



RESEARCH PAPER 08/12
1 FEBRUARY 2008

Election Statistics: UK 1918-2007

This paper summarises the results of UK elections since 1918. It focuses on elections to Westminster and includes statistics on voting at general and by-elections, characteristics of MPs and performance of minor parties.

Data for local elections, European Parliamentary elections and elections to devolved bodies are also included, as are by-elections, referenda and elections for local mayors and other referenda in the UK since 1945.

It replaces Library Research Paper 04/61 *UK Election Statistics 1918-2004*.

Edmund Tetteh

SOCIAL & GENERAL STATISTICS SECTION

HOUSE OF COMMONS LIBRARY

Recent Library Research Papers include:

07/91	The Barnett Formula	14.12.07
07/92	Sale of Student Loans Bill Committee Stage Report	18.12.07
07/93	Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill: Committee Stage Report [Bill 1 of 2007-08]	19.12.07
07/94	Pensions Bill [Bill 25 of 2007-08]	19.12.07

2008

08/01	Economic Indicators, January 2008	07.01.08
08/02	Social Indicators	11.01.08
08/03	European Union (Amendment) Bill [Bill 48 of 2007-08]	15.01.08
08/04	Unemployment by Constituency, December 2007	16.01.08
08/05	Energy Bill [Bill 53 of 2007-08]	16.01.08
08/06	Planning and Energy Bill [Bill 17 of 2007-08]	21.01.08
08/07	National Insurance Contributions Bill: Committee Stage Report	24.01.08
08/08	Aviation and Climate Change	24.01.08
08/09	The Treaty of Lisbon: amendments to the Treaty on European Union	24.01.08
08/10	Special Educational Needs (Information) Bill [Bill 26 of 2007-08]	28.01.08
08/11	Local Government Financial Settlement 2008/09-2010/11	31.01.08

Research Papers are available as PDF files:

- *to members of the general public on the Parliamentary web site,
URL: <http://www.parliament.uk>*
- *within Parliament to users of the Parliamentary Intranet,
URL: <http://hcl1.hclibrary.parliament.uk>*

Library Research Papers are compiled for the benefit of Members of Parliament and their personal staff. Authors are available to discuss the contents of these papers with Members and their staff but cannot advise members of the general public. We welcome comments on our papers; these should be sent to the Research Publications Officer, Room 407, 1 Derby Gate, London, SW1A 2DG or e-mailed to PAPERS@parliament.uk

CONTENTS

I	Introduction	7
II	General Elections since 1918	8
	A. Summary of results	8
	B. Turnout	18
	C. Spoilt ballots	19
	D. Postal votes	19
	E. Women MPs	20
	F. Minority ethnic MPs	21
	G. Characteristics of MPs	22
	1. Occupation	23
	2. Education	27
	3. Age	28
	H. Characteristics of voters	29
III	Minor Parties at General Elections 1945-2005	32
IV	By-elections	38
V	European elections	46
VI	Elections to devolved legislatures	49
	A. National Assembly for Wales	49
	B. Scottish Parliament elections	51
	C. Northern Ireland Assembly	53
	D. Greater London Assembly	54
VII	Local Elections	55
	A. Council Elections	55
	B. Elected Mayors	59
	1. London Mayor	59
	2. Mayoral elections	60

VIII	Referenda	64
	A. Scotland	64
	B. Wales	65
	C. Northern Ireland	65
	D. London	66
	E. North East England	67
	F. Europe	67
IX	Opinion polls	68

List of Tables

Table number	Title	Page
Table 1a	General Elections 1945-2005: United Kingdom	11
Table 1b	General Elections 1945-2005: Great Britain	12
Table 1c	General Elections 1945-2005: England	13
Table 1d	General Elections 1945-2005: Wales	14
Table 1e	General Elections 1945-2005: Scotland	15
Table 1f	General Elections 1945-1970: Northern Ireland	16
Table 1g	General Elections 1970-2005: Northern Ireland	17
Table 2	Turnout at UK General Elections: 1945-2005	18
Table 3	Spoilt Ballot Papers in UK General Elections 1964-2005	19
Table 4	Postal Ballot Papers in UK Elections 1945-2005	20
Table 5	Women Memembers Elected at General Elections Between 1918-2005	21
Table 6a	Main Occupations of Members of Parliament 1951-2005	23
Table 6b	Education of Members of Parliament 1951-2005	27
Table 7	MPs elected at 2005 General Election by date first elected and party	28
Table 8a	House of Commons Members by Age	29
Table 8b	Median Age of Members of Parliament 1951-2005	29
Table 9a	Self-reported General Election turnout by age and gender	30
Table 9b	Voting by Social Characteristics: MORI estimates	31
Table 10	Minor Parties - Representation in the House of Commons 1945-2005	32
Table 11	Summary of Minor Parties at Genreal Elections 1945-2005	33
Table 12	By-elections summary 1945-2007	38
Table 13	By-elections since 1945	39
Table 14	UK MEPs by party 1979 to 2004	46
Table 15	European Parliamentary Elections: 1979-2004	47
Table 16	National Assembly for Wales elections: 1999, 2003 and 2007	50
Table 17	Scottish Parliamentray Elections: 1999, 2003 and 2007	52
Table 18	Northern Ireland Assembly Elections:1998, 2003 and 2007	53
Table 18a	Northern Ireland House of Commons 1921-1969	54
Table 19	Greater London Assembly Election: 2002 and 2004	54
Table 20	National Equivalent Vote at Local Government Elections	56
Table 20a	Party affiliation of councillors: Great Britain 1973-2007	57
Table 21	Local Election Results: 1997-2007	58
Table 22	Election for London Mayor: 10 June 2004	59
Table 23	Mayoral Referendum Results	60
Table 24	Mayoral Elections	61
Table 25	Change in Voting For/Against Devolution in Scotland, 1979 and 1997	64
Table 26	Change in Voting For/Against Devolution in Wales, 1979 and 1997	65
Table 27	The Northern Ireland Border Poll, 8 March 1973 and the 1998 Referendum	66
Table 28	Referendum on E.C. Membership, Thursday 5 June 1975	67
Table 29	Voting Intention: ICM monthly Polls	68
Table 30	Voting Intention: MORI monthly Polls (all those naming a party)	70
Table 31	MORI Approval Ratings for Pary Leaders	72

I Introduction

This Research Paper summarises the results of general elections since 1918, elections to the devolved legislatures in the UK since 1999, European Parliament elections since 1979, local elections and referenda held since 1945. The paper is intended as a summary. In many cases more detailed results are available in other Library Research Papers, such as those analysing general election results.

Section II examines general election results in the UK since 1918. Tables show the results in the UK as a whole and its constituent countries. Figures are also presented on turnout, spoilt and postal ballots, women MPs and black and minority ethnic MPs.

Section III looks at the performance of minor parties in general elections since 1945.

The results of parliamentary by-elections since 1945 are summarised in Section IV.

Section V examines the results of elections of UK members of the European Parliament.

Section VI looks at the results of elections to the devolved legislatures in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Greater London Assembly, while Section VII examines the results of local elections since 1997, and the referenda and subsequent election results for local mayors.

Four referenda were held to establish the National Assembly for Wales, Scottish Parliament, Northern Ireland Assembly and Greater London Authority. Summary results are provided in Section VIII along with details of other referenda held in the UK since 1945.

Finally, Section IX presents opinion poll data on voting intention compiled by ICM and MORI, as well as party leader approval ratings from MORI polls.

The aim of this Paper is to provide summary data on UK election results. Further information regarding elections in the UK since 1832 can be found in *British Electoral Facts: 1832-2006*.¹

A full analysis of the 2005 General Election is available in Research Paper 05/33.²

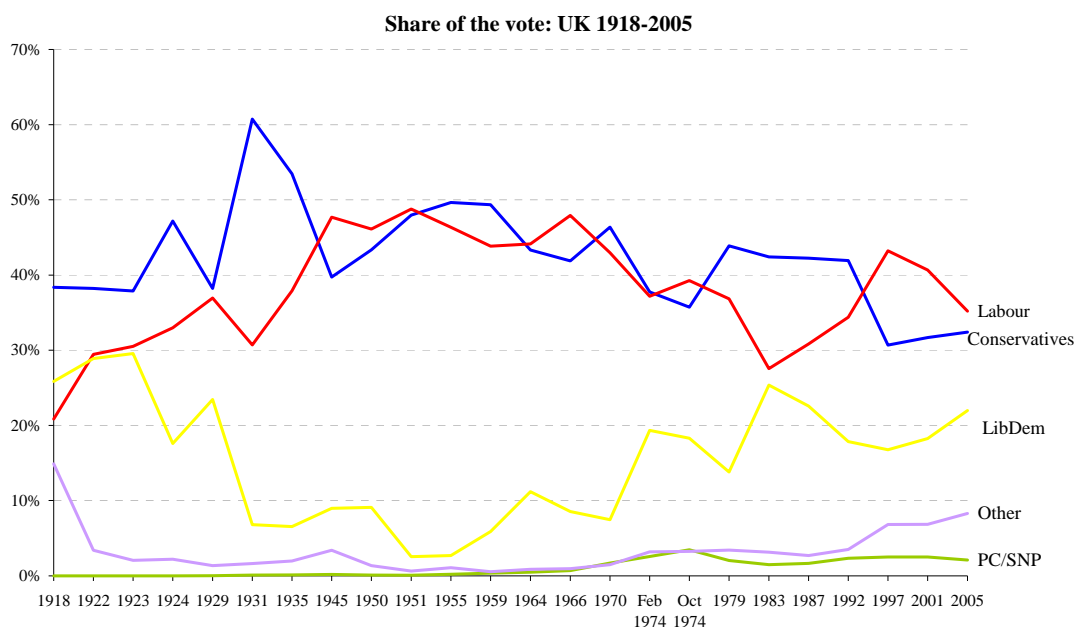
¹ Collin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, published in 2007 by Parliamentary Research Services

² General Election 2005, <http://www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/rp2005/rp05-033.pdf>

II General Elections since 1918

A. Summary of results

Tables 1a to 1f and the charts below summarise the results of the 24 general elections between 1918 and 2005.

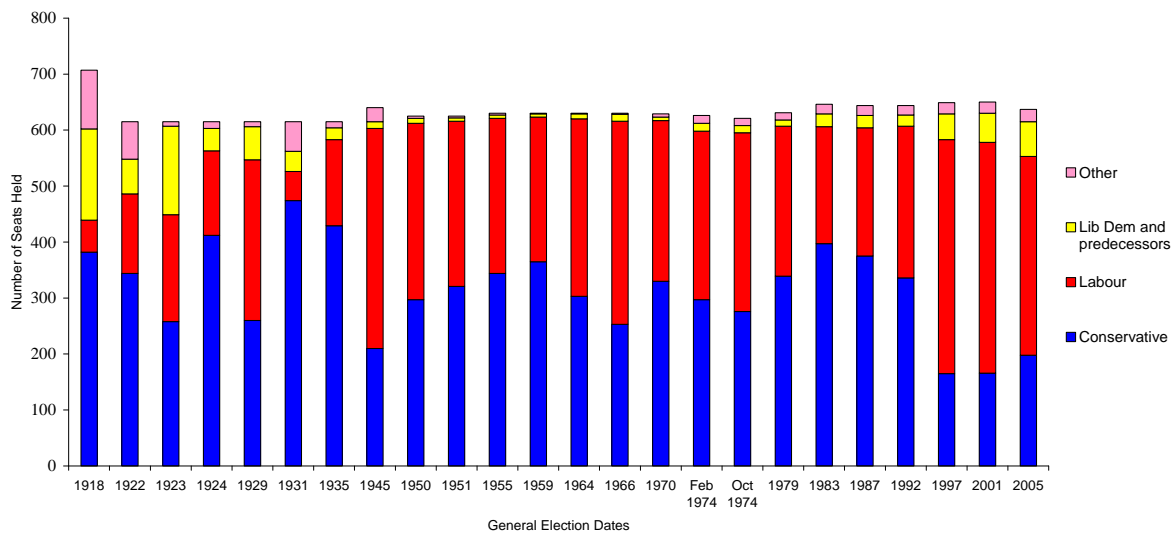


The main points worthy of note are:

- In terms of seats won, the Conservatives were the largest party on fourteen occasions, and Labour the largest on ten. In three elections the party with most seats failed to gain an overall majority. In 1923 the Conservatives gained 258 out of 615 seats; in 1929 Labour won 287 out of 615 seats and in February 1974 Labour gained 301 out of 635 seats.
- On three occasions the party gaining most votes did not win the most seats. In 1929, the Conservatives polled the most votes but, the Labour Party won the election with 27 more seats. In 1951 Labour polled most votes yet won 26 fewer seats than the Conservatives. In February 1974, the Conservatives polled 180,000 more votes than Labour but they won four fewer seats.
- Since 1918, the Conservatives' best result in terms of seats won was in the 1931 election (474 seats). This was due to the formation of the National Government coalition between the Conservatives, Labour, National Labour Organisation, and National parties. The Conservatives' best result in the post-war period was in 1983 when they won 397 seats. Correspondingly, this was Labour's worst post war result in terms of seats (209) as well as share of the vote (27.6%).

- Labour's 418 seats won in 1997 was their highest ever, while their highest vote share was recorded in 1951 (48.8%), an election they lost. The Conservatives' lowest vote share was in 1997 (30.7%).
- The Liberal Party won 163 seats in the 1918 General Election, its best result in terms of seats won. Their highest share of the vote was in 1923 when they gained 29.6%, while their lowest was in 1951 (2.6%). Since 1945 the highest number of seats won by the (now) Liberal Democrats was 62 at the 2005 General Election, their best performance since 1923.

Seats Won: UK: 1918-2005



- The Scottish National Party won its first seat at a general election in 1970, although the party had won a by-election in 1967. Its highest share of the vote in Scotland was recorded in the October 1974 election when the party polled 30.4% of the vote.
- Plaid Cymru won its first seats at a general election in February 1974. Plaid Cymru had previously won a by-election in 1966. Its highest share of the vote in Wales was 14.3% in the 2001 election.
- In Northern Ireland, the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) polled its highest share of the vote in 1974 (45.5%). However the UUP's share has generally been declining since then and in 2005 they took 17.8% of the vote in Northern Ireland. The highest number of seats won by the UUP was in 1983 (11 seats).
- Similarly, the vote share of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) has declined over the same period, from 22.4% in 1974 to 17.5% in 2005. The greatest number of seats won by the SDLP was in 1992 (4). The number of seats held by the SDLP has remained constant at three since 1997.

- Sinn Fein stood in the 1983 general election and polled 13.4% of the vote in Northern Ireland. This vote share decreased in the following two elections, but has increased at every election since 1992. The number of seats won by Sinn Fein has increased from none in 1992 to five in 2005.
- The DUP has seen an increase in its share of the vote up 20.6% points in 2005 compared to 1992, and up six seats from three to nine.

The table below gives details of the winning party, the majority won and the name of the Prime Minister at the time of the election, for all General Elections since 1918.

