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IMPACT OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE AND BOUNDARY CHANGES ON THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL AND ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

This paper attempts to estimate the combined impact of demographic change and boundary changes on the forthcoming General and Assembly elections. The analysis is confined simply to population changes arising from aging and the impact of the Boundary Commission's recent recommendations. Changes in religious composition of Catholics, Protestants and "Others" are assumed to equate broadly to changes in Nationalist, Unionist and Other party shares of the vote respectively.

The results of this analysis suggest that the impact on most constituencies will be marginal. However, the outcome of the 2011 Assembly Elections in East Antrim, Lagan Valley, South Down and Strangford could potentially be affected by the combination of demographic change and boundary changes. The reduced gap between Nationalist and Unionist shares of the vote (arising from demographic change) in Belfast North could also lead to a closer contest for the Westminster seat in that Constituency.

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SUMMARY

On 14 September 2007, the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland submitted its final recommendations to the Secretary of State. The Report was published and laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State on 31 March 2008 together with a draft Order to give effect to the Commission's recommendations without modification. The Order¹ was approved by the House of Commons on 15 May 2008, received Royal Assent on 11 June 2008, and will take effect for the next Westminster elections (due to be held on or before 3 June 2010). The new parliamentary constituency boundaries will also have an impact on the Northern Ireland Assembly Elections (due to be held in May 2011).

In addition to the impact of the new constituency boundary changes, the religious make-up of the electorate will also be affected by demographic change. Over time, the younger Catholic population will feed through to the religious composition of the electorate, leading potentially to a slight increase in the Nationalist share of the vote.

This paper attempts to estimate the combined impact of demographic change and boundary changes on the forthcoming General and Assembly elections. No attempt has been made to take account of migration or population movement between constituencies. Nor has any attempt been made to take account of any shift in political opinion. The analysis is confined simply to population changes arising from aging and the impact of the Boundary Commission's recommendations. Changes in religious composition of Catholics, Protestants and "Others" are assumed to equate broadly to changes in Nationalist, Unionist and Other party shares of the vote respectively.

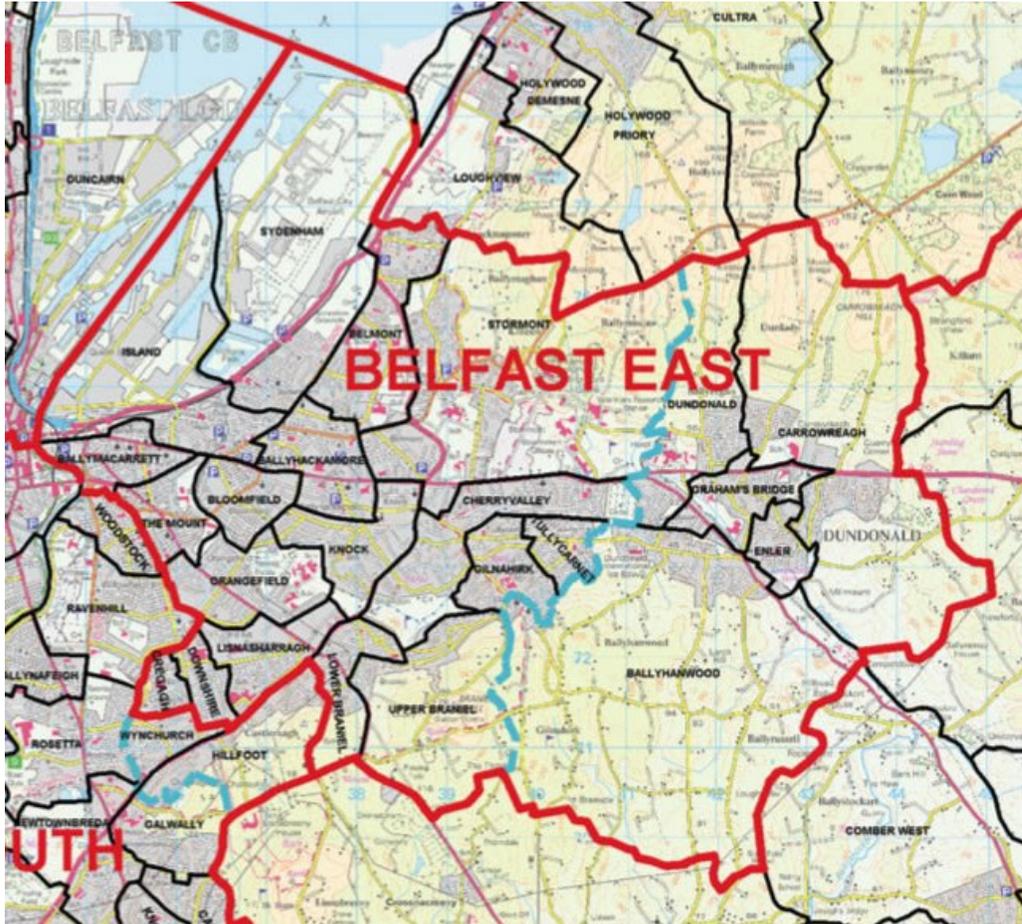
The results of this analysis suggest that the impact on most constituencies will be marginal. However, the outcome of the 2011 Assembly Elections in East Antrim, Lagan Valley, South Down and Strangford could potentially be affected by the combination of demographic change and boundary changes. The reduced gap between Nationalist and Unionist shares of the vote (arising from demographic change) in Belfast North could also lead to a closer contest for the Westminster seat in that Constituency.

