



**REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2023  
(ACTING) RETURNING OFFICER COMMENTS**

As the (Acting) Returning Officer for the London Borough of Camden, I have had the opportunity to operate the current polling arrangements since they were last reviewed by the Council following the local ward boundary changes introduced in 2022.

In most areas they work well, however some changes are needed, in relation to the currently parliamentary boundaries, and my comments are outlined below.

The introduction of the Election Act will bring new obligations and these will need to be considered as part of this review and this may affect the polling stations I will be able to use. Due to the increased time expected to process electors following the introduction of Voter ID, queues may be experienced at some polling stations and I ask that this is considered as part of this review and the election planning process.

Guidance from the Electoral Commission recommends that polling stations should not be more than 2,500 electors. Some of the current polling places will therefore require two polling stations due to the number of electors. I recommend splitting the register of electors for form separate polling stations, rather than creating new polling districts and identifying new polling places unless the current polling arrangement is not sufficient or there more suitable alternatives available.

My comments of the arrangements are set out below: -

PD	Polling Place	Comments
AA	Burge House New End Square, NW3 1LT	The electorate for this polling place above 2500 and I propose to divide this polling place into two polling stations.
AB	Keats Community Library 10A Keats Grove, London NW3 2RR	No comment
BA	Holly Lodge Community Centre 30 Makepeace Avenue, London N6 6HL	No comment
BB	Highgate Road Chapel (Lower Room) Chetwynd Road, London, NW5 1BU	The electorate for this polling place above 2500 and I propose to divide this polling place into two polling stations.
BC	Highgate Library Civic & Cultural Centre 52 Croftdown Road, Highgate, London, NW5 1EN	No comment
CA	St Luke's Church of England Church Kidderpore Avenue, London, NW3 7SU	The electorate for this polling place above 2500 and I propose to divide this polling place into two polling stations.
CB	Hampstead Parish Church Church Row, Hampstead, London, NW3 6UU	No comment
DA	Templar House Social Hall Templar House, Shoot-Up Hill, London, NW2 3TD	The electorate for this polling place above 2500 and I propose to divide this polling place into two polling stations.
DB	West Hampstead Primary School (Beckford) Dornfell Street, London, NW6 1QL	No comment
DC	Emmanuel Church of England Corner Lyncroft Gardens / West End Green, London, NW6 1JU	No comment
EA	West Hampstead Branch Library Dennington Park Road, London, NW6 1AU	The electorate for this polling place above 2500 and I propose to divide this polling place into two polling stations.
EB	Lymington Road Residents Association Hall 1 Dresden Close, London, NW6 1XH	No comment
EC	Brondesbury Christian Centre 9-11 Iverson Road, London, NW6 2QT	No comment

PD	Polling Place	Comments
ED	St James Church Hall 2 Sherriff Road, London, NW6 2AP	No comment
FA	Kingsgate Community Centre 107 Kingsgate Road, London, NW6 2JH	This community centre has now closed and alternative arrangements will need to be found for this polling place if we are unable to use it in the future. I ask that as part of this review enquiries are made to find an alternative location.  Irrespective if we can use Kingsgate Community Centre, this polling district is over 2500 and will need to be split into two polling stations.
FB	Abbey Community Centre 172 Belsize Road, London, NW6 4BJ	Due to the Abbey Regeneration Project the previously used polling place at 222c Belsize Road was replaced with a new community centre at 172 Belsize Road. Acting in my role of Chief Executive, in accordance with the in delegation from Council, this polling place was amended in consultation with the relevant ward members and I have no objection retaining this change.
FC	Shell 2 Centre, Fielding House Shell 2 Training Room, Fielding House, Boundary Road, London, NW8 0HS	No comment
FD	Montimer Crescent Tenants & Residents Ass Hall Greville Road (opposite No. 12), London, NW6 5UR	No comment
GA	St Mary's (Priory) Community Hall 134a Abbey Road, London, NW6 4SR	No comment
GB	Likewise 8 Fairhazel Gardens, London, NW6 3SG	No comment
GC	The Acol Bridge Club 86 West End Lane, London NW6 2IX	No comment
HA	Belsize Square Synagogue 51 Belsize Square, London, NW3 4HX	No comment
HB	Belsize Community Library Antrim Road, Belsize Park, London, NW3 4XN	No comment
HC	WACs Art, Old Town Hall 213 Haverstock Hill, London, NW3 4QP	No comment
HD	St Thomas More Parish Hall Maresfield Gardens, London NW3 4QP	No comment
IA-a	Gospel Oak Methodist Church Agincourt Road, London, NW3 2NT	This polling district needs to the temporary split to facilitate the current parliamentary constituencies. However, following the introduction of the new constituencies, I recommend that these polling districts are re-combined in the future as this arrangement would no longer be required.
IA-b	Gospel Oak Methodist Church Agincourt Road, London, NW3 2NT	
IB	Kiln Palace Tenants Association Hall Kiln Place London NW5 4AP	No comment
IC	Queens Crescent Community Centre 45 Ashdown Crecent, Belsize Park, NW5 4QE	No comment