General Elections 1918 to 2005

Date	Winning Party	Majority**	Prime Minister of winning party
14/12/1918	Liberal	*283	David Lloyd George
15/11/1922	Conservative	74	Andrew Bonar Law
06/12/1923	Labour	None	Stanley Baldwin
29/10/1924	Conservative	210	Ramsay MacDonald
30/05/1929	Labour	None	Ramsay MacDonald
27/10/1931	National	492	Ramsay MacDonald
14/11/1935	National	242	Stanley Baldwin
05/07/1945	Labour	147	Clement Attlee
23/02/1950	Labour	6	Clement Attlee
25/10/1951	Conservative	16	Sir Winston Churchill
26/05/1955	Conservative	59	Sir Anthony Eden
08/10/1959	Conservative	99	Sir Alec Douglas-Home
15/10/1964	Labour	5	Harold Wilson
31/03/1966	Labour	97	Harold Wilson
18/06/1970	Conservative	31	Edward Heath
28/02/1974	Labour	None	Harold Wilson
10/10/1974	Labour	4	Harold Wilson
03/05/1979	Conservative	44	Margaret Thatcher
09/06/1983	Conservative	144	Margaret Thatcher
11/06/1987	Conservative	101	Margaret Thatcher
09/04/1992	Conservative	21	John Major
01/05/1997	Labour	178	Tony Blair
07/06/2001	Labour	166	Tony Blair
05/05/2005	Labour	65	Tony Blair

Source: British Electoral Facts 1832-2006, Colin Railings and Michael Thrasher

* Theoretical majority, 73 Sinn Fein members did not take their seats.

** The figure represents the majority of the Government over all other parties combined. The Speaker is excluded when calculating the majority.

The Speaker of the House of Commons takes no active part in an election campaign and since 1950 (when the Speaker requested that he be given no party 'label') the Speaker has sought re-election as "The Speaker" and not as a party candidate. In this paper, where the Speaker stood for re-election, s/he has been classified as "Other" rather than the party for which s/he was previously a Member.

Table 1a

General Election Results: 1918-2005: United Kingdom

	Votes (millions)						Share of vote (%)					
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC/SNP	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC/SNP	Other	Total
*1918	4.14	2.25	2.79	0.00	1.61	10.79	38.4%	20.9%	25.9%	0.0%	14.9%	100.0%
1922	5.50	4.24	4.16	0.00	0.49	14.39	38.2%	29.5%	28.9%	0.0%	3.4%	100.0%
1923	5.51	4.44	4.30	0.00	0.30	14.55	37.9%	30.5%	29.6%	0.0%	2.1%	100.0%
1924	7.85	5.49	2.93	0.00	0.37	16.64	47.2%	33.0%	17.6%	0.0%	2.2%	100.0%
1929	8.66	8.37	5.31	0.00	0.31	22.65	38.2%	37.0%	23.4%	0.0%	1.4%	100.0%
1931	13.16	6.65	1.47	0.02	0.36	21.66	60.7%	30.7%	6.8%	0.1%	1.6%	100.0%
1935	11.76	8.33	1.44	0.03	0.43	21.99	53.5%	37.9%	6.5%	0.1%	2.0%	100.0%
1945	9.97	11.97	2.25	0.05	0.86	25.10	39.7%	47.7%	9.0%	0.2%	3.4%	100.0%
1950	12.47	13.27	2.62	0.03	0.39	28.77	43.3%	46.1%	9.1%	0.1%	1.4%	100.0%
1951	13.72	13.95	0.73	0.02	0.18	28.60	48.0%	48.8%	2.6%	0.1%	0.6%	100.0%
1955	13.29	12.41	0.72	0.06	0.29	26.76	49.6%	46.4%	2.7%	0.2%	1.1%	100.0%
1959	13.75	12.22	1.64	0.10	0.16	27.86	49.4%	43.8%	5.9%	0.4%	0.6%	100.0%
1964	11.98	12.21	3.10	0.13	0.24	27.66	43.3%	44.1%	11.2%	0.5%	0.9%	100.0%
1966	11.42	13.07	2.33	0.19	0.26	27.26	41.9%	47.9%	8.5%	0.7%	1.0%	100.0%
1970	13.15	12.18	2.12	0.48	0.42	28.34	46.4%	43.0%	7.5%	1.7%	1.5%	100.0%
1974 Feb	11.83	11.65	6.06	0.80	1.00	31.34	37.8%	37.2%	19.3%	2.6%	3.2%	100.0%
1974 Oct	10.43	11.46	5.35	1.01	0.95	29.19	35.7%	39.3%	18.3%	3.4%	3.3%	100.0%
1979	13.70	11.51	4.31	0.64	1.07	31.22	43.9%	36.9%	13.8%	2.0%	3.4%	100.0%
1983	13.01	8.46	7.78	0.46	0.96	30.67	42.4%	27.6%	25.4%	1.5%	3.1%	100.0%
1987	13.74	10.03	7.34	0.54	0.88	32.53	42.2%	30.8%	22.6%	1.7%	2.7%	100.0%
1992	14.09	11.56	6.00	0.78	1.18	33.61	41.9%	34.4%	17.8%	2.3%	3.5%	100.0%
1997	9.60	13.52	5.24	0.78	2.14	31.29	30.7%	43.2%	16.8%	2.5%	6.8%	100.0%
2001	8.36	10.72	4.81	0.66	1.81	26.37	31.7%	40.7%	18.3%	2.5%	6.9%	100.0%
2005	8.78	9.55	5.99	0.59	2.24	27.15	32.4%	35.2%	22.0%	2.2%	8.2%	100.0%

	Candidates						Seats won					
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC/SNP	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC/SNP	Other	Total
*1918	445	361	421	0	396	1,623	382	57	163	0	105	707
1922	482	414	485	0	60	1,441	344	142	62	0	67	615
1923	536	427	457	0	26	1,446	258	191	158	0	8	615
1924	534	514	339	0	41	1,428	412	151	40	0	12	615
1929	590	569	513	3	55	1,730	260	287	59	0	9	615
1931	522	516	117	7	130	1,292	474	52	36	0	53	615
1935	515	552	161	9	111	1,348	429	154	21	0	11	615
1945	618	603	306	15	141	1,683	210	393	12	0	25	640
1950	618	617	475	10	148	1,868	297	315	9	0	4	625
1951	617	590	104	9	56	1,376	321	295	6	0	3	625
1955	623	620	110	13	43	1,409	344	277	6	0	3	630
1959	625	621	216	25	49	1,536	365	258	6	0	1	630
1964	629	628	365	28	97	1,747	303	317	9	0	1	630
1966	629	621	311	43	103	1,707	253	363	12	0	2	630
1970	629	624	332	101	151	1,837	330	287	6	1	6	630
1974 Feb	623	623	517	106	266	2,135	297	301	14	9	14	635
1974 Oct	621	623	619	107	282	2,252	276	319	13	14	13	635
1979	622	622	577	107	648	2,576	339	268	11	4	13	635
1983	633	633	633	110	569	2,578	397	209	23	4	17	650
1987	632	633	633	109	318	2,325	375	229	22	6	18	650
1992	645	634	632	107	931	2,949	336	271	20	7	17	651
1997	648	639	639	112	1,686	3,724	165	418	46	10	20	659
2001	643	640	639	112	1,285	3,319	166	412	52	9	20	659
2005	630	627	626	99	1,572	3,554	198	355	62	9	22	646

(a) Includes Coalition Conservative for 1918; includes National for 1931; includes National, National Liberal and National Labour for 1931-1935; includes National and National Liberal for 1945. includes National Liberal and Conservative 1945-1970

(b) Includes Coalition Liberal Party for 1918; includes National Liberal for 1922; includes Independent Liberal for 1931; Liberal/SDP Alliance 1983-87; Liberal Democrats from 1992

* Figures for Ireland, not Northern Ireland

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-2006*, *Rallings and Thrasher, Parliamentary Research Services*, *House of Commons Library data*

Table 1b

General Election Results: 1918-2005: Great Britain

	Votes (millions)						Share of vote (%)					
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC/SNP	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC/SNP	Other	Total
1918	3.85	2.25	2.79	0.00	0.86	9.75	39.5%	23.0%	28.6%	0.0%	8.8%	100.0%
1922	5.39	4.24	4.14	0.00	0.41	14.18	38.0%	29.9%	29.2%	0.0%	2.9%	100.0%
1923	5.40	4.44	4.30	0.00	0.17	14.31	37.7%	31.0%	30.1%	0.0%	1.2%	100.0%
1924	7.40	5.49	2.93	0.00	0.30	16.12	45.9%	34.0%	18.2%	0.0%	1.9%	100.0%
1929	8.30	8.37	5.21	0.00	0.25	22.14	37.5%	37.8%	23.5%	0.0%	1.1%	100.0%
1931	13.01	6.64	1.48	0.02	0.23	21.37	60.9%	31.1%	6.9%	0.1%	1.1%	100.0%
1935	11.76	8.33	1.44	0.03	0.44	22.00	53.4%	37.8%	6.6%	0.1%	2.0%	100.0%
1945	9.58	11.90	2.25	0.05	0.59	24.38	39.3%	48.8%	9.2%	0.2%	2.4%	100.0%
1950	12.12	13.20	2.62	0.03	0.25	28.21	42.9%	46.8%	9.3%	0.1%	0.9%	100.0%
1951	13.44	13.89	0.73	0.02	0.05	28.13	47.8%	49.4%	2.6%	0.1%	0.2%	100.0%
1955	12.84	12.37	0.72	0.06	0.12	26.11	49.2%	47.4%	2.8%	0.2%	0.5%	100.0%
1959	13.31	12.17	1.64	0.10	0.07	27.29	48.8%	44.6%	6.0%	0.4%	0.3%	100.0%
1964	11.58	12.10	3.08	0.13	0.12	27.02	42.9%	44.8%	11.4%	0.5%	0.4%	100.0%
1966	11.05	12.99	2.30	0.19	0.14	26.67	41.4%	48.7%	8.6%	0.7%	0.5%	100.0%
1970	12.72	12.08	2.11	0.48	0.17	27.57	46.2%	43.8%	7.6%	1.7%	0.6%	100.0%
1974 Feb	11.83	11.65	6.06	0.80	0.28	30.62	38.6%	38.0%	19.8%	2.6%	0.9%	100.0%
1974 Oct	10.43	11.46	5.35	1.01	0.25	28.49	36.6%	40.2%	18.8%	3.5%	0.9%	100.0%
1979	13.70	11.51	4.31	0.64	0.37	30.53	44.9%	37.7%	14.1%	2.1%	1.2%	100.0%
1983	13.01	8.46	7.78	0.46	0.20	29.91	43.5%	28.3%	26.0%	1.5%	0.7%	100.0%
1987	13.74	10.03	7.34	0.54	0.15	31.80	43.2%	31.5%	23.1%	1.7%	0.5%	100.0%
1992	14.05	11.56	6.00	0.78	0.44	32.83	42.8%	35.2%	18.3%	2.4%	1.3%	100.0%
1997	9.59	13.52	5.24	0.78	1.36	30.50	31.5%	44.3%	17.2%	2.6%	4.5%	100.0%
2001	8.36	10.72	4.81	0.66	1.00	25.56	32.7%	42.0%	18.8%	2.6%	3.9%	100.0%
2005	8.78	9.55	5.99	0.59	1.52	26.43	33.2%	36.1%	22.6%	2.2%	5.8%	100.0%

	Candidates						Seats won					
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC/SNP	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC/SNP	Other	Total
1918	409	361	421	0	228	1,419	359	57	163	0	27	606
1922	470	414	485	0	57	1,426	334	142	115	0	12	603
1923	524	427	457	0	22	1,430	248	191	158	0	6	603
1924	522	514	339	0	31	1,406	400	40	151	0	12	603
1929	580	569	507	3	49	1,708	250	287	59	0	7	603
1931	571	515	117	7	66	1,276	512	52	36	0	3	603
1935	571	552	161	9	38	1,331	419	154	21	0	9	603
1945	606	598	306	15	134	1,659	202	393	12	0	21	628
1950	606	612	475	10	142	1,845	287	315	9	0	2	613
1951	608	586	104	9	49	1,356	312	295	6	0	0	613
1955	611	617	110	13	30	1,381	334	277	6	0	1	618
1959	613	618	215	25	36	1,507	353	258	6	0	1	618
1964	617	618	361	28	94	1,718	291	317	9	0	1	618
1966	617	617	308	43	95	1,680	242	363	12	0	1	618
1970	617	617	328	101	134	1,797	322	287	6	1	2	618
1974 Feb	623	623	517	106	218	2,087	297	301	14	9	2	623
1974 Oct	621	623	619	107	239	2,209	276	319	13	14	1	623
1979	622	622	577	107	584	2,512	339	268	11	4	1	623
1983	633	633	633	110	474	2,483	397	209	23	4	0	633
1987	632	633	633	109	241	2,248	375	229	22	6	1	633
1992	634	634	632	107	842	2,849	336	271	20	7	0	634
1997	640	639	639	112	1,569	3,599	165	418	46	10	2	641
2001	640	640	639	112	1,188	3,219	166	412	52	9	2	641
2005	627	627	626	99	1,470	3,449	198	355	62	9	4	628

(a) Includes Coalition Conservative for 1918; includes National for 1931; includes National, National Liberal and National Labour for 1931-1935; includes National and National Liberal for 1945. includes National Liberal and Conservative 1945-1970

(b) Includes Coalition Liberal Party for 1918; includes National Liberal for 1922; includes Independent Liberal for 1931; Liberal/SDP Alliance 1983-87; Liberal Democrats from 1992

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-2006, Rallings and Thrasher, Parliamentary Research Services, House of Commons Library data*

Table 1c

General Election Results: 1918-2005: England

	Votes (millions)					Share of vote (%)				
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	Other	Total
1918	3.41	1.81	2.14	0.69	8.05	42.4%	22.5%	26.5%	8.6%	100.0%
1922	4.81	3.37	3.21	0.31	11.70	41.1%	28.8%	27.5%	2.6%	100.0%
1923	4.73	3.55	3.57	0.07	11.93	39.7%	29.8%	30.0%	0.6%	100.0%
1924	6.46	4.47	2.39	0.25	13.56	47.6%	32.9%	17.6%	1.8%	100.0%
1929	7.18	6.85	4.34	0.13	18.50	38.8%	37.0%	23.5%	0.7%	100.0%
1931	11.48	5.46	1.01	0.13	18.08	63.5%	30.2%	5.6%	0.7%	100.0%
1935	9.99	7.05	1.11	0.12	18.27	54.7%	38.6%	6.1%	0.7%	100.0%
1945	8.27	9.97	1.91	0.38	20.54	40.3%	48.6%	9.3%	1.9%	100.0%
1950	11.62	11.63	0.54	0.04	23.83	48.8%	48.8%	2.3%	0.1%	100.0%
1951	10.47	11.05	2.25	0.18	23.95	43.7%	46.1%	9.4%	0.8%	100.0%
1955	11.14	10.36	0.57	0.07	22.14	50.3%	46.8%	2.6%	0.3%	100.0%
1959	11.56	10.09	1.45	0.03	23.13	50.0%	43.6%	6.3%	0.1%	100.0%
1964	10.08	9.98	2.78	0.09	22.94	44.0%	43.5%	12.1%	0.4%	100.0%
1966	9.69	10.86	2.04	0.11	22.69	42.7%	47.8%	9.0%	0.5%	100.0%
1970	11.28	10.10	1.85	0.12	23.36	48.3%	43.2%	7.9%	0.5%	100.0%
1974 Feb	10.47	9.84	5.57	0.25	26.14	40.1%	37.7%	21.3%	1.0%	100.0%
1974 Oct	9.38	9.70	4.88	0.24	24.19	38.8%	40.1%	20.2%	1.0%	100.0%
1979	12.26	9.53	3.88	0.31	25.97	47.2%	36.7%	14.9%	1.2%	100.0%
1983	11.71	6.86	6.71	0.18	25.47	46.0%	26.9%	26.4%	0.7%	100.0%
1987	12.52	8.01	6.47	0.14	27.13	46.1%	29.5%	23.8%	0.5%	100.0%
1992	12.80	9.55	5.40	0.40	28.15	45.5%	33.9%	19.2%	1.4%	100.0%
1997	8.78	11.35	4.68	1.25	26.06	33.7%	43.5%	18.0%	4.8%	100.0%
2001	7.71	9.06	4.25	0.86	21.87	35.2%	41.4%	19.4%	3.9%	100.0%
2005	8.11	8.05	5.20	1.34	22.70	35.7%	35.5%	22.9%	5.9%	100.0%