KEY POINTS BY CONSTITUENCY

There were no boundary changes for the constituencies of Fermanagh & South Tyrone, Mid Ulster, Newry & Armagh, North Down, Upper Bann and West Tyrone. Demographic changes in these constituencies are marginal and not likely to have any significant effect on the outcome of the forthcoming elections. For the remaining 12 constituencies the projected outcomes are as follows:

¹ The Parliamentary Constituencies (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 - http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20081486_en_1

Belfast East



New boundaries (previous boundaries in blue)

Wards Gained: Ballyhanwood, Carrowreagh, Dundonald, Enler, Graham's Bridge
Wards Lost: Hillfoot, Wynchurch

2010 General Election

- Nationalist vote down from 6.1% to 4.2%
- Unionist vote up from 79.2% to 80.5%
- Others up from 14.7% to 15.3%

Projected Outcome: No change

2011 Assembly Elections

- Nationalist vote down from 6.3% to 4.3%
- Unionist vote up from 69.9% to 71.5%
- Others up from 23.8% to 24.2%

Projected Outcome: No change

Belfast North



New boundaries (previous boundaries in blue)

Wards Gained: Ballyhenry, Cloughfern, Collinbridge, Glebe, Glengormley, Hightown
Wards Lost: None

2010 General Election

- Nationalist vote up from 44.8% to 46.2%
- Unionist vote down from 52.7% to 51.0%
- Others up from 2.5% to 2.9%

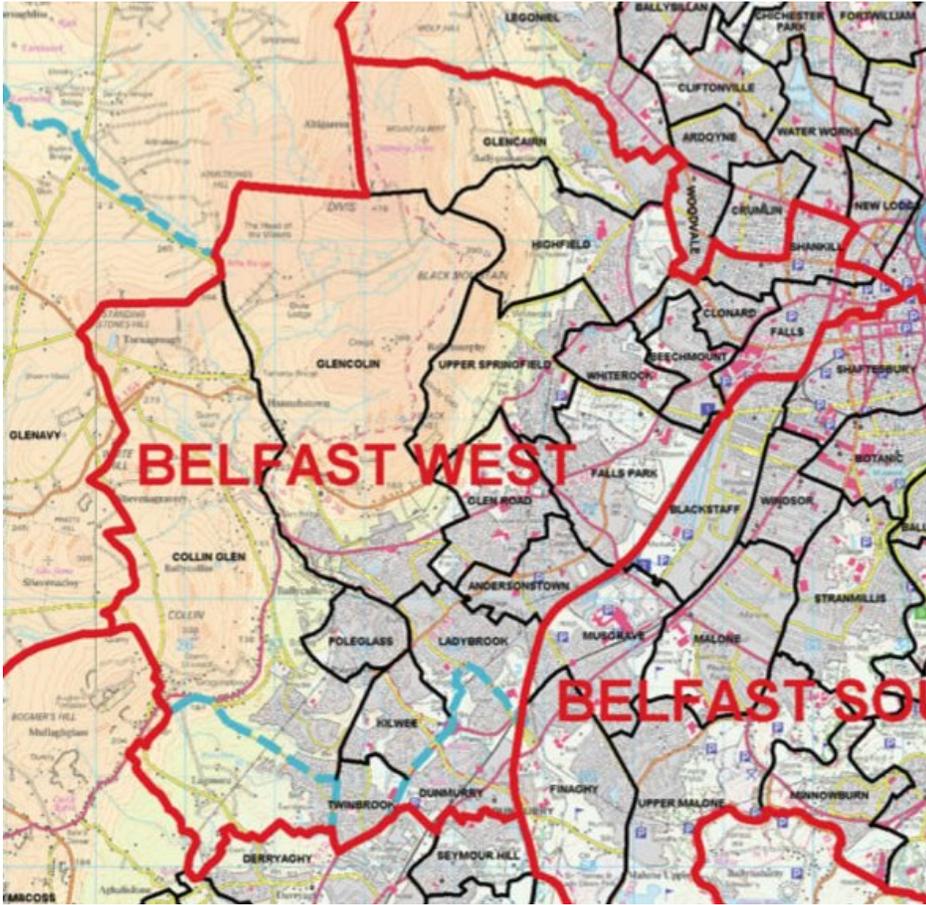
Projected Outcome: The reduced gap between Nationalist and Unionist shares of the vote could make this a more closely contested seat.

2011 Assembly Elections

- Nationalist vote up from 44.3% to 45.1%
- Unionist vote down from 47.0% to 45.9%
- Others up from 8.7% to 9.0%

Projected Outcome: No change

Belfast West



New boundaries (previous boundaries in blue)

Wards Gained: Derryaghy (Northern part), Dunmurry

Wards Lost: None

2010 General Election

- Nationalist vote up from 85.1% to 86.1%
- Unionist vote down from 12.8% to 11.7%
- Others up from 2.1% to 2.2%

Projected Outcome: No change

2011 Assembly Elections

- Nationalist vote up from 82.1% to 82.9%
- Unionist vote down from 12.5% to 11.6%
- Others up from 5.4% to 5.5%

Projected Outcome: No change

East Londonderry



New boundaries (previous boundaries in blue)

Wards Gained: Banagher, Claudy

Wards Lost: None

2010 General Election

- Nationalist vote up from 33.2% to 36.3%
- Unionist vote down from 64.0% to 60.7%
- Others up from 2.8% to 3.0%

