

Norwich City Council
City Hall
St Peter's Street
Norwich
NR2 1NH

Sarah Fowler
Electoral Services Manager

26 September 2014

Our reference

Dear Sarah,

Polling District and Places Review 2014

This letter sets out my views as Returning Officer for Norwich by way of response to the consultation exercise on the above review.

The relatively small geographical size and urban nature of the area has meant that options for polling places and stations are limited. Those that have been used in Norwich are carefully assessed to ensure that they meet accessibility requirements.

In the lead up to all elections there are often local circumstances that require a mini review in itself. By way of example, in May 2014 we were able to utilise the Scout headquarters on Colman Road (polling district UN4) after a fire destroyed the St Annes Church Hall. Also, the Silver Rooms on Silver Road (SE3) once again became available for use. In recent elections we had been using the Silver Road Baptist Church in the adjacent polling district (SE4) as a double polling station as there had been no suitable alternative in SE3. Another example was the need to use the Friend's Meeting House, Upper Goat Lane (MA5) as redevelopment works were being undertaken at Chantry Hall, Chantry Road.

In the current polling scheme there are two polling districts which do not have a polling station situated within the polling district (WE3 and NE4) as there are no suitable premises available. Whilst this is clearly not ideal, I am happy that using the two premises in the adjacent polling districts as double polling stations meets accessibility requirements and are the best options available.

There are some minor variances in total electorate within different Polling Districts. However, these are well within the parameters that allow me to undertake an efficient election and accurate count. I therefore consider the current polling district and polling station provision to be appropriate for the prevailing circumstances in Norwich.

Yours sincerely



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Returning Officer

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