	Candidates					Seats won				
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	Other	Total
1918	352	291	327	181	1,151	315	42	107	21	485
1922	406	340	368	42	1,156	307	95	75	8	485
1923	444	350	362	285	1,441	221	138	123	3	485
1924	440	414	280	25	1,159	347	109	19	10	485
1929	469	467	422	30	1,388	221	226	35	3	485
1931	476	428	87	41	1,032	436	29	19	1	485
1935	473	452	132	21	1,078	357	116	11	1	485
1945	507	494	265	97	1,363	167	331	5	7	510
1950	502	506	91	13	1,112	271	233	2	0	506
1951	503	505	413	107	1,528	252	251	2	1	506
1955	508	510	95	21	1,134	292	216	2	1	511
1959	509	511	191	23	1,234	315	193	3	0	511
1964	510	511	323	65	1,409	261	246	3	1	511
1966	510	510	273	70	1,363	219	285	6	1	511
1970	510	510	282	101	1,403	292	216	2	1	511
1974 Feb	516	516	452	190	1,674	268	237	9	2	516
1974 Oct	514	516	515	221	1,766	252	255	8	1	516
1979	516	516	506	536	2,074	306	203	7	0	516
1983	523	523	523	431	2,000	362	148	13	0	523
1987	522	523	523	214	1,782	357	155	10	1	523
1992	524	524	522	758	2,328	319	195	10	0	524
1997	528	527	527	1,363	2,945	165	328	34	2	529
2001	529	529	528	1,002	2,588	165	323	40	1	529
2005	529	529	528	1,231	2,817	194	286	47	2	529

(a) Includes Coalition Conservative for 1918; includes National for 1931; includes National, National Liberal and National Labour for 1931-1935; includes National and National Liberal for 1945. includes National Liberal and Conservative 1945-1970

(b) Includes Coalition Liberal Party for 1918; includes National Liberal for 1922; includes Independent Liberal for 1931; Liberal/SDP Alliance 1983-87; Liberal Democrats from 1992

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-2006*, *Rallings and Thrasher, Parliamentary Research Services*, *House of Commons Library data*

RESEARCH PAPER 08/12

Table 1d

General Election Results: 1918-2005: Wales

	Votes (thousands)						Share of vote (%)					
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC	Other	Total
1918	59.6	163.1	258.8	0.0	47.6	529.0	11.3%	30.8%	48.9%	0.0%	9.0%	100.0%
1922	190.9	363.6	306.0	0.0	32.3	892.7	21.4%	40.7%	34.3%	0.0%	3.6%	100.0%
1923	178.1	355.2	299.3	0.0	12.5	845.1	21.1%	42.0%	35.4%	0.0%	1.5%	100.0%
1924	224.0	320.4	244.8	0.0	0.0	789.2	28.4%	40.6%	31.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
1929	289.7	577.6	440.9	0.6	8.1	1316.9	22.0%	43.9%	33.5%	0.0%	0.6%	100.0%
1931	340.7	479.5	229.0	1.1	38.2	1088.5	31.3%	44.1%	21.0%	0.1%	3.5%	100.0%
1935	292.5	395.8	157.1	2.5	23.3	871.3	33.6%	45.4%	18.0%	0.3%	2.7%	100.0%
1945	316.7	779.2	198.6	14.3	21.9	1,330.7	23.8%	58.6%	14.9%	1.1%	1.6%	100.0%
1950	418.7	888.0	193.1	17.6	11.2	1,528.6	27.4%	58.1%	12.6%	1.2%	0.7%	100.0%
1951	471.3	925.8	116.8	10.9	4.6	1,529.4	30.8%	60.5%	7.6%	0.7%	0.3%	100.0%
1955	428.9	825.7	104.1	45.1	30.0	1,433.7	29.9%	57.6%	7.3%	3.1%	2.1%	100.0%
1959	486.3	841.5	79.0	77.6	7.0	1,491.3	32.6%	56.4%	5.3%	5.2%	0.5%	100.0%
1964	425.0	837.0	106.1	69.5	9.4	1,447.0	29.4%	57.8%	7.3%	4.8%	0.6%	100.0%
1966	396.8	863.7	89.1	61.1	12.8	1,423.4	27.9%	60.7%	6.3%	4.3%	0.9%	100.0%
1970	419.9	781.9	103.7	175.0	36.0	1,516.6	27.7%	51.6%	6.8%	11.5%	2.4%	100.0%
1974 Feb	412.5	745.5	255.4	171.4	9.0	1,593.8	25.9%	46.8%	16.0%	10.8%	0.6%	100.0%
1974 Oct	367.2	761.4	239.1	166.3	3.8	1,537.8	23.9%	49.5%	15.5%	10.8%	0.2%	100.0%
1979	526.3	768.5	173.5	132.5	35.8	1,636.6	32.2%	47.0%	10.6%	8.1%	2.2%	100.0%
1983	499.3	603.9	373.4	125.3	7.2	1,609.0	31.0%	37.5%	23.2%	7.8%	0.4%	100.0%
1987	501.3	765.2	304.2	123.6	3.7	1,698.1	29.5%	45.1%	17.9%	7.3%	0.2%	100.0%
1992	499.7	865.7	217.5	154.9	11.0	1,748.8	28.6%	49.5%	12.4%	8.9%	0.6%	100.0%
1997	317.1	886.9	200.0	161.0	54.9	1,620.1	19.6%	54.7%	12.3%	9.9%	3.4%	100.0%
2001	288.7	667.0	189.4	195.9	31.6	1,372.5	21.0%	48.6%	13.8%	14.3%	2.3%	100.0%
2005	297.8	594.8	256.2	174.8	69.0	1,392.7	21.4%	42.7%	18.4%	12.6%	5.0%	100.0%

	Candidates						Seats won					
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC	Other	Total
1918	8	25	29	0	9	71	4	9	20	0	2	35
1922	19	28	30	0	3	80	6	18	10	0	1	35
1923	19	27	31	0	1	78	4	19	11	0	1	35
1924	17	33	21	0	0	71	9	16	10	0	0	35
1929	35	33	34	1	3	106	1	25	9	0	0	35
1931	20	30	14	1	7	72	11	16	8	0	0	35
1935	20	12	33	1	2	68	11	18	6	0	0	35
1945	27	34	17	7	2	87	4	25	6	0	0	35
1950	35	36	21	7	6	105	4	27	5	0	0	36
1951	36	9	4	4	31	84	6	27	3	0	0	36
1955	32	36	10	11	2	91	6	27	3	0	0	36
1959	34	36	8	20	3	101	7	27	2	0	0	36
1964	36	36	12	23	5	112	6	28	2	0	0	36
1966	36	36	11	20	8	111	3	32	1	0	0	36
1970	36	36	19	36	11	138	7	27	1	0	1	36
1974 Feb	36	36	31	36	9	148	8	24	2	2	0	36
1974 Oct	36	36	36	36	6	150	8	23	2	3	0	36
1979	35	35	28	36	20	154	11	21	1	2	1	36
1983	38	38	38	38	17	169	14	20	2	2	0	38
1987	38	38	38	38	6	158	8	24	3	3	0	38
1992	38	38	38	35	31	180	6	27	1	4	0	38
1997	40	40	40	40	63	223	0	34	2	4	0	40
2001	40	40	40	40	64	224	0	34	2	4	0	40
2005	40	40	40	40	90	250	3	29	4	3	1	40

(a) Includes Coalition Conservative for 1918; includes National for 1931; includes National, National Liberal and National Labour for 1931-1935; includes National and National Liberal for 1945. includes National Liberal and Conservative 1945-1970

(b) Includes Coalition Liberal Party for 1918; includes National Liberal for 1922; includes Independent Liberal for 1931; Liberal/SDP Alliance 1983-87; Liberal Democrats from 1992

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-2006, Rallings and Thrasher, Parliamentary Research Services, House of Commons Library data*

Table 1e

General Election Results: 1918-2005: Scotland

	Votes (thousands)						Share of vote (%)					
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	SNP	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	SNP	Other	Total
1918	358.5	265.7	385.1	0.0	117.4	1126.7	31.8%	23.6%	34.2%	0.0%	10.4%	100.0%
1922	379.4	501.3	617.2	0.0	71.5	1569.4	24.2%	31.9%	39.3%	0.0%	4.6%	100.0%
1923	468.3	532.5	423.0	0.0	77.6	1501.3	31.2%	35.5%	28.2%	0.0%	5.2%	100.0%
1924	688.3	697.1	286.5	0.0	45.1	1717.1	40.1%	40.6%	16.7%	0.0%	2.6%	100.0%
1929	792.1	937.3	407.1	3.3	103.2	2242.9	35.3%	41.8%	18.1%	0.1%	4.6%	100.0%
1931	1180.0	696.2	205.4	21.0	71.7	2174.3	54.3%	32.0%	9.4%	1.0%	3.3%	100.0%
1935	1135.4	863.8	174.2	25.7	124.7	2323.8	48.9%	37.2%	7.5%	1.1%	5.4%	100.0%
1945	964.1	1,144.3	132.8	30.6	118.0	2,389.9	40.3%	47.9%	5.6%	1.3%	4.9%	100.0%
1950	1,222.0	1,259.4	180.3	9.7	55.3	2,726.7	44.8%	46.2%	6.6%	0.4%	2.0%	100.0%
1951	1,349.3	1,330.2	76.3	7.3	14.7	2,777.8	48.6%	47.9%	2.7%	0.3%	0.5%	100.0%
1955	1,273.9	1,188.1	47.3	12.1	21.9	2,543.3	50.1%	46.7%	1.9%	0.5%	0.9%	100.0%
1959	1,260.3	1,245.3	109.0	21.7	31.3	2,667.5	47.2%	46.7%	4.1%	0.8%	1.2%	100.0%
1964	1,069.7	1,283.7	200.1	64.0	17.1	2,634.5	40.6%	48.7%	7.6%	2.4%	0.6%	100.0%
1966	960.7	1,273.9	172.4	128.5	16.9	2,552.4	37.6%	49.9%	6.8%	5.0%	0.7%	100.0%
1970	1,020.7	1,197.1	147.7	306.8	16.0	2,688.2	38.0%	44.5%	5.5%	11.4%	0.6%	100.0%
1974 Feb	950.7	1,057.6	229.2	633.2	16.5	2,887.1	32.9%	36.6%	7.9%	21.9%	0.6%	100.0%
1974 Oct	681.3	1,000.6	228.9	839.6	7.7	2,758.1	24.7%	36.3%	8.3%	30.4%	0.3%	100.0%
1979	916.2	1,211.4	262.2	504.3	22.6	2,916.6	31.4%	41.5%	9.0%	17.3%	0.8%	100.0%
1983	801.5	990.7	692.6	332.0	7.8	2,824.6	28.4%	35.1%	24.5%	11.8%	0.3%	100.0%
1987	713.1	1,258.1	570.1	416.5	10.1	2,967.8	24.0%	42.4%	19.2%	14.0%	0.3%	100.0%
1992	752.0	1,142.9	383.9	629.6	23.4	2,931.7	25.6%	39.0%	13.1%	21.5%	0.8%	100.0%
1997	493.1	1,283.4	365.4	621.6	53.4	2,816.7	17.5%	45.6%	13.0%	22.1%	1.9%	100.0%
2001	360.7	1,001.2	378.0	464.3	109.5	2,313.7	15.6%	43.3%	16.3%	20.1%	4.7%	100.0%
2005	369.4	907.2	528.1	412.3	116.9	2,333.9	15.8%	38.9%	22.6%	17.7%	5.0%	100.0%

	Candidates						Seats won					
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	SNP	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	SNP	Other	Total
1918	37	39	61	0	28	165	30	6	33	0	2	71
1922	36	43	81	0	8	168	13	29	27	0	2	71
1923	52	48	59	0	8	167	14	34	22	0	1	71
1924	56	63	34	0	3	156	36	26	8	0	1	71
1929	65	66	45	2	14	192	20	36	13	0	2	71
1931	65	57	14	5	14	155	57	7	7	0	0	71
1935	69	63	16	7	12	167	43	20	3	0	5	71
1945	68	68	22	8	18	184	27	37	0	0	7	71
1950	68	71	41	3	29	212	31	37	2	0	1	71
1951	70	71	9	2	8	160	35	35	1	0	0	71
1955	71	71	5	2	7	156	36	34	1	0	0	71
1959	70	71	16	5	10	172	31	38	1	0	1	71
1964	71	71	26	15	14	197	24	43	4	0	0	71
1966	71	71	24	23	17	206	20	46	5	0	0	71
1970	71	71	27	65	22	256	23	44	3	1	0	71
1974 Feb	71	71	34	70	19	265	21	40	3	7	0	71
1974 Oct	71	71	68	71	12	293	16	41	3	11	0	71
1979	71	71	43	71	28	284	22	44	3	2	0	71
1983	72	72	72	72	26	314	21	41	8	2	0	72
1987	72	72	72	71	21	308	10	50	9	3	0	72
1992	72	72	72	72	53	341	11	49	9	3	0	72
1997	72	72	72	72	143	431	0	56	10	6	0	72
2001	71	71	71	72	122	407	1	55	10	5	1	72
2005	58	58	58	59	149	382	1	40	11	6	1	59

(a) Includes Coalition Conservative for 1918; includes National for 1931; includes National, National Liberal and National Labour for 1931-1935; includes National and National Liberal for 1945. includes National Liberal and Conservative 1945-1970

(b) Includes Coalition Liberal Party for 1918; includes National Liberal for 1922; includes Independent Liberal for 1931; Liberal/SDP Alliance 1983-87; Liberal Democrats from 1992

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-2006*, *Rallings and Thrasher, Parliamentary Research Services*, *House of Commons Library data*