Projected Outcome: No change

2011 Assembly Elections

- Nationalist vote up from 33.1% to 36.0%
- Unionist vote down from 59.8% to 56.9%
- Others up from 7.0% to 7.1%

Projected Outcome: No change

Foyle



New boundaries (previous boundaries in blue)

Wards Gained: None

Wards Lost: Banagher, Claudy

2010 General Election

- Nationalist vote up from 79.5% to 81.1%
- Unionist vote down from 16.8% to 15.1%
- Others up from 3.7% to 3.8%

Projected Outcome: No change

2011 Assembly Elections

- Nationalist vote up from 67.8% to 69.0%
- Unionist vote down from 21.2% to 19.9%
- Others up from 10.9% to 11.0%

Projected Outcome: No change

South Antrim



New boundaries (previous boundaries in blue)

Wards Gained: Glenavy

Wards Lost: Ballyhenry, Collinbridge, Glebe, Glengormley, Hightown

2010 General Election

- Nationalist vote down from 24.0% to 23.7%
- Unionist vote down from 67.4% to 67.3%
- Others up from 8.6% to 9.1%

Projected Outcome: No change

2011 Assembly Elections

- Nationalist vote down from 27.7% to 27.0%
- Unionist vote up from 57.3% to 57.7%
- Others up from 15.0% to 15.4%

Projected Outcome: No change

Strangford



New boundaries (previous boundaries in blue)

Wards Gained: Ballymaglave, Ballynahinch East, Kilmore

Wards Lost: Ballyhanwood, Carronreagh, Carryduff East, Carryduff West, Dundonald, Enler, Graham's Bridge

2010 General Election

- Nationalist vote up from 9.3% to 11.1%
- Unionist vote down from 77.8% to 75.5%
- Others up from 12.9% to 13.4%

Projected Outcome: No change

2011 Assembly Elections

- Nationalist vote up from 11.5% to 13.2%
- Unionist vote down from 70.6% to 68.6%
- Others up from 17.8% to 18.2%

Projected Outcome: The Nationalist vote will move closer to a full quota⁵ (from 0.8 to 0.9) and the Unionist vote will move slightly further away from 5 full quotas (decreasing from 4.9 to 4.8). The outcome could therefore depend heavily on transfers.

⁵ Quota = (Total valid votes / (number of seats + 1)) + 1 = approx. one seventh or 14.3% of valid votes for NI Assembly elections.

BACKGROUND

The Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland is required to undertake general periodical reviews and to report with recommendations every 8 to 12 years. As the Commission last reported in June 1995, they were therefore bound to conclude a general review of parliamentary constituencies and submit their report to the Secretary of State by June 2007.

Appointment of a Local Government Boundaries Commissioner normally precedes the review of parliamentary constituencies. That appointment, however, was postponed pending the report of the Review of Public Administration. The Commission decided to proceed to a general review of constituencies and formal notice of the Review was published in May 2003.

PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Under the Parliamentary Constituencies Act (1986):

“The number of constituencies in Northern Ireland shall not be greater than 18 or less than 16 and shall be 17 unless it appears to the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland that Northern Ireland should for the time being be divided into 16 or (as the case may be) into 18 constituencies.”⁶

The rules also state that, “in Northern Ireland, no ward shall be included partly in one constituency and partly in another” (unless it appears to the Commission that a departure from this is desirable) and “the electorate of any constituency shall be as near the electoral quota as is practicable”.⁷

Working within these rules, the Boundaries Commission used the existing wards as building blocks and attempted to reduce some of the large deviations from the electoral quota that existed in the 18 Parliamentary Constituencies (see Table 1).⁸

The Provisional Recommendations were published on 6 May 2004.⁹ These recommendations affected 14 out of the 18 constituencies - Belfast East, Belfast North, Belfast South, Belfast West, East Antrim, East Londonderry, Foyle, Lagan Valley, Newry and Armagh, North Antrim, South Antrim, South Down, Strangford and Upper Bann.

The net result was to retain 18 constituencies and to considerably reduce deviations from the electoral quota (see Table 2).¹⁰

⁶ See Boundary Commission’s Revised Recommendations Report (May 2006), Annex C (Schedule 2, para. 1 (4) of the Act). - <http://www.boundarycommission.org.uk/recommendations.html>

⁷ Schedule 2, para. 4 (1) (c) and Schedule 2, para. 5 of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. The Electoral Quota is the total electorate divided by the number of constituencies (which was 60,969 on 16 May 2003).

⁸ Table reproduced from Boundary Commission’s Provisional Recommendations Report.

⁹ See Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland website for details of provisional, revised and final recommendations - <http://www.boundarycommission.org.uk/recommendations.html>.

¹⁰ Table reproduced from Boundary Commission’s Provisional Recommendations Report.

