

# North Yorkshire

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Martin Pearson

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**Organisation Name:** Clerk to Darley and Menwith Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

## Comment text:

Dear Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Please find attached a letter from Darley and Menwith Parish Council regarding the proposed North Yorkshire divisions, and in particular, the revised proposals published on 2 September 2025.

Please can you acknowledge receipt.

If you need any further information regarding this please let me know.

Kind regards

Martin

## Attached Documents:

- 20251010-letter-to-lgbce-regarding-second-consultation-october-2025.pdf



*c/o Clerk to the Council: Martin Pearson, 3A Low Lane, Darley HG3 2QN*  
*Tel: 07541 518 456 E-mail: [clerk@darleyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@darleyparishcouncil.org.uk)*

Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
7th Floor 3 Bunhill Row  
London EC1Y 8YZ

10 October 2025

Dear Sir or Madam

**Darley and Menwith Parish Council - Response to second consultation on the proposal by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) for North Yorkshire**

I am writing to you on behalf of Darley and Menwith Parish Council (the Council) regarding the North Yorkshire boundary review that LGBCE is currently undertaking and in response to the consultation launched on 2 September 2025 regarding a revised set of proposals (the revised proposals).

The Council noted that the revised proposals include the creation of a single *Upper Wharfedale and Upper Nidderdale* division, which attempts to combine two distinct communities, geographically separated by a large upland area and connected only by the B6265 (a road which can be very difficult to navigate in several months of the year).

The Council feels that the revised proposals fail to respect the unique historical, geographical, and social identity of Nidderdale, undermining effective representation and community cohesion. The Council agreed that the revised proposals should be rejected for the following reasons:

- a. Distinct identities: Nidderdale and Wharfedale are separate communities with distinct historical ties, governance traditions, and practical affiliations. Nidderdale has always been associated with Harrogate, while Wharfedale aligns with Skipton, reflecting different service and cultural centres;
- b. Geographical challenges: The significant distance (approximately 30 miles and one and half hour's drive) between key settlements like Buckden (Wharfedale) and Middlesmoor (Nidderdale) makes it impractical for one North Yorkshire Council Councillor to effectively represent both areas and highlights the distinct separation of the communities;
- c. Community and cultural cohesion: Nidderdale is a close-knit community with shared institutions, such as Nidderdale High School, Nidderdale Agricultural Society, and numerous other community organisations. Dividing the valley would weaken these bonds and dilute its unique identity;
- d. Diverging administrative frameworks: Upper Nidderdale lies within the Nidderdale National Landscape, while Wharfedale falls under the Yorkshire Dales National Park, each governed by distinct priorities and planning authorities;
- e. Going against stated review principles: LGBCE outlined three criteria for boundary changes in its August presentation and literature: electoral equality, reflecting local community identities, and enabling effective governance. The Council believes that the revised proposals meet only the first criterion while effectively ignoring the other two; and
- f. Loss of shared community values with neighbouring parishes: The historical parishes of Nidderdale have consistently maintained profound geographical and social associations with adjacent parishes. These enduring interconnections have evolved through centuries of shared customs, mutual economic interests and coordinated responses to regional challenges. Nidderdale represents a distinctive geographical and sociocultural region, and its identity is most accurately reflected through an administrative boundary that encompasses all contiguous parishes, thereby sustaining cohesive community values and unified governance.

**Preferred approach**

The Council prefers the first proposal put forward by LGBCE on 1 April 2025 on the basis that it seeks to retain the majority of the Nidderdale area as a single *Pateley Bridge & Nidderdale* division.

However, the Council asks that LGBCE considers adding Thornthwaite with Padside to this division based on its historic links with both Nidderdale and surrounding parishes and its lack of connection with Wharfedale.

**Next steps**

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you require further information in relation to this matter please contact me.

Kind regards

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Pearson". The "M" is stylized with a large loop, and the "Pearson" is written in a cursive script.

Martin Pearson

**Clerk to Darley and Menwith Parish Council**