PD	Polling Place	Comments
JA	Greenwood Centre Greenwood Place, London, NW5 1LB	No comment
JB	Willingham Close TRA Hall Willingham Close, London NW5 2UY	The electorate for this polling place above 2500 and I propose to divide this polling place into two polling stations.
KA	The Sun Room, Kentish Town Health Centre 2 Bartholomew Road, London, NW5 2AJ	No comment
KB	Kentish Town Church of England School Islip Street, London NW5 2TU	The electorate for this polling place above 2500 and I propose to divide this polling place into two polling stations.
KC	Kentish Town Congregational Church Kelly Street, London NW1 8PH	No comment
LA	Hampstead Seventh-day Adventist Church 66 Haverstock Hill, London, NW3 2BE	No comment
LB	Rhyl Primary School 7-31 Rhyl Street, London, NW5 3HB	The electorate for this polling place above 2500 and I propose to divide this polling place into two polling stations.
LC	Salvation Army Hall 10-16 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 2BL	No comment
LD-1	St Saviour's Church Hall Eton Road, London, NW3 4SU	This polling district needs to the temporary split to facilitate the current parliamentary constituencies. However, following the introduction of the new constituencies, I recommend that these polling districts are re-combined in the future as this arrangement would no longer be required.
LD-2	St Saviour's Church Hall Eton Road, London, NW3 4SU	
MA	The Pirate Castle Oval Road, London NW1 7EA	No comment
MB	Castlehaven Community Centre - The Haven 23 Castlehaven Road, London NW1 8RU	No comment
NA	Dick Collins Hall Ground Floor, Kirkfell Robert Street NW1 3FB	The electorate for this polling place above 2500 and I propose to divide this polling place into two polling stations.
NB	Samuel Lithgow Youth Centre 65-79 Stanhope Street, London, NW1 3LD	No comment
NC	Camden Town Library, 218 Eversholt Street, NW1 1BD	Due to the ongoing repurposing of the Crowndale Centre the previous polling place at Unit 13 is no longer available as it has been converted into a cycle storage area.  Acting in my role of Chief Executive, in accordance with the delegation from Council, this polling place was amended in consultation with the relevant ward members to the Camden Town Library and I have no objection to retaining this change.
OA	St Pancras Community Centre 67 Plender Street, London, NW1 0LB	The electorate for this polling place above 2500 and I propose to divide this polling place into two polling stations.
OB	Godwin & Crowndale Community Hall Godwin Court Crowndale Road NW1 1NN	The electorate for this polling place above 2500 and I propose to divide this polling place into two polling stations.
OC	Ossulston Tenants & Residents Association Hall Ossulston Street, London NW1 1EU	No comment

