

# York

## Personal Details:

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

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Portal Road

As a resident of Portal Road, York, I would like to formally object to the proposed changes to ward boundaries that would move my street from the Rufforth and Knapton ward into the Acomb ward. I believe this proposal is unnecessary, risks tangible harm to residents, and fails to reflect our community identity.

1. There is no clear need for the change

The stated aim of the review is to balance elector numbers at approximately 3,200 per councillor. However, even after transferring Portal Road and surrounding streets, Rural West York would remain approximately 10% below that average. The proposed change therefore fails to achieve its own stated objective, making it difficult to justify any disruption to existing communities.

2. Strong community ties to Rufforth and Knapton

Portal Road has longstanding historical and community ties to the Rufforth and Knapton area. Residents identify strongly with the surrounding rural community, not with the urban Acomb ward. Boundary reviews are intended to take account of residents' sense of community, and ours is firmly rooted where we currently sit.

3. Loss of valued local representation

The Rufforth and Knapton Parish Council has provided excellent representation to residents on Portal Road, including during the significant Wheatlands Field planning matter. Transferring us into a larger city ward risks diluting that local voice and reducing the responsiveness of representation we have come to rely on.

#### 4. Financial impact on residents

I am concerned that reclassification into an urban ward could trigger automated increases in home and vehicle insurance premiums. Many insurers use ward-level crime and area classifications in their risk modelling. Moving from a low-crime rural ward to a comparatively higher-crime urban ward could result in real additional costs for Portal Road households through no fault of their own.

#### 5. Impact on school catchment areas

The proposed boundary change would move us from Rural West York into Acomb West. This has potential implications for secondary school catchments. Manor School would remain in Rural West York, meaning residents could find themselves falling into the catchment for York High School instead — a change that may not be in the interests of all families on the road.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully request that the Commission retains Portal Road within the Rufforth and Knapton ward. I urge the Commission to give full weight to the views of residents who feel a clear and genuine connection to their existing rural community.

### **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*