Table 1. Existing Constituencies and Electorate at 16 May 2003

Constituency Name	Enumeration Date 16 May 2003 Electorate	%Deviation from Electoral Quota ¹
Belfast East	51,899	-14.9
Belfast North	51,422	-15.7
Belfast South	50,599	-17.0
Belfast West	50,870	-16.6
East Antrim	55,453	-9.0
East Londonderry	56,166	-7.9
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	64,345	+5.5
Foyle	65,151	+6.9
Lagan Valley	67,963	+11.5
Mid Ulster	60,119	-1.4
Newry and Armagh	68,730	+12.7
North Antrim	70,582	+15.8
North Down	57,435	-5.8
South Antrim	63,587	+4.3
South Down	70,173	+15.1
Strangford	66,303	+8.7
Upper Bann	68,806	+12.9
West Tyrone	57,847	-5.1
Total Electorate	1,097,450	
Electoral Quota and Average	60,969	

Table 2. Provisional Recommendations (May 2004)**PROPOSED CONSTITUENCIES AND ELECTORATES**

Recommended Name	Parliamentary Electorate*	Percentage Deviation from Electoral Quota (60,969)
Antrim Coast and Glens	60,061	-1.5
Belfast East	59,214	-2.9
Belfast North	59,337	-2.7
Belfast South	57,767	-5.3
Belfast West	58,722	-3.7
East Londonderry	60,494	-0.8
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	64,345	+5.5
Foyle	60,823	-0.2
Lagan Valley	62,707	+2.9
Mid Ulster	60,119	-1.4
Newry and Armagh	63,380	+4.0
North Antrim	64,031	+5.0
North Down	57,435	-5.8
South Antrim	57,615	-5.5
South Down	65,496	+7.4
Strangford	63,564	+4.3
Upper Bann	64,493	+5.8
West Tyrone	57,847	-5.1
TOTAL	1,097,450	

* Electorate at 16 May 2003

REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS

A number of proposals contained in the Commission's Provisional Recommendations were withdrawn following Local Inquiries and the subsequent recommendations of the assistant Commissioners who conducted the Inquiries. The recommendations of the assistant Commissioners reflected concerns about the need to maintain a fair balance between the aim to achieve electoral equality by reducing disparity between the number of electors in each constituency and the requirement where possible to preserve long established ties.

Revised Recommendations for new parliamentary constituencies were consequently announced on 18 May 2006. The revised recommendations affect only 12 of the 18 constituencies. The main changes recommended to the existing constituency arrangements were as follows¹¹:

- the present four Belfast borough constituencies would be retained but be extended outwards in a radial fashion to include Carryduff, Dundonald, Dunmurry, Lagmore and Glengormley. The Castlereagh Local Government District (LGD) wards of Hillfoot and Wynchurch would transfer from the Belfast East to the Belfast South constituency.
- the constituency of Strangford would be extended to include the Down LGD wards of Ballymaglave, Ballynahinch East and Kilmore at present in the South Down constituency.
- the constituency of East Antrim would be extended to include the Moyle LGD wards of Glanaan, Glenariff and Glendun at present in the North Antrim constituency. The Newtownabbey LGD ward of Cloughfern would transfer from the East Antrim to the Belfast North constituency. The name of the East Antrim constituency would be retained.
- the constituency of South Antrim would be extended to include the Lisburn LGD ward of Glenavy at present in the Lagan Valley constituency.

Under the Revised Recommendations 49,202 electors would transfer constituencies representing 4.5% of the total Northern Ireland Parliamentary electorate on 16 May 2003 (see Table 3).¹²

¹¹ See Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland website for details of revised recommendations - <http://www.boundarycommission.org.uk/recommendations.html>.

¹² Table reproduced from Boundary Commission's Revised Recommendations Report.

Table 3. Revised Recommendations (May 2006)

Recommended Name	A		B	
	Parliamentary Electorate 16 May 2003	Percentage Deviation from Electoral Quota (60,969)	Parliamentary Electorate 1 December 2005	Percentage Deviation from Average Electorate (64,078)
Belfast East	58,756	-3.6	60,129	-6.2
Belfast North	63,193	+3.7	64,605	+0.8
Belfast South	58,225	-4.5	59,961	-6.4
Belfast West	55,025	-9.7	59,018	-7.9
East Antrim	56,125	-8.0	59,474	-7.2
East Londonderry	60,494	-0.8	63,680	-0.6
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	64,345	+5.5	67,411	+5.2
Foyle	60,823	-0.2	64,277	+0.3
Lagan Valley	60,973	0.0	63,836	-0.4
Mid Ulster	60,119	-1.4	63,015	-1.7
Newry and Armagh	68,730	+12.7	72,876	+13.7
North Antrim	67,967	+11.5	72,555	+13.2
North Down	57,435	-5.8	60,108	-6.2
South Antrim	56,594	-7.2	60,950	-4.9
South Down	64,530	+5.8	68,415	+6.8
Strangford	57,463	-5.8	60,349	-5.8
Upper Bann	68,806	+12.9	72,564	+13.2
West Tyrone	57,847	-5.1	60,186	-6.1
TOTAL	1,097,450		1,153,409	

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Given that the situation regarding the new Local Government boundaries did not appear close to being resolved, the Commission felt that it would be inappropriate for them to delay further their final recommendations. They therefore decided to submit their recommendations based on the existing ward structure.

The Commission proposed that no change should be made to their already published Revised Recommendations, and that a further Local Inquiry or Local Inquiries should not be held. The Commission also made recommendations for changes to be made to the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 affecting the procedure for reviews and the statutory Rules for Redistribution of Seats which form Schedule 2 to that Act and provide the Commissions with guidelines by which they must formulate their recommendations.

