

County Durham

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Dear Sir - Further to my telephone conversation this morning with "Harry" - I attach herewith, our Objection Letter to the proposals under consideration.

We hope this email together with attachment is received safely. Can you please be so kind as to drop me a wee acknowledgement just so I am aware that this very important correspondence has been received by yourselves and within the deadline.

I wish to extend my appreciation to Harry for his patience, kindness and assistance in this matter.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course. Many thanks. Best wishes. [REDACTED]

Attached Documents:

- Local Boundary Changes-10Jul2023.docx

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOCAL BOUNDARY – TEESDALE, COUNTY DURHAM – AS AT
9TH JULY 2023 – SENT BY EMAIL TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY
COMMISSION BY EMAIL ON SUNDAY 9TH JULY 2023**

**FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE REVIEW OFFICER (COUNTY DURHAM) - THE
BOUNDARY COMMISSION OVERSEEING CHANGES TO BOUNDARIES WITHIN
TEESDALE AND WEARDALE IN COUNTY DURHAM**

Dear Sir,

1. We have lived in the village of **Ingleton**, Darlington – South of the Durham Dales namely – **Teesdale** - for 34 years.
2. We are horrified at the suggestion that the Boundary Commission propose to remove our village – Ingleton – the historic Castle and Visitor attraction at Raby Castle – under the aegis of Lord Barnard – along with Keverstone Parish - together with the villages of Staindrop, Headlam, Hilton, Wackerfield, Bolam and Langton – and place us in a new “Ward” made up of the aforementioned locations and also include the Gaunless Valley, Witton Park and Escomb – these areas are currently located in **Weardale**.
3. Why? Number crunching for the sake of it? Your proposals are going to reduce the number of MPs representing the North East by **2 – from 29 to 27**.
4. Our village, Raby Castle, Staindrop, Headlam, Hilton, Wackerfield, Bolam and Langton are currently in the Ward of **Barnard Castle East**.
5. With respect your brief is to appease Government and does not take into account the vast heritage, cultural and landscape differences between **Teesdale** and the **Gaunless Valley (Weardale)**.
6. The notion that Raby Castle and Raby Park are potentially not going to be in the **Teesdale Constituency** is utterly preposterous.
7. The boundary of **Teesdale** – geographical and cultural is traditionally accepted as being the escarpment that runs along the top of Keverstone Bank up to Langley-dale.
8. **Teesdale** villages share a rural, agricultural heritage facing similar sorts of issues which are vastly different from the Gaunless Valley’s landscape and its coalmining heritage.
We fear that your proposals will be dominated by Evenwood and the Wear Valley.
9. Under your current proposals inter alia other neighbouring villages – it would mean that the villages of Gainford and Langton – approximately 1.5 and less than 1 mile from the village of Ingleton – would straddle two different Wards meaning that the existing Gainford and Langton Parish Council would be represented by 6 County Councillors. Do you really consider this to be an improvement on the existing arrangements?
10. Can you please also take our following observations into account during your forthcoming deliberations:
 - 11a There is a world of difference between the rural communities in the Upper and Lower Dales and it should also incorporate the fact that the urban Barnard Castle is different to both.
 - 11b Our CCG and CDDFT in conjunction with NEAS (our Ambulance Service) experience vast discrepancies in their working practices – especially our Ambulance Service locating the “Outliers” existing in the upper Dales on dark winter nights which in odd cases – has resulted in a very poorly patient being left for longer than is considered safe. To conflate the boundaries and change our historic and unique knowledge of exactly where Weardale extends to and from and to understand the logistical and geographical boundaries of where Teesdale starts and finishes is going to place an

unimaginable burden on our hard working NHS staff who we are all aware – are struggling massively. Why add to that burden?

11c The villages of **Staindrop** and **Ingleton** have strong community and travel links with the rest of Teesdale – and lesser links with Evenwood, Weardale and the outskirts of Bishop Auckland which your proposed new division includes.

11d We wish to remain in Teesdale because our schools and Church are linked with Barnard Castle and our travel links naturally flow in an East/West direction – connecting us to Teesdale.

We could add to the foregoing however – first and foremost we wish you to understand that we are horrified by your proposals. Your decision making for the residents – who with respect – we doubt you really understand what it is like to live in our rural location within our beautiful Palatinate of the ancient County of Durham – Land of the Prince Bishops - and your decisions will probably be made by folk looking at maps, Post Codes and making assumptions. Please note this comment is in no way meant to be pejorative but has been made as clarification of our experience regarding previous correspondence over the years about boundary changes.

We find it vaguely offensive that our lives are going to be considerably affected by decisions taken by others who do not know our cultural and esoteric lives – the day to day issues we all experience regarding public travel, trying to access medical and surgical appointments in Teesside and Newcastle upon Tyne - the centralisation of a number of key medical services and clinics etc – despite the fact that our CCG/Integrated Care Group has direct responsibility for our medical services in the Durham Dales and encompasses 12 GP surgeries – including our friends in Weardale – and function extremely well under the aegis of the above together with our GP Forum.

We apologise if we have conflated some of our facts or made comments which you may consider to be irrelevant. We do not intend to offend anyone. However, please understand we are “getting on” in age and are aware of the very tight timescales imposed on us at very short notice. We hope though – that this comment aside – you will please bear our foregoing points in mind and please consider that we have made the comments in the *spirit* of being very emotionally involved in Teesdale. We have dear friends in Weardale as well as Teesdale however, our hearts’ and lives reside in Teesdale and to throw our lovely Teesdale villages into a melting pot and for us to live in Weardale is going to cause a lot of upheaval to many people who already lead stressful and difficult lives – we consider this to be onerous, unfair and, in our opinion – unnecessary.

We strongly disapprove of Southern Teesdale villages being removed out of Barnard Castle East Ward and killing our beloved Teesdale.

We wish you well. With kindest regards.

[REDACTED]

*** (We give you permission – to place our “Objection” letter as above on your website. However, please ensure compliance with GDPR and anonymise the letter and remove our personal details). Thank you.