Table 1f

General Election Results: 1918-1970: Northern Ireland

	Votes (thousands)					Share of vote (%)				
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	Other	Total
*1918	289.2	..	..	750.0	1039.2	27.8%	..	..	72.2%	100.0%
1922	108.0	..	..	99.9	207.9	51.9%	..	..	48.1%	100.0%
1923	117.2	..	..	125.1	242.3	48.4%	..	..	51.6%	100.0%
1924	451.3	..	..	68.1	519.4	86.9%	..	..	13.1%	100.0%
1929	354.7	..	100.1	55.3	510.1	69.5%	..	19.6%	10.8%	100.0%
1931	149.6	9.4	..	123.1	282.0	53.0%	3.3%	..	43.6%	100.0%
1935	292.8	..	..	158.3	451.2	64.9%	..	..	35.1%	100.0%
1945	392.5	65.5	..	261.9	719.8	54.5%	9.1%	..	36.4%	100.0%
1950	352.3	67.8	..	141.3	561.4	62.8%	12.1%	..	25.2%	100.0%
1951	274.9	62.3	..	126.0	463.2	59.4%	13.5%	..	27.2%	100.0%
1955	442.6	35.6	..	168.4	646.6	68.5%	5.5%	..	26.0%	100.0%
1959	445.0	44.4	3.3	83.5	576.1	77.2%	7.7%	0.6%	14.5%	100.0%
1964	401.9	102.8	17.4	116.3	638.3	63.0%	16.1%	2.7%	18.2%	100.0%
1966	368.6	72.6	29.1	125.9	596.2	61.8%	12.2%	4.9%	21.1%	100.0%
1970	422.0	98.2	12.0	246.9	779.1	54.2%	12.6%	1.5%	31.7%	100.0%

	Candidates					Seats won				
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib	Other	Total
*1918	36	..	..	168	204	23	..	..	78	101
1922	12	..	..	3	15	10	..	..	2	12
1923	12	..	..	4	16	10	..	..	2	12
1924	12	..	..	10	22	12	..	..	0	12
1929	10	..	6	6	22	10	..	0	2	12
1931	12	1	..	3	16	10	0	..	2	12
1935	12	..	..	5	17	10	..	..	2	12
1945	11	6	..	7	24	9	0	..	3	12
1950	12	5	..	5	22	10	0	..	2	12
1951	12	4	..	4	20	9	0	..	3	12
1955	12	3	..	12	27	10	0	..	2	12
1959	12	3	1	13	29	12	0	0	0	12
1964	12	10	4	13	39	12	0	0	0	12
1966	12	4	3	8	27	11	0	0	1	12
1970	12	8	3	17	40	8	0	0	4	12

(a) Conservative (or Unionist) Party. Includes National and National Liberal for 1945;
includes National Liberal and Conservative 1945-1970

* Figures for Ireland, not Northern Ireland.

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-2006, Rallings and Thrasher, Parliamentary Research Services, House of Commons Library data*

Table 1g

General Election Results: 1974-2005: Northern Ireland

	Votes (thousands)									Share of Vote													
	Feb		Oct		1979	1983	1987	1992	1997	2001	2005	Feb		Oct		1979	1983	1987	1992	1997	2001	2005	
	1974	1974	1974	1974								1974	1974	1974	1974								
Ulster Unionist	326.4	256.1	254.6	260.0	276.2	271.0	258.3	216.8	127.4	45.5%	36.5%	36.6%	34.0%	37.8%	34.5%	32.7%	26.8%	17.8%					
Ulster Democratic Unionist	58.7	59.5	71.0	152.7	85.6	103.0	107.3	182.0	241.9	8.2%	8.5%	10.2%	20.0%	11.7%	13.1%	13.6%	22.5%	33.7%					
Ulster Popular Unionist	..	..	..	22.9	18.4	19.3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.0%	2.5%	2.5%	..	..	..		
SDLP	160.4	154.2	126.3	137.0	154.1	154.4	190.8	169.9	125.6	22.4%	22.0%	18.2%	17.9%	21.1%	19.7%	24.1%	21.0%	17.5%					
Alliance	22.7	44.6	82.9	61.3	72.7	68.7	63.0	29.0	28.3	3.2%	6.4%	11.9%	8.0%	10.0%	8.7%	8.0%	3.6%	3.9%					
Sinn Fein	..	..	..	102.7	83.4	78.3	126.9	175.9	174.5	..	..	..	13.4%	11.4%	10.0%	16.1%	21.7%	24.3%					
Others (a)	149.5	187.7	161.1	28.4	39.7	90.3	44.4	36.7	19.9	20.8%	26.7%	23.2%	3.7%	5.4%	11.5%	5.6%	4.5%	2.8%					
Total	717.6	702.1	695.9	764.9	730.1	785.1	790.8	810.4	717.6	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%					
Northern Ireland	Candidates									Seats Won													
Ulster Unionist	14	7	11	16	12	13	16	17	18	7	6	5	11	9	9	10	6	1					
Ulster Democratic Unionist	2	2	5	14	4	7	9	14	18	1	1	3	3	3	3	2	5	9					
Ulster Popular Unionist	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..		
SDLP	12	9	9	17	13	13	18	18	18	1	1	1	1	3	4	3	3	3					
Alliance	3	5	12	12	16	16	17	10	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	..					
Sinn Fein	..	..	..	14	14	14	17	18	18	..	..	..	1	1	0	2	4	5					
Others (a)	17	20	27	21	17	36	48	23	21	3	4	3	0	0	0	1	0	..					
Total	48	43	64	95	77	100	125	100	105	12	12	12	17	17	17	18	18	18					

Notes: (a) The "others" winning seats were the Vanguard Unionist Progressive Party with three seats in both 1974 elections; an independent in October 1974; the United Ulster Unionist Party, an independent and James Kilfedder as an Ulster Unionist (not the Official Ulster Unionist Party) in 1979; the UK Unionist Party in 1997.

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-2006*, *Rallings and Thrasher, Parliamentary Research Services*, *House of Commons Library Data*

B. Turnout

Table 2 reports turnout at general elections since 1918.

- The lowest turnout in a general election was recorded in 1918 (57.2%). Between 1922 and 1997 turnout remained above 71%. However, in 2001 turnout fell to 59.4% and stayed relatively low at 61.4% in 2005.
- The highest turnout since 1918 was recorded in 1950 (83.9%).
- Turnout in Northern Ireland at general elections between 1945 and 1997 tended to be lower than in the other constituent countries of the UK, with the exception of 1983; However in 2001 and 2005, turnout was higher in Northern Ireland than in England, Wales and Scotland.

Table 2

Turnout at UK General Elections: 1918-2005

Valid votes as % of electorate

	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	United Kingdom
*1918	55.7%	65.9%	55.1%	69.5%	57.2%
1922	72.8%	79.4%	70.4%	77.2%	73.0%
1923	71.1%	77.3%	67.9%	76.5%	71.1%
1924	77.4%	80.0%	75.1%	66.7%	77.0%
1929	76.6%	82.4%	73.5%	63.8%	76.3%
1931	76.1%	79.3%	77.4%	74.5%	76.4%
1935	70.7%	76.4%	72.6%	72.0%	71.1%
1945	73.4%	75.7%	69.0%	67.4%	72.8%
1950	84.4%	84.8%	80.9%	77.4%	83.9%
1951	82.7%	84.4%	81.2%	79.9%	82.6%
1955	76.9%	79.6%	75.1%	74.1%	76.8%
1959	78.9%	82.6%	78.1%	65.9%	78.7%
1964	77.0%	80.1%	77.6%	71.7%	77.1%
1966	75.9%	79.0%	76.0%	66.1%	75.8%
1970	71.4%	77.4%	74.1%	76.6%	72.0%
1974 Feb	79.0%	80.0%	79.0%	69.9%	78.8%
1974 Oct	72.6%	76.6%	74.8%	67.7%	72.8%
1979	75.9%	79.4%	76.8%	67.7%	76.0%
1983	72.5%	76.1%	72.7%	72.9%	72.7%
1987	75.4%	78.9%	75.1%	67.0%	75.3%
1992	78.0%	79.7%	75.5%	69.8%	77.7%
1997	71.4%	73.5%	71.3%	67.1%	71.4%
2001	59.2%	61.6%	58.2%	68.0%	59.4%
2005	61.3%	62.6%	60.8%	62.9%	61.4%

* Figures for Ireland not Northern Ireland

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-2006*, Rallings and Thrasher,
Parliamentary Research Services,
House of Commons Library data

C. Spoilt ballots

Table 3 details the number of spoilt ballot papers in UK general elections. Figures on spoilt ballots have been collected since 1964. The proportion of all ballot papers spoilt was highest in the 1979 and 2001 General Elections.

Table 3

Spoilt Ballot Papers in UK General Elections 1964 - 2005

	Spoilt ballot papers by reason				Total*	Average per Constituency
	Want of Official Mark	Voting for more than one Candidate	Writing or mark by which voter could be identified	Unmarked or void for uncertainty		
1964	2,826	15,486	6,787	15,974	41,073	65
1966	2,061	11,519	8,525	27,794	49,899	79
1970	2,118	14,144	7,541	17,544	41,347	66
1974 Feb	3,176	12,214	7,320	19,542	42,252	67
1974 Oct	2,938	13,492	6,009	15,267	37,706	59
1979	3,282	72,515	5,801	36,250	117,848	186
1983	2,819	27,938	4,693	15,654	51,104	79
1987	2,408	14,216	4,976	15,345	36,945	57
1992	2,593	14,538	5,008	17,587	39,726	61
1997	2,169	25,234	4,421	61,415	93,408	142
2001	2,548	22,590	3,760	69,910	100,005	152
2005	2,971	20,595	4,439	54,377	85,038	129

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-2006*, Rallings and Thrasher, Parliamentary Research Services
Data for 2005 available from www.electoralcommission.gov.uk/

* Total includes 'Rejected in part'

D. Postal votes

Figures on postal voting have been compiled since the General Election of 1945. Under the *Representation of the People Act 2000* and more specifically, parts IV and V of the *Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001*, the rules for applying for postal ballots were changed. It is no longer necessary to state a reason when applying for a postal vote. In 2005, postal votes accounted for 12.7% of all ballots cast, compared to 4.9% in the 2001 General Election.

Table 4

Postal Ballot Papers in UK Elections 1945-2005

	Number of postal ballot papers issued	Number of covering envelopes returned before close of poll	Number rejected	No of ballot papers included at the start of the count	Percentage of total ballot papers
1945	1,219,519	1,032,688	14,359	1,018,329	3.9%
1950	507,717	478,038	11,691	466,347	1.6%
1951	831,877	756,967	14,393	742,574	2.5%
1955	595,000	526,904	11,311	515,593	1.9%
1959	692,827	612,231	13,672	598,559	2.1%
1964	818,901	723,927	16,291	707,636	2.5%
1966	617,481	528,006	14,965	513,041	1.8%
1970	731,249	639,674	14,319	625,355	2.2%
1974 Feb	743,441	645,080	16,173	628,907	2.0%
1974 Oct	1,075,131	875,324	25,219	850,105	2.8%
1979	847,335	714,892	22,923	691,969	2.2%
1983	757,604	643,634	20,080	623,554	2.0%
1987	947,948	818,349	25,287	793,062	2.4%
1992	835,074	714,895	21,465	692,139	2.0%
1997	937,205	764,366	26,371	738,614	2.3%
2001	1,758,055	1,402,073	31,189	1,370,884	4.9%
2005	5,362,501	4,110,039	102,545	3,963,792	12.7%

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-2006, Parliamentary Research Services*

Data for 2005 available from www.electoralcommission.gov.uk/

Total ballots includes spoilt ballots

E. Women MPs

Table 5 shows the number of women elected at general elections since 1918.

- The first woman MP to win a seat at Westminster was Countess Constance Markievicz who won the St Patrick's division of Dublin in 1918. However, she did not take her seat and Nancy Astor, who won a by-election in 1919 in Plymouth, Sutton, was the first woman MP to take her seat in the House of Commons.
- Between 1945 and 1983, the number of women MPs remained below 30, ranging from 17 in 1951 to 29 in 1964. The number increased to 41 in 1987 and 60 in 1992. The number of women MPs doubled in 1997 to 120, of whom 101 were Labour MPs.
- The election of two women at by-elections following the 1997 General Election meant the total number of women MPs reached 122 (Jacqui Lait 1997 and Sandra Gidley 2000). This fell to 118 after the 2001 Election, but rose again to 119 following the Brent by-election in 2003 (Sarah Teather). After the 2005 General Election the number of women MPs rose further to

128; following the death of two women MPs (Patsy Calton and Rachel Squire) it has been 126 since January 2006, 19.5 of all MPs.

- Out of the 4,661 Members of Parliament elected since 1918, 291 (6%) have been women.³
- Of the 646 MPs elected in 2005, one in five MPs are women. Labour's 98 women MPs was three higher than in 2001 and three fewer than in 1997. Of the main parties, Labour has the highest proportion of women MPs (28%). The Conservatives have 9% and Liberal Democrats 16%.

Table 5

Women Members Elected at General Elections: 1918-2005

	Women MPs by party							Total Number of Seats	Women as proportion of all MPs
	Con	Lab	Lib	SDP	Other	Speaker	Total		
1918	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	707	0.1%
1922	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	615	0.3%
1923	3	3	2	0	0	0	8	615	1.3%
1924	3	1	0	0	0	0	4	615	0.7%
1929	3	9	1	0	1	0	14	615	2.3%
1931	13	0	1	0	1	0	15	615	2.4%
1935	6	1	1	0	1	0	9	615	1.5%
1945	1	21	1	0	1	0	24	640	3.8%
1950	6	14	1	0	0	0	21	625	3.4%
1951	6	11	0	0	0	0	17	625	2.7%
1955	10	14	0	0	0	0	24	630	3.8%
1959	12	13	0	0	0	0	25	630	4.0%
1964	11	18	0	0	0	0	29	630	4.6%
1966	7	19	0	0	0	0	26	630	4.1%
1970	15	10	0	0	1	0	26	630	4.1%
1974 Feb	9	13	0	0	1	0	23	635	3.6%
1974 Oct	7	18	0	0	2	0	27	635	4.3%
1979	8	11	0	0	0	0	19	635	3.0%
1983	13	10	0	0	0	0	23	650	3.5%
1987	17	21	1	1	1	0	41	650	6.3%
1992	20	37	2	0	1	0	60	651	9.2%
1997	13	101	3	0	2	1	120	659	18.2%
2001	14	95	5	0	4	0	118	659	17.9%
2005	17	98	10	0	3	0	128	646	19.8%

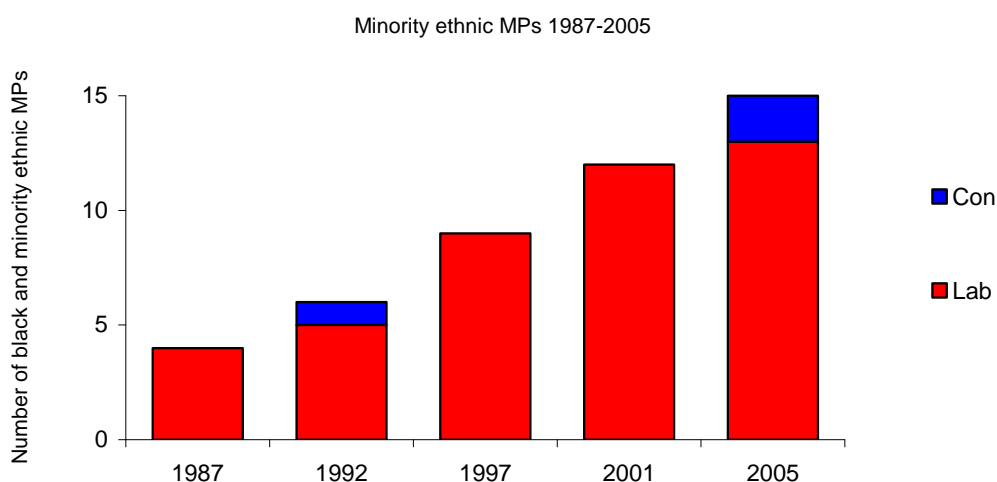
Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-12006*, Parliamentary Research Services
House of Commons Library data

F. Minority ethnic MPs

An individual's ethnicity is self-defined. Consequently, it is hard to obtain complete records of MPs' ethnicity, particularly in historical perspective.