The Commission's final recommendations were submitted to the Secretary of State on 14 September 2007 (see Table 4).¹³ The Report was published and laid before Parliament by the Secretary of State on 31 March 2008 together with a draft Order to

¹³ Table reproduced from Boundary Commission's Final Recommendations Report.

give effect to the Commission's recommendations without modification. The Order¹⁴ was approved by the House of Commons on 15 May 2008, received Royal Assent on 11 June 2008, and will take effect for the next Westminster elections (due to be held on or before 3 June 2010).

Table 4. Final Recommendations (September 2007)

Constituency Name	Existing Constituencies		Recommended Constituencies			
	A		B		C	
	Enumeration Date 16 May 2003 Electorate	%Deviation from Electoral Quota ¹	Enumeration Date 16 May 2003 Electorate	% Deviation from Electoral Quota ¹	Electorate on 1 February 2007	% Deviation from Constituency Average Electorate ²
Belfast East	51,899	-14.9	58,756	-3.6	56,664	-8.2
Belfast North	51,422	-15.7	63,193	+3.7	60,942	-1.2
Belfast South	50,599	-17.0	58,225	-4.5	56,191	-8.9
Belfast West	50,870	-16.6	55,025	-9.7	55,587	-9.9
East Antrim	55,453	-9.0	56,125	-8.0	57,630	-6.6
East Londonderry	56,166	-7.9	60,494	-0.8	60,810	-1.5
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	64,345	+5.5	64,345	+5.5	65,748	+6.5
Foyle	65,151	+6.9	60,823	-0.2	60,777	-1.5
Lagan Valley	67,963	+11.5	60,973	0.0	62,454	+1.2
Mid Ulster	60,119	-1.4	60,119	-1.4	61,473	-0.4
Newry and Armagh	68,730	+12.7	68,730	+12.7	70,825	+14.8
North Antrim	70,582	+15.8	67,967	+11.5	70,337	+14.0
North Down	57,435	-5.8	57,435	-5.8	57,763	-6.4
South Antrim	63,587	+4.3	56,594	-7.2	59,591	-3.4
South Down	70,173	+15.1	64,530	+5.8	66,568	+7.9
Strangford	66,303	+8.7	57,463	-5.8	58,272	-5.6
Upper Bann	68,806	+12.9	68,806	+12.9	70,554	+14.3
West Tyrone	57,847	-5.1	57,847	-5.1	58,631	-5.0
Total Electorate	1,097,450		1,097,450		1,110,817	
Electoral Quota and Average	60,969		60,969		61,712	

¹The Electoral Quota is calculated by dividing the total number of parliamentary electors in Northern Ireland by the number of existing constituencies on the enumeration date. The total number of parliamentary electors in Northern Ireland on the enumeration date, 16 May 2003, was 1,097,450. The number of constituencies was 18 and the Electoral Quota is therefore 60,969.

²The constituency average electorate is calculated by dividing the total number of parliamentary electors in Northern Ireland by the number of constituencies recommended by the Commission. The total number of parliamentary electors in Northern Ireland on 1 February 2007, the date of the last Revised Register of Electors published on 2 February 2007, was 1,110,817. The number of constituencies recommended is 18 and the constituency average electorate is therefore 61,712.

IMPACT OF BOUNDARY CHANGES ON FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS

The new constituency boundary changes will have an impact on the forthcoming Westminster elections, and on the next Northern Ireland Assembly elections (due to be held in May 2011).

In addition to the impact of the new constituency boundary changes, the religious make-up of the electorate will also be affected by demographic change. Over time, the

¹⁴ The Parliamentary Constituencies (Northern Ireland) Order 2008 - http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/uksi_20081486_en_1

younger Catholic population will feed through to the religious composition of the electorate, leading potentially to an increase in the Nationalist share of the vote.

This paper attempts to estimate the combined impact of demographic and boundary changes on the forthcoming General and Assembly elections. No attempt has been made to take account of migration or population movement between constituencies. Nor has any attempt been made to take account of any shift in political opinion. The analysis is confined simply to population changes arising from aging and the impact of the Boundary Commission's recommendations.

Methodology

Change in religious composition of the electorate was estimated by aging forward the 2001 Census population to 2011 (expected time of the next Assembly elections). This involved adding those aged 8 to 17 to the 18+ population at 2001 as they would all have turned 18 by 2011. The number of deaths was estimated as the equivalent to the population above the median age of death¹⁵ at 2011. The total population aged above the median age of death was therefore deducted for each constituency to give an estimation of the 18+ population (by religion) at 2011. The change between 2001 and 2011 was applied pro rata to give estimates of the religious composition of the population at 2005 (time of the previous General election), 2007 (time of the previous Assembly elections) and 2010 (expected time of the next General election).

Comparisons were then made between 2005 and 2010 for the combined impact of demographic and boundary changes on the General election, and between 2007 and 2011 for the Assembly elections. The actual share of votes for Nationalist, Unionist and Other political parties in 2005 and 2007 was used as a basis for projecting the outcomes in 2010 and 2011 respectively. Changes in religious composition of Catholics, Protestants and "Others" are assumed to equate broadly to changes in Nationalist, Unionist and Other party shares of the vote respectively.

Results

The results of this analysis are set out in Tables 5 – 7 and Figures 1 and 2 below (see 'Key Points by Constituency' at the beginning of this report for a summary of results for each of the 12 constituencies affected). The impact on most constituencies appears to be marginal. However, the outcome of the 2011 Assembly Elections in East Antrim, Lagan Valley, South Down and Strangford could potentially be affected by the combination of demographic change and boundary changes (see Table 6 for changes in share of vote, and Table 7 for projected quotas).

