



3 July 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Proposed Local Government Boundary Changes**

**I am responding to the proposed boundary changes and in particular those that affect Ingleton where my residence has the post code of [REDACTED]. I am a private individual and have no affiliations apart from to the community of Ingleton.**

**Your proposal to transfer Ingleton from the existing Barnard Castle East Ward to a new Evenwood Division. Ingleton has historically been linked with Barnard Castle and Teesdale and indeed I consider myself as belonging to Teesdale and have no links whatsoever with Evenwood and Weardale. Some of the criteria that you have used in deciding the new Divisions appear not to have been applied to Ingleton e.g. in para 151 where you consider the merits of an Evenwood and Weardale Division your report states “the road links across this division are not particularly strong, noting that roads in this area broadly run east to west, as opposed to north-south”. Similarly Ingleton’s main communication links run east to west and not north to south.**

**I ask you to reconsider your proposals and to leave Ingleton linked to Barnard Castle rather than move it into a new Evenwood Division as you are proposing. My reasons for doing this are as follows.**

**Our travel links flow naturally from east to west along the Tees Valley linking us to Teesdale and Barnard Castle.**

**Ingleton is part of the Barnard Castle Police area of responsibility, the PCSO responsible for Ingleton is based at Barnard Castle Police Station and the Ingleton Speed Watch team responds to the Barnard Castle police team,**

**Educationally, the majority of the children living in Ingleton who are post Primary School age go on to attend Teesdale Comprehensive Schools in Staindrop and Barnard Castle, or Barnard Castle School which is a private school.**

**St John the Evangelist Church in Ingleton comes under the control of the Barnard Castle Deanery.**

**Culturally, we have strong links with Barnard Castle and The Witham arts centre.**

I believe these points support the second and third points in Item 4 of your report where it states that:

the Commission will ensure the recommendations reflect community identity and provide arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

I ask the Commission to recognise and make recommendations that we in Ingleton be allowed to retain our community identity as Teesdale residents for the following reasons:

Barnard Castle being left within the borders of its own parish is taking away from the rest of us within the district the recognition of being a very close part of Barnard Castle as previously explained.

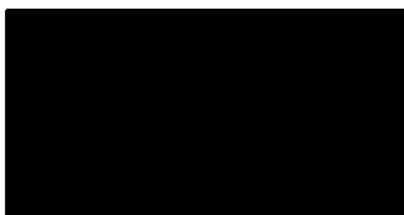
We always have, and always will, be far more closely linked to Barnard Castle because it is geographically nearby which clearly reflects your stated intent "to support effective and convenient local government" Barnard Castle is 8.8 miles away. Were we to move to Weardale District we would be some 14 miles from Crook and 13 miles from Spennymoor which appear to be the key places for administration.

There is no logical link between Ingleton and the Gaunless Valley, Escombe and Witton Park. The natural links flow along the Tees Valley to Barnard Castle.

There is very little in common when viewed from an historical perspective; Ingleton's being based on farming and agriculture whilst the Gaunless Valley's was based on coal mining and cokes production.

I hope that I have made a strong case for Ingleton remaining within Teesdale and not transferred to Weardale.

Yours Faithfully



Review Officer (County Durham)  
LGBCE,  
PO Box 133,  
Blyth,  
NE24 9FE



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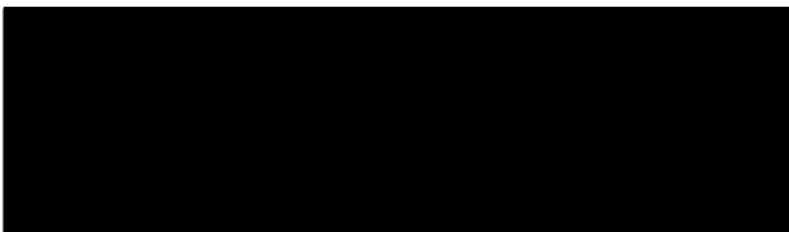
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