³ House of Commons Information Office Factsheet M4 (October 2006, updated)

- The total number of black and minority ethnic MPs rose to six in 1992 (five Labour and one Conservative). In 1997 there were nine black and minority ethnic MPs (all Labour) and in 2001 this rose to twelve (all Labour). Following the 2005 General Election there were a total of fifteen black and minority ethnic MPs in the House of Commons (thirteen Labour and two Conservative).
- The first black and minority ethnic MP was Dadabhai Naoroji who was elected as the Liberal Member of Parliament for Finsbury Central in 1892. He lost the seat in 1895.
- The first black and minority ethnic Conservative MP was Mancherjee Bhowaggee who was Member for Bethnal Green North-East from 1895 to 1905.
- The first black and minority ethnic Labour MPs were elected in 1987: Diane Abbott (Hackney North & Stoke Newington), Paul Boateng (Brent South), Bernie Grant (Tottenham) and Keith Vaz (Leicester East). Abbott, Boateng and Grant were the first black MPs to be elected to the House and Diane Abbott was the first ever black woman MP.
- The first black and minority ethnic Liberal Democrat MP was Parmjit Singh Gill (Leicester South), who was elected at a by-election in 2004; he did not retain the seat at the 2005 General Election.



Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-12006*, *Parliamentary Research Services*

G. Characteristics of MPs

This section provides data on MPs elected from 1951-2005. The information is provided for the three major parties only: Conservative, Labour, and Liberal Democrat (and predecessors).

1. Occupation

Among MPs returned to Parliament after the 2005 General Election the most common occupations across the three major parties were teachers (91 MPs), company executives or directors (87 MPs), and politicians/political organisers (87 MPs). In 2005, company executives and directors comprised 32% of the Conservative parliamentary party. The most common occupations among Labour MPs were teachers (21%) and company executive or director (21%) among Liberal Democrat MPs.

Table 6a lists the main occupations of MPs by party from 1951 to 2005 in percentage terms. Graphs illustrating the number of MPs by occupation from 1951 to 2005 are also provided.

Table 6a

Main Occupations of Members of Parliament 1951- 2005 (percentages)

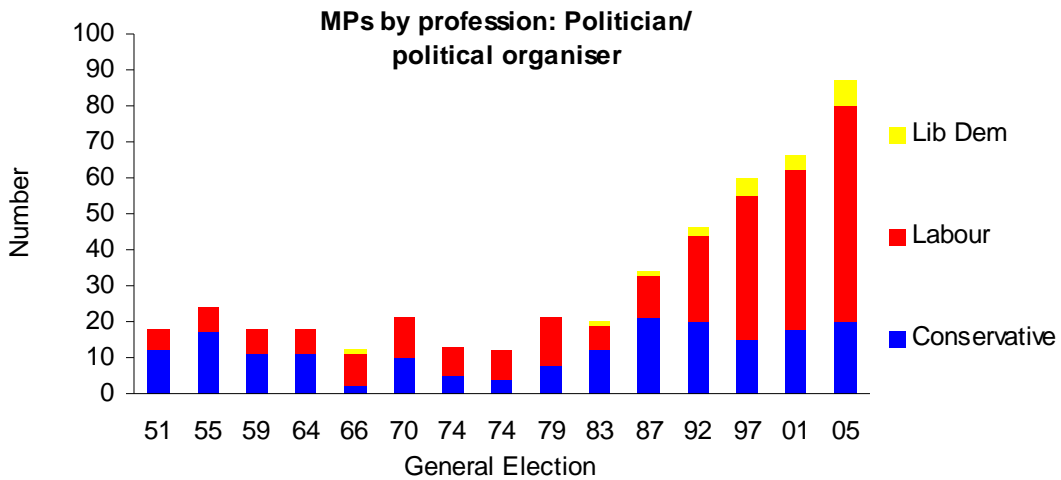
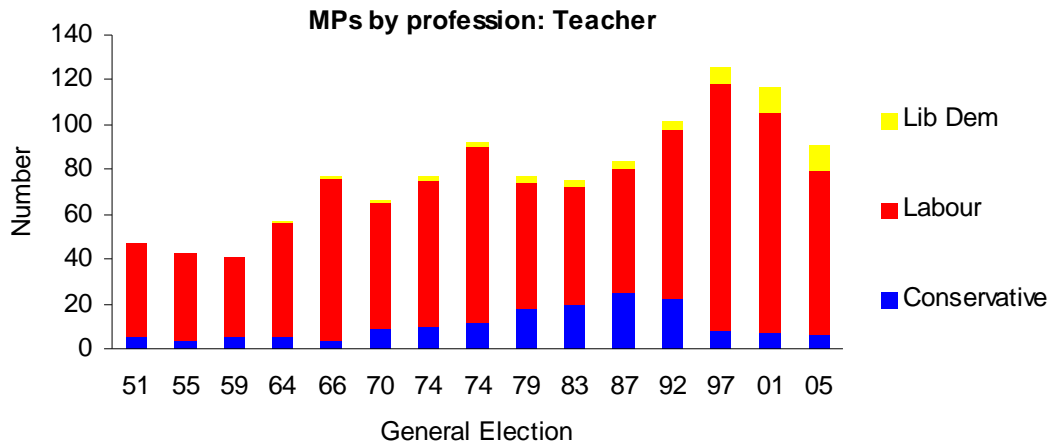
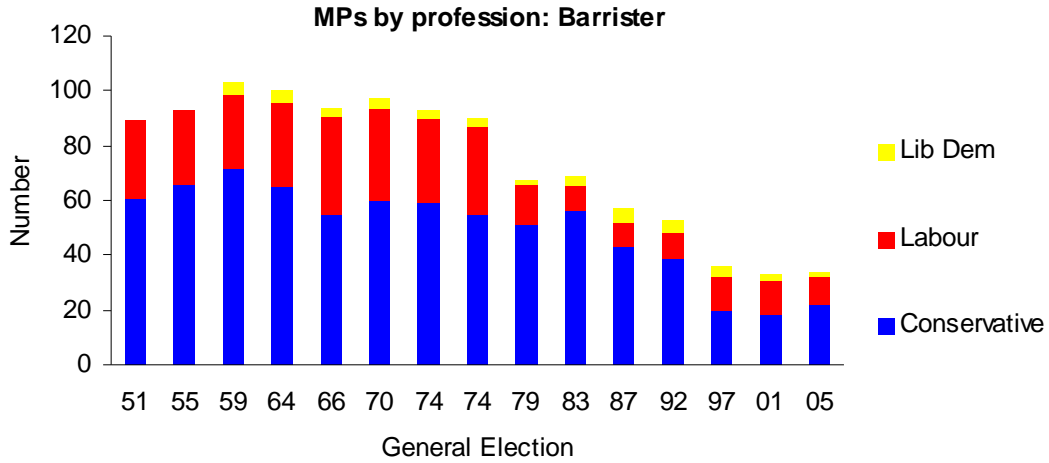
Conservative															
	51	55	59	64	66	70	Feb 74	Oct 74	79	83	87	92	97	01	05
Professions															
Barrister	19	19	20	21	22	18	20	20	15	14	11	12	12	11	11
Solicitor	3	3	4	5	6	4	4	4	6	7	6	6	5	8	9
Civil service/local govt	3	3	4	6	5	4	3	3	4	4	3	1	3	1	2
Teachers	2	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	5	5	7	7	5	4	3
Armed services	10	14	10	9	8	7	3	3	6	5	4	4	5	7	7
Other Professions	4	6	7	6	4	9	11	12	9	10	10	10	6	8	7
Business															
Company Executive/Director	24	18	24	19	21	28	21	22	17	25	30	33	32	30	32
Other business	13	11	7	7	9	2	11	11	17	11	7	5	7	7	6
Other White collar															
Politician/pol. organiser	4	5	3	4	1	3	2	1	2	3	6	6	9	11	10
Publisher/journalist	4	6	7	7	7	9	11	10	9	8	7	8	8	8	7
Misc. white collar	1	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	1	2	2	3	1	1	2
Manual Workers															
Miner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Other Manual	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1
Other	13	13	12	13	13	11	10	9	7	6	6	5	4	4	4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

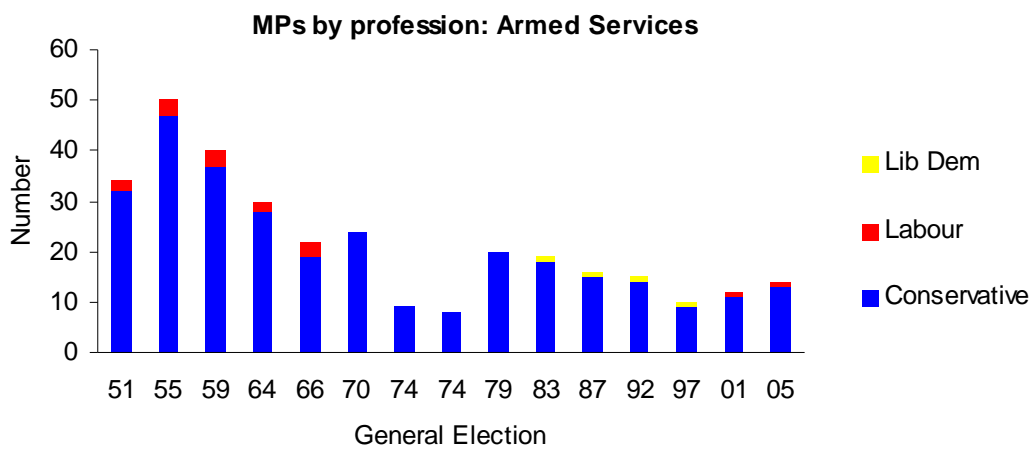
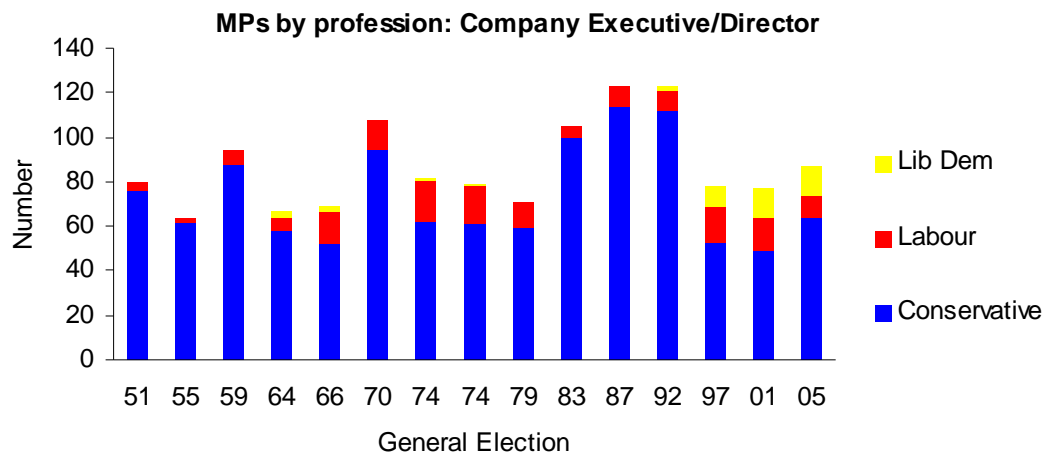
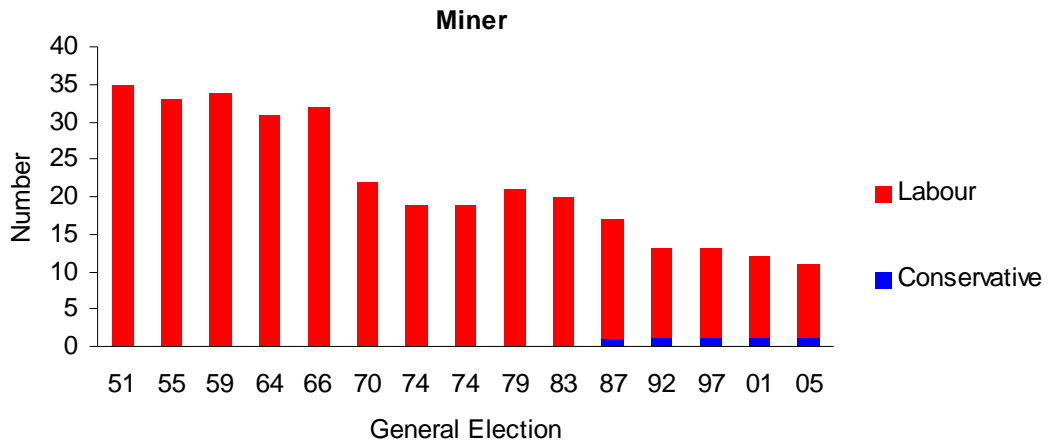
Labour															
	51	55	59	64	66	70	74	74	79	83	87	92	97	01	05
Professions															
Barrister	9	10	10	10	10	12	10	10	6	4	4	3	3	3	3
Solicitor	4	3	4	5	5	5	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	5
Civil service/local govt	3	3	3	2	2	1	2	2	6	5	3	6	7	7	6
Teachers	14	14	14	16	20	20	22	24	22	25	24	28	27	24	21
Armed services	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Professions	3	5	5	7	5	11	9	9	8	4	5	2	4	5	5
Business															
Company Executive/Director	1	1	2	2	4	5	6	5	5	2	4	3	4	4	3
Other business	8	12	8	9	5	5	3	3	4	7	5	5	5	4	4
Other White collar															
Politician/pol. organiser	2	3	3	2	2	4	3	3	5	3	5	9	10	11	17
Publisher/journalist	11	10	10	9	8	9	8	7	5	4	6	5	7	8	7
Misc. white collar	4	2	2	3	6	1	2	3	2	7	8	13	17	18	20
Manual Workers															
Miner	12	12	13	10	9	8	6	6	8	10	7	4	3	3	3
Other Manual	25	23	22	23	21	19	23	22	24	24	22	17	10	10	7
Other	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	1	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