In **East Antrim**, the increase from 0.7 quotas in 2007 to almost a full quota¹⁶ in 2011 could result in Nationalists gaining a seat at the expense of Unionists (whose share of the vote is projected to fall from 4.9 to 4.6 quotas).

¹⁵ The median age of death was based on NISRA 2007 death statistics (as these were latest available).

¹⁶ Quota = (Total valid votes / (number of seats + 1)) + 1 = approx. one seventh or 14.3% of valid votes for NI Assembly elections.

With the Nationalist share of the vote falling below a full quota in **Lagan Valley**, and the Unionist vote increasing from 4.8 to 5.2 quotas, Nationalists could potentially lose their only seat in this constituency to Unionists.

In **South Down**, the Unionist position in the Assembly Elections could be under some pressure (falling from 2.0 to 1.7 quotas), and may have to rely more on transfers this time around.

The Nationalist vote in **Strangford** will move closer to a full quota (from 0.8 to 0.9) and the Unionist vote will move slightly further away from 5 full quotas (decreasing from 4.9 to 4.8). The outcome here could therefore depend heavily on transfers.

Whilst demographic change and boundary changes may have less impact on the outcome of the General Election, the reduced gap between Nationalist and Unionist shares of the vote arising from demographic change in **Belfast North** could lead to a closer contest for the Westminster seat in that constituency (see Table 5 and Figure 1).

The gap between Nationalist and Unionist shares of the vote in **Belfast South** has also been reduced by demographic change (and mitigated slightly by boundary changes), but remains fairly wide in favour of Unionists.

Table 5. 2005 v 2010 Projected Share of Vote following introduction of new constituency boundaries

	2005 Share of Votes			2010 (demographic shift)			2010 (with new boundaries)		
	Nationalist	Unionist	Others	Nationalist	Unionist	Others	Nationalist	Unionist	Others
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Belfast East	6.1	79.2	14.7	6.6	78.0	15.4	4.2	80.5	15.3
Belfast North	44.8	52.7	2.5	47.1	50.1	2.7	46.2	51.0	2.9
Belfast South	41.3	51.1	7.6	42.8	49.0	8.2	42.4	49.6	7.9
Belfast West	85.1	12.8	2.1	85.9	11.9	2.2	86.1	11.7	2.2
East Antrim	7.9	76.3	15.8	8.2	75.4	16.4	12.4	71.4	16.2
East Londonderry	33.2	64.0	2.8	34.2	62.7	3.1	36.3	60.7	3.0
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	53.0	47.0	0.0	54.1	45.8	0.1	54.1	45.8	0.1
Foyle	79.5	16.8	3.7	80.8	15.4	3.7	81.1	15.1	3.8
Lagan Valley	13.6	76.2	10.1	14.5	74.9	10.6	8.0	81.2	10.8
Mid Ulster	65.1	34.2	0.8	66.3	32.9	0.8	66.3	32.9	0.8
Newry & Armagh	66.5	32.2	1.2	67.6	31.1	1.3	67.6	31.1	1.3
North Antrim	27.8	69.2	3.0	28.9	67.9	3.2	26.2	70.6	3.3
North Down	3.8	85.5	10.8	4.1	84.3	11.6	4.1	84.3	11.6
South Antrim	24.0	67.4	8.6	25.3	65.7	9.0	23.7	67.3	9.1
South Down	70.5	28.2	1.3	72.0	26.5	1.4	75.3	23.4	1.3
Strangford	9.3	77.8	12.9	9.7	76.8	13.5	11.1	75.5	13.4
Upper Bann	33.9	63.2	2.9	35.5	61.3	3.2	35.5	61.3	3.2
West Tyrone	48.0	24.7	27.4	49.2	23.4	27.4	49.2	23.4	27.4
Northern Ireland	41.8	51.5	6.7	43.2	49.8	7.0	43.2	49.8	7.0

Figure 1. 2005 v 2010 Projected Share of Vote (based only on demographic and boundary changes)

