OSNI has implemented a Geographic Information System (GIS) solution and provided on-going mapping support to The Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland’s (BCNI) task to develop provisional proposals for the 2018 Review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries.

In accordance with the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986, as amended by the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011, the number of parliamentary constituencies across the UK will reduce to 600 in total, and from 18 to 17 in Northern Ireland. These new boundaries will be used to elect politicians to The Northern Ireland Assembly and UK Parliament.

OSNI out-posted GI support staff collaborated with BCNI and developed a GIS-based solution which resulted in a significant improvement in the accuracy of the proposals compared with past processes. Not only has this removed the need to use paper maps and spreadsheets, it has also created significant financial, staffing and time savings.

The web application created to display BCNI’s final recommendations provided an accessible platform for users to access the data for this review. This benefits both government officials and other stakeholders responsible for developing the constituency boundaries and, more importantly, the citizens of Northern Ireland who will all be affected by these changes. The resulting New Parliamentary Boundary Map better reflects the current demographics, which ultimately leads to fairer representation in the UK Parliament.