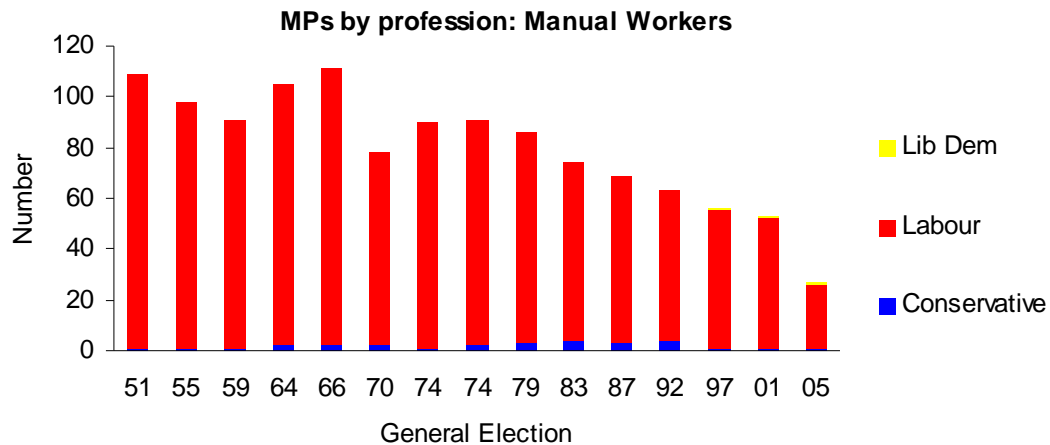
Liberal Democrat and predecessors

	51	55	59	64	66	70	74	74	79	83	87	92	97	01	05
Professions															
Barrister	67	44	25	50	21	23	9	17	23	25	9	4	3
Solicitor	17	0	0	17	7	8	0	4	5	5	4	8	3
Civil service/local govt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	0	4	6	5
Teachers	0	11	8	17	14	15	27	13	18	20	15	23	19
Armed services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	5	2	0	0
Other Professions	0	0	17	0	29	23	27	17	5	5	15	12	10
Business															
Company Executive/Director	0	22	25	0	7	8	0	0	0	10	20	25	21
Other business	17	0	0	0	7	8	9	4	9	0	4	2	8
Other White collar															
Politician/pol. organiser	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	4	5	10	11	8	11
Publisher/journalist	0	0	0	17	7	8	18	22	14	15	9	8	8
Misc. white collar	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	4	9	5	2	2	10
Manual Workers															
Miner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Manual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
Other	0	11	17	0	7	8	9	4	5	0	2	2	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: *The British General Election of ... (1951-2005)*, David Butler and Denis Kavanagh







2. Education

The table below summarises trends in the educational background of MPs of the major parties.

Table 6b

Education of Members of Parliament 1951-2005 (percentages)

	Feb Oct														
	51	55	59	64	66	70	74	74	79	83	87	92	97	01	05
Conservative															
Public School	75	76	72	75	81	74	74	75	73	70	68	62	66	64	60
University	65	63	60	63	67	63	67	69	68	71	70	73	81	83	81
Oxbridge	52	53	50	52	57	52	54	56	49	48	44	45	51	48	43
Labour															
Public School	20	22	18	18	18	17	16	18	18	14	14	15	16	17	18
University	41	40	39	42	51	54	53	57	59	53	56	61	66	67	64
Oxbridge	19	17	18	19	23	25	20	25	21	15	15	16	15	16	16
Liberal															
Public School	...	...	67	33	58	50	71	69	55	52	45	50	41	35	39
University	...	...	100	78	83	100	71	62	45	65	73	75	70	69	79
Oxbridge	...	...	83	44	50	50	43	38	27	30	27	30	33	27	31

Source: *The British General Election of 1951, 55...2005*, David Butler and Denis Kavanagh

Table 7 shows MPs by date of first election and party. An MP with more than one period of service is categorised by the date of start of their first period of service.

Table 7

MPs elected at 2005 General Election by date first elected and party

	CON	LAB	LD	Other	Total
By general election (includes by-elections before next general election)					
1959	1	0	0	0	1
1964	0	1	0	0	1
1966	0	2	0	0	2
1970	5	5	0	1	11
Feb 1974	8	2	1	0	11
Oct 1974	3	3	0	0	6
1979	3	8	1	2	14
1983	29	17	4	2	52
1987	18	42	1	3	64
1992	27	59	2	1	89
1997	29	137	20	2	188
2001	24	39	13	12	88
2005	51	40	20	8	119
Total	198	355	62	31	646
Summaries					
Pre-1979	17	13	1	1	32
1979 - pre-1997	77	126	8	8	219
1997 - pre-2001	29	137	20	2	188
2001 - pre-2005	24	39	13	12	88
2005	51	40	20	8	119
Total	198	355	62	31	646
<i>of which at by-elections</i>	9	41	6	0	56
Summaries (% of those elected in 2005)					
Pre-1979	9%	4%	2%	3%	5%
1979 - pre-1997	39%	35%	13%	26%	34%
1997 - pre-2001	15%	39%	32%	6%	29%
2001 - pre-2005	12%	11%	21%	39%	14%
2005	26%	11%	32%	26%	18%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<i>of which at by-elections</i>	5%	12%	10%	0%	9%

3. Age

Table 8a summarises the membership of the House of Commons by age at July 2007. The oldest Member is Ian Paisley (born 6 April 1926) while the youngest is Jo Swinson (born 5 February 1980).

Table 8a

House of Commons Members by Age (July 2007)

Age	Conservative	Labour	Lib Dem	SNP/PC	Other	Total	% Share
25-29	...	...	2	...	...	2	0.3%
30-34	...	2	3	...	...	5	0.8%
35-39	17	16	5	3	1	42	6.5%
40-44	27	25	12	...	1	65	10.1%
45-49	35	52	12	2	5	106	16.4%
50-54	43	67	12	3	4	129	20.0%
55-59	28	91	5	1	6	131	20.3%
60-64	24	57	9	...	3	93	14.4%
65-69	19	28	3	...	2	52	8.0%
70-74	1	9	...	...	3	13	2.0%
75-79	1	5	...	...	...	6	0.9%
80-84	...	1	...	...	1	2	0.3%
Total	195	353	63	9	26	646	100%

House of Commons Library

The median age of Members of Parliament has remained almost constant since 1951. After the 2001 Election the median age of Conservative MPs was one year higher than in 1951, while the median age for Labour MPs was two years lower. The median age has shown most fluctuation among Liberal MPs: After the 1970 General Election the median age was 39 years compared with 46 years after the 2005 General Election.

Table 8b

Median age of Members of Parliament at elections 1951- 2005

	1951	1955	1959	1964	1966	1970	1974F	1974O	1979	1983	1987	1992	1997	2001	2005
Conservative	47	49	48	45	48	49	48	47	47	47	48	48	50	48	48
Labour	52	54	55	52	50	50	50	49	51	51	47	51	48	50	53
Liberal Democrats	...	...	46	43	39	39	39	45	47	43*	45*	45	46	47	46

* Liberals Democrats and predecessor parties

Source: *The British General Election of 1951, 55...2005*, David Butler and Denis Kavanagh

H. Characteristics of voters

Table 9 analyses self-reported voter turnout by age and gender for five general elections between 1970 and 2005, voter turnout rose in two age groups among men, (55-59 and 60-64) from 1970 to 1997 and for women (65+) between 1983 and 2001. The largest fall in turnout among men (1983 to 2005), was for male voters aged 25 to 34 and 35 to 44 (by 13 and 12 percentage points respectively) and voters aged 25 to 34 among female (by 15 percentage points). In reality, self-reported turnout tends to be higher than actual turnout.

Table 9a

Self-reported general election turnout by age and gender
Great Britain, percentages

	1970		1983		1997		2001		2005	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
18-24	67	66	74	73	56	64	60	46	49	53
25-34	74	77	76	79	67	70	59	56	63	64
35-44	81	84	87	88	77	78	66	74	75	78
45-54	86	85	88	93	83	86	76	81	75	81
55-59	88	86	89	93	90	87	79	82	84	85
60-64	79	84	82	90	87	88	80	80	79	82
65 +	93	84	86	82	87	85	87	87	82	85

Source: British Election Study data quoted in National Statistics.

The data below are taken from MORI's aggregate analysis of polls undertaken during the election campaign. They are based on approximately 11,000 individual respondents who said they were 'absolutely certain to vote' and have been adjusted to match actual results.

- The Conservatives won 34% of the vote among men compared with 32% amongst women
- Labour won 38% of the vote among women compared with 34% amongst men
- The Liberal Democrats won 23% of the vote among women compared with 22% amongst men.
- The Conservatives won a higher share of vote in the older age groups, higher social classes and among those who own their homes outright.
- Labour won 41% of the in the 35-44 age group, 31% in the 55-64 age group, and 55% of the votes of social renters.
- In general terms, the Liberal Democrats' vote share fell with age but increased with social class. They won more votes than the Conservatives among those aged 25-34 but more votes than Labour among AB social class.

Table 9b

Voting by social characteristics: MORI estimates

	2005%				% point change 2001-2005			2005 % turnout
	CON	LAB	LD	Other	CON	LAB	LD	
Gender:								
Men	34	34	22	10	+2	-8	+4	62
Women	32	38	23	7	-1	-4	+4	61
Age:								
18-24	28	38	26	8	+1	-3	+2	37
25-34	25	38	27	10	+1	-13	+8	49
35-44	27	41	23	9	-1	-4	+4	61
45-54	31	35	25	9	-1	-6	+5	65
55-64	39	31	22	8	0	-6	+5	71
65+	41	35	18	6	+1	-4	+1	75
Social class:								
AB	37	28	29	6	-2	-2	+4	71
C1	37	32	23	8	+1	-6	+3	62
C2	33	40	19	8	+4	-9	+4	58
DE	25	48	18	9	+1	-7	+5	54
Housing tenure:								
Owned	44	29	20	7	+1	-3	+1	71
Mortgaged	31	36	25	8	0	-6	+5	60
Social renter	16	55	19	10	-2	-5	+5	51
Private renter	27	36	28	9	-1	-4	+3	51
Men by age:								
18-24	33	34	25	8	+4	-4	-1	39
25-34	29	33	27	11	+5	-19	+8	49
35-54	31	36	22	11	+2	-7	+3	64
55+	40	33	20	7	+1	-6	+4	74
Women by age:								
18-24	22	43	26	9	-2	-2	+3	35
25-34	21	43	28	8	-4	-6	+9	48
35-54	27	40	25	8	-4	-3	+5	61
55+	41	34	20	5	+1	-4	+2	73
Men by class:								
AB	37	27	28	8	-1	-4	+3	70
C1	39	29	22	10	+3	-9	+8	63
C2	32	39	18	11	+4	-10	+5	57
DE	24	47	17	12	+1	-8	+3	55
Women by class:								
AB	36	29	29	6	-5	+1	+3	71
C1	34	35	23	8	-3	-2	+3	61
C2	34	40	20	6	+4	-8	+3	58
DE	25	49	18	8	0	-7	+5	54
All:	33	36	23	8	0	-6	+4	61

Source: MORI *Final Aggregate Analysis*, <http://www.mori.com/polls/2005/election-aggregate.shtml>

Base: All those 'absolutely certain to vote' (n=10,986; total n=17,959)

III Minor Parties at General Elections 1945-2005

In this section the performance of minor parties at general elections since 1945 is examined. This includes all parties except the Conservatives, Labour, and Liberal Democrats (and its predecessors), in line with the scope of earlier work in this area by F.W.S Craig⁴. In 2005 parties with 3 or more candidate are included.

Although the recent success of independent candidates at general elections has been accompanied by growth in the representation of minor parties in the House of Commons, in overall terms minor parties remain relatively small. A summary of minor party representation in the House of Commons is provided in table 10:

Table 10

Representation in the House of Commons of minor parties and independents: GB, 1945-2005

Year	SNP	Plaid Cymru	ILP	Communist	Other	Total
1945	...	...	3	2	16	21
1950	...	...	...	...	1	1
1951	...	...	...	...	...	0
1955	...	...	...	...	...	0
1959	...	...	...	...	1	1
1964	...	...	...	...	...	0
1966	...	...	...	...	...	0
1970	1	...	...	...	1	2
Feb 1974	7	2	...	...	2	11
Oct 1974	11	3	...	...	...	14
1979	2	2	...	...	...	4
1983	2	2	...	...	...	4
1987	3	3	...	...	...	6
1992	3	4	...	...	...	7
1997	6	4	...	...	1	11
2001	5	4	...	...	0	9
2005	6	3	...	...	4	13

ILP = Independent Labour Party

Speakers not standing for a party are excluded

Sources: Rallings and Thrasher, *British Electoral Facts* 1983-2006
House of Commons Library

A detailed record of the performance of minor parties in general elections since 1945, by party, is provided in Table 11. The average percentage vote for each party is for the seats in which they stood only. Details of the number of seats won by minor parties in Northern Ireland elections since 1918 can be found earlier in Tables 1f (1918-70) and 1g (1974-2005).

