



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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The Boundary Commission for England  
35 Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BQ

*Jean Sui,*

**Consultation response for the proposed “Berwick and Morpeth” Parliamentary constituency**

I write as the present Member of Parliament for the Berwick-upon-Tweed constituency, which makes up the vast majority of the proposed new Berwick and Morpeth constituency.

I will keep my response brief, as I have very little issue with the proposals.

My first reaction on viewing the proposed new constituency, is that I am deeply saddened that the Longhorsley ward would be removed from the constituency, and the wonderful villages and parishes it contains. Some of those villages “look to” Alnwick and Morpeth, in fact the ward envelops the town of Morpeth to the south east.

However, I appreciate that the border with Scotland and the North Sea present significant limits in what the BCE is able to propose in order to meet its legislative objectives in this constituency, and I understand there are very limited options which would work for the entire region. Therefore, whilst it is deeply regrettable that Longhorsley ward should be lost from the constituency, I do not have an alternative suggestion.

Where I would urge the BCE to make a minor but important alteration is the proposed name of the constituency. To select only two of the three primary towns, ignoring Alnwick which would form the central town of the constituency, seems an oversight. Alnwick with its businesses, health care provisions, shops, and large secondary school serving a much wider area, is a key town for the new constituency, and is the county town of Northumberland. Its population is growing rapidly, and its influence and importance is certainly not inferior to Berwick or Morpeth.

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***Member of Parliament for Berwick-upon-Tweed***

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I know from representing the present "Berwick-upon-Tweed" constituency that the names of constituencies really matter. My constituency covers a vast area, containing many towns and villages, but is named for only one of them. This leaves many to the south of my constituency confused as to why they live in a constituency named after a town more than 50 miles away, and some folk in Berwick itself confused about why I also spend time in areas further to the south of the county. To name the new constituency Berwick and Morpeth is an opportunity missed to rectify that level of confusion. On that basis, I would urge the BCE to consider naming the new constituency "Berwick, Alnwick and Morpeth".

Sincerely

Anne Lani

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