

# North Yorkshire

## Personal Details:

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

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Masham & Fountains District

Please see attached file

## Attached Documents:

- boundary-commission-response.docx

## **MASHAM & FOUNTAINS DIVISION**

- **Assumption that people are IT literate**

Your review does not take account of the fact that many residents of North Yorkshire would not be able to access information from a website.

I consider myself a competent IT user however your “interactive” map is difficult to use and I am struggling to find any information on what the new proposals are. The map uses various different colours to identify boundaries making it very complex to understand with no option to see the any new proposals.

I have only been made aware of certain new proposals that have been put forward for the changes to this district by my wife who received some information from the Nidderdale National Landscape.

The area has a high population of elderly residents many do not have the skills to access the information and this coupled with the fact that many residents are still unable to access reasonable broadband speeds due to living in isolated locations or like my address which is not isolated but has been left off high speed programmes due to the distance and cost involved.

- **Lack of publicity and information**

In general apart from seeing the odd newspaper article I feel the consultation has been very poorly publicised with little information about the potential consequences of changing divisional boundaries or how the public can get involved and have their say.

No detailed information about the changes being proposed.

- **Community and local identity**

This division is a wholly rural community dealing with rural affairs associated with the countryside, farming and the natural environment.

My understanding of the proposal is to take in part of the City of Ripon adding an urban environment into the mix.

People who live in Ripon have different interests and views to those in the countryside and such a change would adversely affect the rural identity of the current communities in Masham & Fountains.

- **Geography considerations**

The proposals appear to completely ignore the geography of the division, with the existing area being predominantly farmland, moorland or forestry with natural boundaries of hills and moorland.