⁴ F.W.S. Craig, *Minor Parties at British Parliamentary Elections 1885-1974*

Table 11

Summary of Minor Parties - Great Britain

General Election	No. of Candidates	No. MPs	Saved Deposits	Average % vote
ACTION PARTY				
1959	1	0	0	8.1
1966	4	0	0	3.7
ALLIANCE FOR GREEN SOCIALISM				
2005	5	0	0	1.0
ANTI-FEDERALIST LEAGUE				
1992	16	0	0	0.3
ANTI-PARTITION OF IRELAND LEAGUE OF GREAT BRITAIN				
1950	4	0	0	3.0
1951	1	0	0	2.7
BRITISH EMPIRE PARTY				
1951	1	0	0	3.4
BRITISH MOVEMENT				
1970	1	0	0	2.5
1974(F)	1	0	0	1.5
BRITISH NATIONAL PARTY(1)				
1964	1	0	0	9.1
1966	3	0	0	5.3
BRITISH NATIONAL PARTY(2)				
1983	54	0	0	0.5
1987	2	0	0	0.6
1992	13	0	0	1.2
1997	57	0	3	1.3
2001	33	0	5	3.9
2005	119	0	34	4.3
CAMPAIGN FOR SOCIAL DEMOCRACY				
1974(F)	5	1	1	8.3
1974(O)	1	0	1	34.6
CHRISTIAN PEOPLES ALLIANCE				
2005	9	0	0	0.9
COMMONWEALTH				
1945	23	1	7	12.6
COMMUNIST PARTY OF ENGLAND (MARXIST-LENINIST)				
1974(F)	6	0	0	0.6
1974(O)	8	0	0	0.4
COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN				
1945	21	2	9	14.6
1950	100	0	3	2.0
1951	10	0	0	4.7
1955	17	0	2	4.9
1959	18	0	1	4.3
1964	36	0	0	3.5
1966	57	0	0	3.0
1970	58	0	0	1.8
1974(F)	44	0	1	1.8
1974(O)	29	0	0	1.6
1979	35	0	0	1.0
1983	35	0	0	0.8
1987	19	0	0	0.7
1992	3	0	0	0.3
1997	3	0	0	0.4
2001	6	0	0	0.5
2005	6	0	0	0.5

RESEARCH PAPER 08/12

General Election	No. of Candidates	No. MPs	Saved Deposits	Average % vote
CORNISH NATIONALIST PARTY				
1979	1	0	0	0.4
1983	1	0	0	0.7
DEMOCRATIC PARTY [1]				
1945	5	0	0	1.3
DEMOCRATIC PARTY [2]				
1970	5	0	1	5.6
ECOLOGY PARTY				
1979	51	0	0	1.5
1983	105	0	0	1.0
ENGLISH DEMOCRATS				
2005	24	0	0	1.5
FELLOWSHIP PARTY				
1959	1	0	0	2.6
1964	1	0	0	2.5
1966	1	0	0	2.1
FORWARD WALES				
2005	6	0	0	1.7
GREEN PARTY				
1987	133	0	0	1.4
1992	256	0	0	1.3
1997	94	0	1	1.2
2001	145	0	10	2.8
2005	203	0	24	3.6
INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE				
1974(F)	6	0	0	0.7
INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY				
1945	5	3	4	35.2
1950	4	0	0	2.7
1951	3	0	0	3.6
1955	2	0	0	5.0
1959	2	0	0	1.8
1966	1	0	0	0.9
1970	1	0	0	1.7
INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT ELECTION COMMITTEE				
1964	2	0	0	1.6
INTERNATIONAL MARXIST GROUP				
1974(F)	3	0	0	0.5
IRISH CIVIL RIGHTS ASSOCIATION				
1974(O)	7	0	0	1.0
ISLAMIC PARTY				
1992	4	0	0	0.6
LABOUR INDEPENDENT GROUP				
1950	5	0	3	14.0
LEAGUE OF EMPIRE LOYALISTS				
1964	3	0	0	0.9
LEGALISE CANNABIS				
1997	4	0	0	1.0
2001	13	0	0	1.6
2005	21	0	0	0.9

General Election	No. of Candidates	No. MPs	Saved Deposits	Average % vote
LIBERAL PARTY				
1992	73	0	1	1.5
1997	54	0	2	1.7
2001	14	0	1	2.5
2005	14	0	2	3.3
LIVERPOOL PROTESTANT GROUP				
1945	1	0	0	13.2
MEBYON KERNOW				
1970	1	0	0	2.0
1974(F)	1	0	0	1.5
1974(O)	1	0	0	0.7
1979	2	0	0	3.5
1983	2	0	0	1.2
1997	3	0	0	1.1
2001	3	0	0	2.1
2005	4	0	0	1.7
MONSTER RAVING LOONY				
1983	11	0	0	0.7
1987	5	0	0	0.7
1992	22	0	0	0.6
1997	24	0	0	0.7
2001	15	0	0	1.0
2005	19	0	0	0.8
MUSLIM PARTY				
2001	4	0	0	0.9
MUDIAD GWERINIAETHOL CYMRU				
1950	1	0	0	1.3
NATIONAL DEMOCRAT				
1997	20	0	1	1.1
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY				
1964	1	0	0	0.6
1966	1	0	0	1.3
1970	4	0	1	7.9
1974(F)	1	0	0	1.6
NATIONAL FRONT				
1970	10	0	0	3.6
1974(F)	54	0	0	3.1
1974(O)	90	0	0	3.1
1979	303	0	0	1.3
1983	60	0	0	1.1
1992	14	0	0	0.8
1997	6	0	0	0.9
2001	5	0	0	1.5
2005	13	0	0	1.6
NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY				
1974(F)	1	0	0	4.4
NATIONAL LABOUR PARTY				
1959	1	0	0	4.1
NATURAL LAW PARTY				
1992	309	0	0	0.5
1997	177	0	0	0.3
OPERATION CHRISTIAN VOTE				
2005	10	0	0	1.5

RESEARCH PAPER 08/12

General Election	No. of Candidates	No. MPs	Saved Deposits	Average % vote
PATRIOTIC PARTY				
1964	2	0	0	1.5
1966	1	0	0	0.4
PEOPLE				
1974(F)	6	0	0	1.7
1974(O)	5	0	0	0.9
PLAID CYMRU				
1945	7	0	1	9.1
1950	7	0	1	6.8
1951	4	0	0	6.1
1955	11	0	4	11.3
1959	20	0	6	10.3
1964	23	0	2	8.4
1966	20	0	2	8.7
1970	36	0	11	12.4
1974(F)	36	2	10	11.7
1974(O)	36	3	10	11.6
1979	36	2	8	8.6
1983	38	2	6	7.8
1987	38	3	18	7.3
1992	35	4	13	9.0
1997	40	4	25	9.9
2001	40	4	35	14.8
2005	40	3	32	13.2
PRO-LIFE ALLIANCE				
1997	56	0	0	0.7
2001	37	0	0	0.7
RADICAL ALLIANCE				
1966	1	0	0	0.5
RAINBOW				
1987	2	0	0	0.4
1992	3	0	0	
1997	31	0	0	0.3
RED FRONT				
1987	14	0	0	0.5
REFERENDUM PARTY				
1997	547	0	42	3.1
RESPECT-UNITY COALITION				
2005	26	1	9	6.8
SCOTTISH MILITANT LABOUR				
1992	1	0	1	19.3
SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY				
1945	8	0	2	9.1
1950	3	0	0	7.4
1951	2	0	1	10.0
1955	2	0	1	14.8
1959	5	0	2	11.3
1964	15	0	3	10.6
1966	23	0	13	14.1
1970	65	1	22	12.8
1974(F)	70	7	63	22.7
1974(O)	71	11	71	30.6
1979	72	2	54	17.2
1983	72	2	19	11.8
1987	71	3	70	14.1
1992	72	3	72	21.5
1997	72	6	72	22.1
2001	72	5	72	20.3
2005	59	6	59	17.9

General Election	No. of Candidates	No. MPs	Saved Deposits	Average % vote
SCOTTISH SOCIALIST ALLIANCE				
1997	16	0	1	1.8
SCOTTISH SOCIALIST PARTY				
2001	72	0	10	3.3
2005	58	0	2	2.0
SOCIAL CREDIT PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN				
1950	1	0	0	0.9
SOCIALIST				
1997	24	0	1	1.1
SOCIALIST ALLIANCE				
2001	98	0	2	1.7
SOCIALIST LABOUR PARTY				
1997	64	0	3	1.8
2001	114	0	1	1.4
2005	49	0	1	1.2
SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN				
1945	1	0	0	1.7
1950	2	0	0	0.6
1959	1	0	0	2.4
1964	2	0	0	0.5
1966	2	0	0	0.5
1970	2	0	0	0.6
1974(O)	1	0	0	0.3
UNITED COUNTRY PARTY				
1979	2	0	0	1.0
UNITED DEMOCRACY PARTY				
1974(O)	13	0	0	0.7
UNITED KINGDOM INDEPENDENCE PARTY				
1997	194	0	1	1.1
2001	428	0	6	2.1
2005	496	0	36	2.8
VECTIS NATIONALIST PARTY				
1970	1	0	0	2.8
VERITAS				
2005	65	0	1	1.5
VOTE FOR YOURSELF RAINBOW DREAM TICKET				
2005	23	0	0	0.3
WESSEX REGIONAL PARTY				
1979	7	0	0	0.7
1983	10	0	0	0.3
WORKERS PARTY				
1997	8	0	0	0.8
WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY				
1974(F)	9	0	0	1.0
1974(O)	10	0	0	0.9
1979	52	0	0	0.5
1983	21	0	0	0.4
1987	10	0	0	0.4
1992	2	0	0	0.4
1997	9	0	0	0.3
2001	6	0	0	0.3
2005	10	0	0	0.2

Source: *Minor Parties at British parliamentary elections*
Election 2005, The official Results, The Electoral commission
Rallings & Thrasher, F.W.S. Craig

IV By-elections

There have been seven by-elections since the 2005 General Election. The results are summarised below. Labour retained three seats (Livingston, Ealing Southall, and Sedgefield) and lost one seat to the Liberal Democrats (Dunfermline & West Fife). In six of the seven by-elections, Labour saw its share of the vote fall compared with 2005 General Election.

By-elections since 2005 General Election

Constituency	Result	Winner	Swing since 2005 GE	Change in share of the vote since 2005:					Turnout
				Percentage points					
				From /To	Con	Lab	L Dem	SNP/PC		IND/UKIP
Cheadle	LD hold	Mark Hunter	3.8% Lab to L Dem	+2.0%	-4.2%	+3.3%	...	...	55.2%
Livingston	LAB hold	Jim Devine	10.2% Lab to SNP	-3.4%	-9.3%	-0.6%	+11.1%	...	38.6%
Dunfermline & W Fife	LD gain from Lab	Willie Rennie	16.4% Lab to L Dem	-2.6%	-17.4%	+15.4%	+1.8%	...	48.7%
Blaenau Gwent	IND hold	Dai Davies	8.4% IND to Lab	+1.4%	+4.7%	+1.2%	+4.1%	-12.0%	51.7%
Bromley & Chislehurst	CON hold	Robert Neill	16.6% Lab to L Dem	-11.1%	-15.6%	+17.5%	...	+4.9%	40.5%
Ealing, Southall	LAB hold	Virendra Sharma	5.3% Lab to L Dem	+0.9%	-7.3%	+3.2%	...	...	42.9%
Sedgefield	LAB hold	Philip Wilson	11.1% Lab to L Dem	+0.2%	-14.1%	+8.0%	...	...	41.5%

The 1997 Parliament was the only one since 1951-55 where the party in government did not lose a single seat to another party at a by-election. The Conservatives' win in Uxbridge in July 1997 was their first by-election victory since February 1989.

A summary of the performance of the major parties at by-elections since 1945 is provided in Table 12:

Table 12

By-election summary 1945-2007

	Net Seat Gains and Losses					Average change in share of vote since previous election					Average Turnout
	Con	Lab	L Dem	SNP/PC	Other	Con	Lab	L Dem	SNP/PC	Other	
1945-50	+4	-1	...	...	-3	+3.7%	-2.3%	-2.8%	+8.9%	-2.2%	67.3%
1950-51	...	...	...	...	...	+6.8%	-2.0%	-8.0%	...	-0.3%	68.8%
1951-55	+1	-1	...	...	...	-0.6%	+0.3%	-2.4%	+8.3%	+3.0%	58.6%
1955-59	-2	+4	...	...	-2	-8.7%	+1.3%	+14.6%	+6.9%	+3.8%	63.5%
1959-64	-5	+4	+1	...	...	-14.1%	-2.1%	+16.7%	+7.8%	+3.1%	62.9%
1964-66	...	-1	+1	...	...	+1.3%	-1.8%	+0.6%	+2.1%	+0.4%	58.2%
1966-70	+11	-15	+1	+2	+1	+6.8%	-17.3%	+4.2%	+29.0%	+10.5%	62.1%
1970-74(F)	-5	...	+5	+1	-1	-10.7%	-4.2%	+13.4%	+23.9%	+2.5%	56.5%
1974(F)-74(O)	...	...	...	...	...	-1.1%	-3.4%	-2.3%	...	+6.8%	25.9%
1974(O)-79	+6	-6	+1	...	-1	+9.9%	-9.3%	-4.9%	-2.8%	+5.5%	57.5%
1979-83	-3	+1	+4	...	-2	-11.4%	-10.2%	+19.8%	+5.4%	+1.5%	56.7%
1983-87	-4	...	+4	...	...	-14.0%	+0.4%	+12.3%	+0.6%	+1.3%	63.5%
1987-92	-7	+3	+3	+1	...	-10.7%	-0.3%	+5.1%	+14.8%	+4.9%	58.1%
1992-97	-8	+3	+4	+1	...	-19.9%	+7.4%	+5.2%	+13.3%	+4.9%	52.7%
1997-2001	-2	+1	+2	...	-1	-0.6%	-11.1%	+5.0%	+9.4%	+3.6%	42.4%
2001-2005	...	-2	+2	...	...	-2.9%	-20.5%	+15.1%	+1.4%	+3.1%	38.0%
2005-	...	-1	+1	...	...	-1.8%	-9.0%	+6.9%	+2.4%	+1.5%	45.6%

Source: House of Commons Library

A full list of by-elections since 1945 can be found in Table 13.

