

**LOUIE FRENCH MP**  
**OLD BEXLEY & SIDCUP**



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**  
**LONDON SW1A 0AA**

Boundary Commission for England  
35 Great Smith Street  
London  
SW1P 3BQ

15 March 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing regarding the 2023 Review of Parliamentary constituencies and would be grateful if this letter could be taken as a formal representation to the Review.

I would firstly like to thank the Boundary Commission for all their work and add my support to the proposals to the Old Bexley and Sidcup constituency. The proposals achieve the Commission's requirements by including a suitable number of electorates, aligning local government wards and unifying local ties and geographic factors.

The proposals align the Parliamentary boundaries with the Bexley Council ward boundaries by encompassing all of the East Wickham and Falconwood and Welling ward. This provides clarity for constituents and facilitates better joint working between Bexley's Members of Parliament and Councillors.

The proposals strengthen community links by unifying Welling which is particularly important given the distinct nature of Welling, its strong community feel and the length of the High Street which is one of the longest High Streets in London at almost 1 mile long.

I am, however, concerned about the proposed constituency name of Sidcup and Welling which does not include Old Bexley. The name Bexley is affectionally known locally and has its origins in Anglo-Saxon times and is recognised in the Domesday Book as 'Bix.' The constituency Old Bexley and Sidcup has had its name since its creation in 1983. Old Bexley is one of the most recognisable places in the constituency with the iconic Five Arches, picturesque churches and quaint village shops. The community and residents of Old Bexley are also very united in their pride for their area and its history.

I note that the Boundary Commission's policy on the naming of constituencies is that, when constituencies remain largely unchanged, the existing name should usually be retained.

Given the rich history and strongly recognisable features of Old Bexley, it would be of great shame and confusion to lose Old Bexley from the constituency name. I would therefore be grateful if serious consideration could be given to keeping the current constituency name of Old Bexley and Sidcup or changing it to Old Bexley, Sidcup and Welling.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Louie French'.

**Louie French MP**  
**Member of Parliament for Old Bexley and Sidcup**

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