

Dear Emily

Thank you for the invitation to submit comments on the Commission's draft recommendation. We are making our submission on behalf of the Woolmer Forest Branch of the Liberal Democrats. This is attached.

We were astonished by the Commission's retrograde step of reversing the recommendations in 2000 and introducing more multi-councillor wards. Especially since most respondents in this consultation stated that they were happy with the existing warding structure, which primarily consists of single-councillor wards. We believe that your recommendations, if adopted, will create yet more electoral inequality and further reduce voter turnout in local elections.

We now note, from your draft recommendations, that you are seeking accurate figures on proposed ward boundaries, even from political parties. We have therefore reviewed our earlier submission and have more accurately defined both the single-councillor ward boundaries and the number of likely electors in each by 2023. We believe these to be well balanced. However, if you disagree with the figures and/or boundaries we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any and all differences with you as part of the consultation process.

Our other East Hampshire branches are working on similar submissions.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Maroney  
Chairman  
Woolmer Forest Liberal Democrats