PD	Polling Place	Comments
PA	Kings Cross Neighbourhood Centre 51 Argyle Street London WC1H 8EF	The electorate for this polling place above 2500 and I propose to divide this polling place into two polling stations.
PB	Calthorpe Community Garden 258-274 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8LH	No comment
PC	N1C Centre Ground Floor, Plimsoll Building, Handyside Street N1C 4BQ	No comment
PD	N1C Centre Ground Floor, Plimsoll Building, Handyside Street N1C 4BQ	No comment
QA	Ramsay Hall 20 Maple Street London W1T 5HB	No comment
QB	RADA Studios 16 Chenies Street, London, WC1E 7EX	No comment
QC	Marchmont Street Community Centre 62 Marchmont Street London WC1N 1AB	No comment
RA	Dragon Hall Community Centre 17 Stukeley Street London WC2B 5LL	No comment
RB	St Georges's Church Queens Square, London, WC1N 3AH	The electorate for this polling place above 2500 and I propose to divide this polling place into two polling stations.
RC	St Alban's Centre Leigh Place Baldwin Gardens EC1N 7AB	The electorate for this polling place above 2500 and I propose to divide this polling place into two polling stations.
SA	The London Irish Centre 50-52 Camden Square, London, NW1 9XA	The electorate for this polling place above 2500 and I propose to divide this polling place into two polling stations.
SB	Maiden Lane Community Centre 156 St Paul's Crescent, London, NW1 9XZ	No comment
SC	Agar Road T.A Meeting Room Lulworth Agar Grove Estate NW1 9SS	No comment
TA-a	Bray Tenants Association Hall Bray Tower, Fellows Road, London, NW3 3JX	This polling district needs to the temporary split to facilitate the current parliamentary constituencies. However, following the introduction of the new constituencies, I recommend that these polling districts are re-combined in the future as this arrangement would no longer be required.
TA-b	Bray Tenants Association Hall Bray Tower, Fellows Road, London, NW3 3JX	
TB	Primrose Hill Community Centre 29 Hopkinsons Place, Off Fitzroy Road, London, NW1 8TN	The electorate for this polling place above 2500 and I propose to divide this polling place into two polling stations.
TC	Swiss Cottage Library The Glass Room 88 Avenue Road NW3 3HA	No comment

## Consultation responses received

### Polling District: DA, DB & DC

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#### Labour & Co-operative Councillor

As regards Fortune Green ward, the polling districts and polling places are well-established, they work well and are understood by the electorate. I, therefore, suggest that they should remain unaltered.

#### Labour & Co-operative Councillor

I agree with XXXX comments and suggest the polling districts and polling places remain the same.

### Polling District: GA, GB & GC

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#### Camden Liberal Democrats

Voters at the Finchley Road end of GC (which is the polling district at the top end of the ward) have to walk all the way to The Acol Bridge Club on West End Lane. This must be particularly frustrating for those east of Fairhazel Gardens who normally use Finchley Road tube station or buses on Finchley Road. It's not dissimilar to the issue in West Hampstead that I'm sure XX will be raising separately with you. In both cases the voters affected have to walk a good stretch to a polling station that takes them a long way from their normal way to work or shops.

I think that the solution might be to create a new polling district with a polling station close to or on Finchley Road, to serve the voters mentioned above and perhaps also including a couple of the streets in the northern part of GB, which is the polling district on the right of the map. Perhaps Goldhurst Terrace might be split in two with the lower end continuing to be in GB and voting at Likewise with the other half now voting at the polling station for the new polling district.

### Polling District: JA & JB

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#### Labour & Co-operative Councillor

I think the current arrangements for both districts and places in Kentish Town North work very well as seen in the local elections last year, so I would recommend that they remain as is.

### Polling District: MB

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#### Labour Councillor

Please note that in November 2022 properties in Juniper Crescent and Regents Park Road were moved from polling district MA (voting at the Pirate Castle) to polling district MB (voting at Castlehaven Community Centre). That is because the ongoing re-development of Camden Goods Yard means that Juniper Crescent and Regents Park Road are now a significantly longer walk away from the Pirate Castle than they are from Castlehaven Community Centre. Both ward councillors are in favour of that continuing as it will be some years before the re-development of Camden Goods Yard is completed.

### **Labour Councillor**

As Cllr XX has stated the Pirate Castle is not a viable option for Juniper residents or the Regents Park Rd residents in our ward and the Castlehaven polling station is by far the better option. Besides the postal votes we had a very small turnout from Juniper Crescent at the local elections due to the long walk to get to the Pirate Castle.

### **Polling District: PD**

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#### **Labour and Co-op Party Councillor**

It will still be good to look at a space in PD - We suggested the abacus school.

### **Labour Councillor**

Supported above comments.

### **Polling District: RA, RB & RC**

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#### **Labour Councillor**

The polling places for RA, RB and RC are fine.

### **Polling District: All**

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#### **Constituency Office Manager, Office of Rt Hon Keir Starmer KC, MP**

We don't have any formal comments on this.