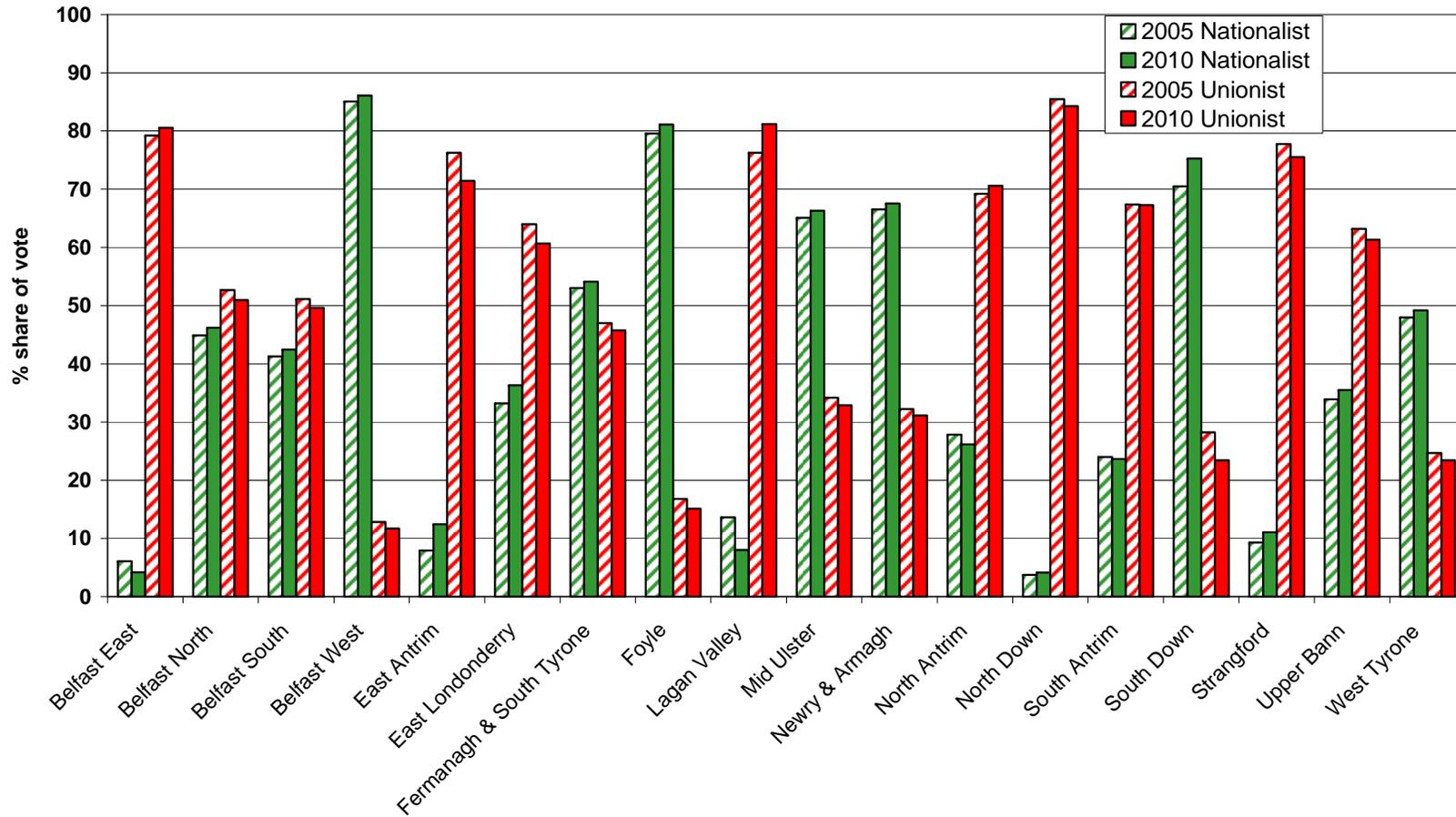


Table 6. 2007 v 2011 Projected Share of Vote following introduction of new constituency boundaries

	2007 Share of Votes			2011 (demographic shift)			2011 (with new boundaries)		
	Nationalist	Unionist	Others	Nationalist	Unionist	Others	Nationalist	Unionist	Others
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Belfast East	6.3	69.9	23.8	6.7	69.0	24.3	4.3	71.5	24.2
Belfast North	44.3	47.0	8.7	46.0	45.1	8.9	45.1	45.9	9.0
Belfast South	40.0	43.1	16.9	41.0	41.6	17.4	40.7	42.2	17.1
Belfast West	82.1	12.5	5.4	82.7	11.8	5.5	82.9	11.6	5.5
East Antrim	9.8	69.8	20.5	10.0	69.1	20.9	14.1	65.2	20.7
East Londonderry	33.1	59.8	7.0	33.8	58.9	7.3	36.0	56.9	7.1
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	50.2	46.0	3.8	51.0	45.1	3.9	51.0	45.1	3.9
Foyle	67.8	21.2	10.9	68.7	20.3	11.0	69.0	19.9	11.0
Lagan Valley	19.0	68.7	12.3	19.7	67.7	12.7	13.1	74.0	12.9
Mid Ulster	65.1	33.0	1.9	66.0	32.1	1.9	66.0	32.1	1.9
Newry & Armagh	61.9	26.1	12.1	62.6	25.3	12.1	62.6	25.3	12.1
North Antrim	28.1	67.5	4.4	28.9	66.5	4.6	26.2	69.1	4.7
North Down	4.9	64.9	30.2	5.2	64.0	30.9	5.2	64.0	30.9
South Antrim	27.7	57.3	15.0	28.6	56.1	15.3	27.0	57.7	15.4
South Down	62.0	28.2	9.7	63.1	27.0	9.8	66.3	23.9	9.7
Strangford	11.5	70.6	17.8	11.9	69.9	18.2	13.2	68.6	18.2
Upper Bann	38.0	52.7	9.3	39.2	51.3	9.5	39.2	51.3	9.5
West Tyrone	59.0	30.8	10.2	59.9	29.9	10.2	59.9	29.9	10.2
Northern Ireland	41.4	47.1	11.5	42.4	45.9	11.7	42.4	45.9	11.7

Figure 2. 2007 v 2011 Projected Share of Vote (based only on demographic and boundary changes)

