

Paul Rowsell  
Deputy Director, Local Democracy  
Democracy & Local Governance Division  
Zone 3/J1  
Department for Communities and Local  
Government  
Eland House  
Bressenden Place  
London SW1E 5DU

14 July 2009

Dear Paul

**ADVICE ON UNITARY LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN DEVON, NORFOLK AND  
SUFFOLK**

The Secretary of State asked the Boundary Committee for England to provide any advice on unitary patterns of local government in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk by 15 July 2009. I am writing to you now following the judgment handed down by Mr Justice Foskett on 10 July in relation to the case brought by three Suffolk district councils against the Boundary Committee.

As you know, Mr Justice Foskett quashed the Committee's further draft proposals in relation to Suffolk. The Committee is therefore not in a position to provide advice to the Secretary of State in relation to that county at this time. As the Committee adopted the same approach in all three counties in reaching conclusions on its further draft proposals, there is a clear read across to the processes in relation to Devon and Norfolk. Accordingly, the Committee considers that it is equally constrained from providing advice on those two counties at this time.

The Boundary Committee  
Trevelyan House  
Great Peter Street  
London SW1P 2HW

Tel 020 7271 0500  
Fax 020 7271 0505  
Textphone 18001 020 7271 0500  
info@boundarycommittee.org.uk  
www.boundarycommittee.org.uk

We have sought and received leave to appeal against the judgment. Accordingly, we request that the date by which the Committee's advice to the Secretary of State be delivered is extended.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Archie Gall', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Archie Gall  
Director  
agall@electoralcommission.org.uk  
0207 271 0650