

Sunderland

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Comment text:

I understand proposals to Boundary changes for Sunderland are being considered . I was totally unaware of any such proposals affecting my area of Tunstall in Sunderland. I strongly object to any merger with Silksworth. Tunstall has no identity with Silksworth, nor does reflect a natural community. I believe Hendon is also included in the proposed changes.

I disagree the proposals are a “consultation” as I have not received any correspondence from The Boundary Commission, nor have my immediate neighbours.

If we are unaware of the proposals, how can we put forward our views. I only discovered the proposals by accident when a local councillor dropped a leaflet through my letterbox.

If the aim is to make each ward have a similar number of the population to even out each ward and reduce the number of local councillors, I do not understand. I appreciate some wards across the country have a very small population compared to other areas. Surely it is more sensible to make adjustments in those wards, rather than impose changes across the whole of the country.

According to the ONS figures in 2021, the population of Hendon at that time was 12,987. St Michael’s ward was 10682. Silksworth was 10749. Hardly a great disparity between the wards. But, if the three wards are joined together the negative effect is obvious. The one elected councillor will have tripled the number of constituents they represent. Making their role even harder. I tried to input my comments on the website, but it was impossible to navigate.

It feels to me that the fewer people that are aware of the proposal the more chance it has of being approved. That is not the way democracy works. As the Boundary commission has to abide by government rules, the commission would appear to be in breach of the rules. I quote :

“An important part of reviews is the public feedback on proposals. When a Commission publishes a set of proposals it triggers a round of public consultation. There are up to three rounds of consultation. “

Unless the Commission is about to issue full details of their proposals immediately, followed by consultation, then they are not fulfilling their brief.

I do hope the Commission takes on board feedback from residents, but given the lack of advertising, I doubt enough people will be heard.

[REDACTED]

Attached Documents:

None attached