward. The division carried out to help create electoral equality across the borough's wards.

Two thirds of the borough of Ribble Valley is designated as part of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Part of this area is covered by the East Whalley, Read & Simonstone ward.

The Council proposes that in order to maintain an electorate in Ribble Valley between the two thresholds outlined that the two wards of Ribbleton and Fishwick & Frenchwood are returned to the Preston constituency. The Council recognises that this creates a problem for the size of Preston, but stresses that there are no geographical or community links between these two wards and the Ribble Valley area.

In order for the constituency of Hyndburn to not fall short of the number of electorate required we would suggest that the two wards of Greenfield and Worsley be added from the West Pennine Moors constituency. These two wards are currently in the Hyndburn constituency and have established strong links.

In summary it is therefore proposed that:

- The three wards of Billington & Langho, East Whalley, Read & Simonstone and Whalley & Painter Wood be retained in the Ribble Valley constituency; and
- Both the wards of Ribbleton and Fishwick & Frenchwood be added back to the Preston constituency.

This would create a Ribble Valley constituency electorate of 69,849.

We also propose:

- The Greenfield and Worsley wards be added to the Hyndburn constituency to ensure the correct number of electorate in that constituency – 69,999.

We have not felt ourselves competent to comment on the detail of the Commission's proposals for other parts of the North West region or the Lancashire sub region.

Yours Sincerely,

*M. H. Scott*

Marshal Scott  
Chief Executive