

News Release

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Boundary Committee launches review of Isle of Wight electoral arrangements

Isle of Wight residents are being asked to give their views on local council arrangements in a review launched today by the Boundary Committee for England. The review, which is intended to ensure there is electoral equality on the Island, will take into account the identities and interests of local communities in the area and whether these have changed over recent years.

As part of the review, the Committee is asking local people to consider whether there should be any changes to the number of councillors currently being elected to the Isle of Wight Council. The Committee is also inviting comments on the number, names and boundaries of the wards on the Isle of Wight. Local people, interested parties and associations will then have until 4 June 2007 to give their responses to the Committee.

Pamela Gordon, Chair of the Boundary Committee for England, said: "The purpose of the review is to ensure that, as far as possible, everyone's vote is equal – and we do that by making sure that every councillor represents the same number of electors. Presently, the ward of Gurnard has about 36 per cent fewer people being represented than the average and this kind of disproportion will be addressed by the review. We therefore hope to hear from as many people as possible so that the recommendations put forward fully represent their views."

Anyone wishing to make representations to the Committee on this review should do so by writing to: Review Manager (Isle of Wight), the Boundary Committee for England, Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HW. The closing date for representations is 4 June 2007.

All representations will be available for inspection, after 4 June 2007, by appointment at the Committee's offices and copies will be available at the offices of the Isle of Wight Council. Copies of all representations will also be available to be viewed on the Committee's website. A list of respondents will also be available on request from the Committee.

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For further information contact:

Niamh Mulholland 020 7271 0531 or Anna McGlynn on 020 7271 0530

Out of office hours 07789 920 414, Fax: 020 7271 0528

press@boundarycommittee.org.uk

www.boundarycommittee.org.uk

Notes to editors:

1. The Boundary Committee for England is a statutory committee of the Electoral Commission
2. The previous review of the Isle of Wight's electoral arrangements was undertaken by the Boundary Committee for England's predecessor, the Local Government Commission for England in 1997.