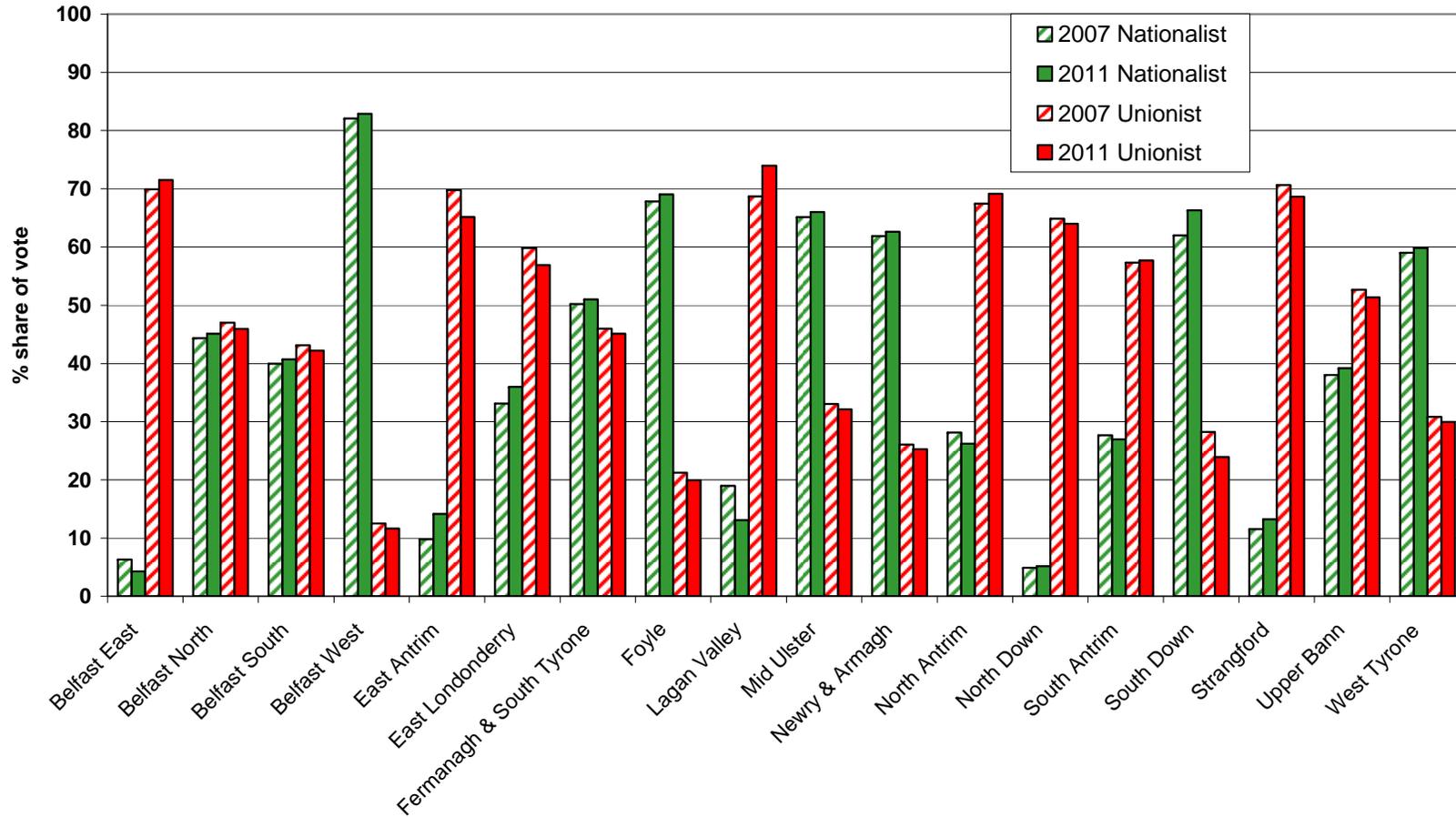


Table 7. 2007 v 2011 Projected Quotas following introduction of new constituency boundaries

	2007 Quotas			2007 Elected MLAs			2011 (with new boundaries)		
	Nationalist	Unionist	Others	Nationalist	Unionist	Others	Nationalist	Unionist	Others
Belfast East	0.4	4.9	1.7	0	5	1	0.3	5.0	1.7
Belfast North	3.1	3.3	0.6	3	3	0	3.2	3.2	0.6
Belfast South	2.8	3.0	1.2	3	2	1	2.8	3.0	1.2
Belfast West	5.7	0.9	0.4	6	0	0	5.8	0.8	0.4
East Antrim	0.7	4.9	1.4	0	5	1	1.0	4.6	1.4
East Londonderry	2.3	4.2	0.5	2	4	0	2.5	4.0	0.5
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	3.5	3.2	0.3	3	3	0	3.6	3.2	0.3
Foyle	4.7	1.5	0.8	5	1	0	4.8	1.4	0.8
Lagan Valley	1.3	4.8	0.9	1	4	1	0.9	5.2	0.9
Mid Ulster	4.6	2.3	0.1	4	2	0	4.6	2.2	0.1
Newry & Armagh	4.3	1.8	0.8	4	2	0	4.4	1.8	0.8
North Antrim	2.0	4.7	0.3	2	4	0	1.8	4.8	0.3
North Down	0.3	4.5	2.1	0	4	2	0.4	4.5	2.2
South Antrim	1.9	4.0	1.1	2	3	1	1.9	4.0	1.1
South Down	4.3	2.0	0.7	4	2	0	4.6	1.7	0.7
Strangford	0.8	4.9	1.2	0	5	1	0.9	4.8	1.3
Upper Bann	2.7	3.7	0.7	2	4	0	2.7	3.6	0.7
West Tyrone	4.1	2.2	0.7	3	2	1	4.2	2.1	0.7
Northern Ireland				44	55	9			