Table 13

By-elections since 1945

Date	Constituency	Result	change in share of the vote since previous election:					Turnout
			Con	Lab	L Dem	SNP/PC	Other	
01/10/1945	Smethwick	Lab hold	-2.9%	+2.9%	...	...	...	65.4%
02/10/1945	Ashton-under-Lyme	Lab hold	-8.6%	-2.3%	+10.9%	...	...	70.5%
03/10/1945	Edinburgh E	Lab hold	+1.1%	+5.2%	...	-6.3%	...	51.0%
30/10/1945	Monmouth	Con hold	+0.8%	-0.8%	...	...	...	66.7%
31/10/1945	City of London	* Con gain	...	...	...	...	...	51.6%
14/11/1945	Bromley	Con hold	+4.6%	+5.0%	-9.6%	...	...	56.5%
15/11/1945	Bournemouth	Con hold	-8.7%	+12.0%	-3.3%	...	...	56.5%
20/11/1945	Kensington South	Con hold	+11.9%	+7.0%	+18.9%	...	...	36.8%
13/12/1945	Tottenham North	Lab hold	+8.2%	-8.2%	...	...	...	39.5%
31/01/1946	Preston	* Lab gain	...	...	...	...	...	64.9%
07/02/1946	Ayrshire South	Lab hold	-2.3%	+2.3%	...	...	...	69.0%
12/02/1946	Glasgow, Cathcart	Con hold	-6.3%	-4.1%	...	+10.4%	...	55.6%
21/01/1946	Heywood and Radcliffe	Lab hold	+0.5%	-0.5%	...	...	...	75.6%
22/02/1946	Hemsworth	Lab hold	uncontested	...	...	...	...	...
13/03/1946	Combined English	* Con gain from Ind	...	...	...	...	...	42.1%
04/06/1946	Ogmore	Lab hold	-18.0%	-5.8%	...	+23.8%	...	33.1%
22/07/1946	Bexley	Lab hold	+17.7%	-4.4%	-13.3%	...	...	61.2%
23/07/1946	Pontypool	Lab hold	+4.1%	-4.1%	...	...	...	64.8%
25/07/1946	Battersea North	Lab hold	+3.5%	-5.0%	...	...	+1.5%	55.4%
29/08/1946	Glasgow, Bridgeton	ILP hold	-12.0%	+28.0%	...	...	-16.0%	53.3%
19/11/1946	Bermondsey, Rotherhithe	Lab hold	-11.2%	-14.1%	+25.3%	...	...	50.9%
20/11/1946	Paddington North	Lab hold	+6.1%	-5.6%	...	...	-0.5%	53.9%
22/11/1946	Combined Scottish	* Con gain from Ind	...	...	...	...	...	50.7%
26/11/1946	Aberdeen South	Con hold	+8.0%	+2.9%	-10.9%	...	...	65.6%
05/12/1946	Aberdare	Lab hold	-4.0%	-16.0%	...	+20.0%	...	65.7%
05/12/1946	Kilmarnock	Lab hold	-8.1%	+0.3%	...	+7.8%	...	68.4%
11/02/1947	Normanton	Lab hold	+2.1%	-4.5%	...	...	+2.4%	54.6%
07/05/1947	Jarrow	Lab hold	+3.5%	-6.7%	...	...	+3.2%	73.4%
11/09/1947	Liverpool, Edge Hill	Lab hold	+7.5%	-12.8%	+4.4%	...	+0.9%	62.7%
25/09/1947	Islington West	Lab hold	+0.4%	-16.6%	+16.0%	...	+0.2%	51.4%
26/11/1947	Gravesend	Lab hold	+12.9%	-0.7%	-12.2%	...	...	77.3%
27/11/1947	Howdenshire	Con hold	+8.0%	-3.7%	-4.3%	...	...	67.0%
27/11/1947	Edinburgh East	Lab hold	-3.0%	-5.8%	+10.1%	-1.3%	...	63.0%
04/12/1947	Epsom	Con hold	+11.0%	-6.3%	-4.7%	...	...	70.5%
28/01/1948	Glasgow, Camlachie	Con gain from ILP	+1.4%	+42.1%	+1.2%	...	-44.7%	56.8%
18/02/1948	Paisley	Lab hold	+10.5%	+1.2%	-10.0%	...	-1.7%	76.0%
04/03/1948	Wigan	Lab hold	+3.9%	-9.2%	...	...	+1.9%	81.4%
11/03/1948	Croydon North	Con hold	+12.9%	-3.5%	-9.4%	...	...	74.8%
24/03/1948	Brigg	Lab hold	+4.3%	-4.3%	...	...	...	77.1%
29/04/1948	Southwark Central	Lab hold	+6.5%	-6.5%	...	...	...	48.7%
30/09/1948	Glasgow, Gorbals	Lab hold	+8.6%	-25.5%	...	...	+16.9%	50.0%
07/10/1948	Stirling and Falkirk	Lab hold	-1.1%	-7.1%	...	+8.2%	...	72.9%
13/11/1948	Edmonton	Lab hold	+17.6%	-14.8%	...	...	-2.8%	62.7%
25/11/1948	Glasgow, Hillhead	Con hold	+9.9%	-2.0%	-7.9%	...	...	56.7%
17/02/1949	Batley and Morley	Lab hold	+12.3%	+1.2%	-13.5%	...	...	81.3%
24/02/1949	Hammersmith South	Lab hold	+5.2%	-5.2%	...	...	...	60.6%
10/03/1949	St.Pancras North	Lab hold	+4.8%	-6.3%	...	...	+1.5%	65.1%
16/03/1949	Sowerby	Lab hold	+16.0%	+2.3%	-18.3%	...	...	80.7%
21/07/1949	Leeds West	Lab hold	+17.2%	-3.9%	-13.3%	...	...	65.1%
08/12/1949	Bradford South	Lab hold	+9.3%	-1.2%	-14.4%	...	+6.3%	75.4%
GENERAL ELECTION 1950								
05/04/1950	Sheffield, Neepsend	Lab hold	-0.4%	-1.9%	...	...	+2.3%	62.9%
25/04/1950	Dunbartonshire West	Lab hold	+1.8%	+1.1%	...	...	-2.9%	83.4%
04/05/1950	Brighouse and Spenborough	Lab hold	+1.7%	-1.7%	...	...	...	85.4%
28/09/1950	Leicester NE	Lab hold	+8.8%	+1.4%	-9.5%	...	-0.7%	63.0%
25/10/1950	Glasgow, Scotstoun	Con hold	+4.3%	+1.3%	-4.9%	...	-0.7%	73.7%
02/11/1950	Oxford	Con hold	+10.6%	+1.8%	-11.6%	...	-0.8%	69.3%
16/11/1950	Birmingham, Handsworth	Con hold	+10.2%	-1.1%	-10.3%	...	+1.2%	63.2%
30/11/1950	Bristol SE	Lab hold	+8.4%	-5.9%	-1.4%	...	-1.1%	61.1%
30/11/1950	Abertillery	Lab hold	+0.6%	-0.6%	...	...	...	71.1%
15/02/1951	Bristol West	Con hold	+22.5%	-11.4%	-11.1%	...	...	53.6%
08/04/1951	Ormskirk	Con hold	+5.2%	-7.2%	...	...	+2.0%	64.7%
21/04/1951	Harrow West	Con hold	+13.4%	-1.5%	-11.9%	...	...	68.0%
14/06/1951	Woolwich East	Lab hold	+6.3%	-0.8%	-3.5%	...	-2.0%	66.8%
21/06/1951	Westthoughton	Lab hold	+1.9%	-1.9%	...	...	...	76.5%

RESEARCH PAPER 08/12

Date	Constituency	Result	change in share of the vote since previous election:					Turnout
			Con	Lab	L Dem	SNP/PC	Other	
GENERAL ELECTION 1951								
06/02/1952	Bournemouth East and Christchu	Con hold	-1.5%	-1.7%	-1.5%	...	+4.7%	63.8%
06/02/1952	Southport	Con hold	+1.8%	+3.7%	-5.5%	...	...	61.0%
07/02/1952	Leeds SE	Lab hold	-2.7%	+2.7%	...	...	...	55.7%
17/07/1952	Dundee East	Lab hold	-10.6%	+2.5%	...	+7.4%	+0.7%	55.7%
23/10/1952	Cleveland	Lab hold	+0.7%	-0.7%	...	...	...	71.4%
04/11/1952	Wycombe	Con hold	+0.3%	-0.3%	...	...	...	83.9%
27/11/1952	Birmingham, Small Heath	Lab hold	+2.1%	+3.6%	-5.7%	...	...	46.6%
27/11/1952	Farnworth	Lab hold	-0.7%	+0.7%	...	...	...	71.0%
12/02/1953	Canterbury	Con hold	+6.0%	+1.9%	-7.9%	...	...	49.2%
12/03/1953	Isle of Thanet	Con hold	-0.3%	+0.3%	...	...	...	58.7%
31/03/1953	Barnsley	Lab hold	+9.8%	+3.2%	-13.0%	...	...	57.9%
31/03/1953	Stoke-on-Trent North	Lab hold	-4.1%	+4.1%	...	...	...	50.5%
01/04/1953	Hayes and Harlington	Lab hold	+0.9%	-0.9%	...	...	...	45.0%
13/05/1953	Sunderland South	Con gain from Lab	-1.1%	-4.2%	+5.3%	...	...	72.7%
30/06/1953	Abingdon	Con hold	-2.3%	-4.8%	+7.1%	...	...	75.9%
02/07/1953	Birmingham, Edgbaston	Con hold	+3.3%	-3.3%	...	...	...	50.2%
17/09/1953	Broxtowe	Lab hold	-1.4%	+1.4%	...	...	...	63.5%
12/11/1953	Crosby	Con hold	-2.8%	+1.5%	...	...	+4.3%	62.5%
12/11/1953	Ormskirk	Con hold	-2.0%	+2.0%	...	...	...	54.1%
19/11/1953	Holborn and St.Pancreas S	Lab hold	-0.2%	+1.9%	-1.7%	...	...	56.2%
03/12/1953	Paddington North	Lab hold	+1.0%	-1.9%	...	...	+0.9%	60.3%
03/02/1954	Ilford North	Con hold	+4.3%	-5.7%	+1.4%	...	...	45.4%
11/02/1954	Kingston upon Hull,	Con hold	+3.7%	-3.7%	...	...	...	45.7%
	Haltemprice				...	...	...
11/02/1954	Harwich	Con hold	+0.2%	-0.2%	...	...	...	58.8%
18/02/1954	Bournemouth West	Con hold	+4.2%	-4.2%	...	...	...	45.1%
09/03/1954	Arundel and Shoreham	Con hold	+1.1%	-1.1%	...	...	...	54.2%
11/03/1954	Harrogate	Con hold	+0.2%	-0.2%	...	...	...	55.3%
08/04/1954	Edinburgh East	Lab hold	-3.5%	+3.5%	...	...	...	61.8%
14/04/1954	Motherwell	Lab hold	-3.4%	-0.9%	...	...	+4.3%	70.5%
30/09/1954	Croydon East	Con hold	-2.2%	-5.8%	+8.0%	...	...	57.5%
21/10/1954	Shoreditch and Finsbury	Lab hold	-5.6%	+5.6%	...	...	...	40.7%
21/10/1954	Wakefield	Lab hold	+0.2%	-0.2%	...	...	...	68.6%
28/10/1954	Aldershot	Con hold	-0.2%	+0.2%	...	...	...	58.7%
28/10/1954	Aberdare	Lab hold	-0.9%	-9.0%	...	+9.9%	...	69.7%
04/11/1954	Sutton And Cheam	Con hold	+3.7%	-3.7%	...	...	...	55.6%
04/11/1954	Morpeth	Lab hold	+0.6%	-0.6%	...	...	...	73.0%
18/11/1954	Liverpool, West Derby	Con hold	+1.6%	-1.6%	...	...	...	58.9%
21/12/1954	Inverness	Con hold	-23.1%	+36.0%	-12.9%	...	...	49.2%
13/01/1955	Norfolk South	Con hold	-3.0%	+3.0%	...	...	...	66.6%
20/01/1955	Orpington	Con hold	+3.1%	-3.1%	...	...	...	55.4%
25/01/1955	Twickenham	Con hold	+1.9%	-1.9%	...	...	...	47.3%
27/01/1955	Edinburgh North	Con hold	+0.6%	-0.6%	...	...	...	46.4%
03/02/1955	Stockport South	Con hold	+0.1%	-0.1%	...	...	...	64.6%
17/03/1955	Wrexham	Lab hold	-4.0%	-3.7%	...	+7.7%	...	62.4%
GENERAL ELECTION 1955								
07/12/1955	Gateshead West	Lab hold	-1.2%	+1.2%	...	...	...	42.3%
08/12/1955	Greenock	Lab hold	-2.3%	+2.3%	...	...	...	75.3%
15/12/1955	Torquay	Con hold	-9.4%	-0.2%	+9.6%	...	...	62.6%
02/02/1956	Blaydon	Lab hold	-3.4%	+3.4%	...	...	...	56.5%
09/02/1956	Leeds NE	Con hold	+1.8%	-1.8%	...	...	...	39.9%
14/02/1956	Hereford	Con hold	-7.5%	+11.6%	-4.1%	...	...	61.5%
14/02/1956	Gainsborough	Con hold	-15.0%	-6.6%	+21.6%	...	...	61.9%
14/02/1956	Taunton	Con hold	-1.9%	+9.7%	-8.4%	...	...	75.0%
01/03/1956	Walthamstow West	Lab hold	-14.1%	-1.0%	+14.7%	...	...	52.0%
07/06/1956	Tonbridge	Con hold	-8.4%	+8.4%	...	...	...	60.6%
06/07/1956	Newport(Mon.)	Lab hold	-6.4%	+2.6%	+3.8%	...	...	72.1%
27/09/1956	Cheter-le-Street	Lab hold	-4.5%	+4.5%	...	...	...	64.9%
15/11/1956	City of Chester	Con hold	-5.0%	+4.6%	+0.4%	...	...	71.5%
19/12/1956	Melton	Con hold	-7.6%	+7.6%	...	...	...	56.5%
14/02/1957	Lewisham North	Lab gain from Con	-7.5%	+3.5%	...	...	+4.0%	70.8%
28/02/1957	Wednesbury	Lab hold	-11.6%	+1.7%	...	...	+9.9%	60.0%
28/02/1957	Carmathen	Lab gain from Lib	...	+4.6%	-8.3%	+3.7%	...	87.5%
07/03/1957	Bristol West	Con hold	-5.1%	+5.1%	...	...	...	61.1%
07/03/1957	Warwick and Lemington	Con hold	-12.2%	+12.2%	...	...	...	77.9%

Date	Constituency	Result	change in share of the vote since previous election:					Turnout
			Con	Lab	L Dem	SNP/PC	Other	
21/03/1957	Beckenham	Con hold	-6.1%	+6.1%	...	...	...	64.7%
21/03/1957	Newcastle upon Tyne	Con hold	-3.6%	+3.6%	...	...	...	64.1%
29/05/1957	Edinburgh South	Con hold	-21.9%	-1.6%	+23.5%	...	...	65.8%
30/05/1957	East Ham North	Lab hold	-11.5%	-2.8%	...	...	+14.3%	57.3%
30/05/1957	Hornsey	Con hold	-6.7%	+9.3%	...	...	-2.6%	63.0%
27/06/1957	Dorset North	Con hold	-7.0%	+2.8%	+3.7%	...	+0.5%	75.8%
12/09/1957	Gloucester	Lab hold	-20.5%	+0.4%	+20.1%	...	...	71.0%
24/10/1957	Ipswich	Lab hold	-14.4%	-7.1%	+21.5%	...	...	75.6%
28/11/1957	Leicester SE	Con hold	-3.2%	+3.2%	...	...	...	56.4%
05/12/1957	Liverpool, Garston	Con gain from Ind Con	-14.3%	-0.9%	+15.2%	...	...	49.7%
12/02/1958	Rochdale	Lab gain from Con	-31.7%	-3.8%	+35.5%	...	...	80.2%
13/03/1958	Glasgow, Kelvingrove	Lab gain from Con	-13.8%	+3.4%	...	...	+10.4%	60.5%
27/03/1958	Torrington	Lib gain from Con	-27.7%	-10.3%	+38.0%	...	...	80.6%
15/05/1958	Islington North	Lab gain	-10.4%	+7.4%	...	...	+3.0%	35.6%
12/06/1958	Ealing South	Con gain from Ind Con	-9.2%	+1.6%	+7.6%	...	...	64.5%
12/06/1958	St.Helens	Lab hold	-0.4%	+0.4%	...	...	...	54.6%
12/06/1958	Wigan	Lab hold	-5.7%	+6.6%	...	...	-0.9%	70.3%
12/06/1958	Weston-super-Mare	Con hold	-13.4%	-11.1%	+24.5%	...	...	72.2%
12/06/1958	Argyll	Con hold	-20.8%	-6.7%	+27.5%	...	...	67.1%
06/11/1958	Morecambe and Lonsdale	Con hold	-5.9%	+5.9%	...	...	...	63.8%
06/11/1958	Chichester	Con hold	+0.1%	-0.1%	...	...	...	51.7%
10/11/1958	Pontypool	Lab hold	-5.6%	-4.4%	...	+10.0%	...	61.7%
20/11/1958	Aberdeenshire East	Con hold	-19.9%	-4.4%	+24.3%	...	...	65.9%
27/11/1958	Shoreditch and Finsbury	Lab hold	-2.5%	+2.5%	...	...	...	24.9%
29/01/1959	Southend West	Con hold	-8.6%	-0.6%	+9.2%	...	...	42.9%
19/03/1959	Harrow East	Con hold	-1.6%	+0.6%	...	...	+1.0%	68.9%
25/03/1959	Norfolk SW	Lab hold	+0.7%	-3.3%	...	...	+2.6%	75.2%
09/04/1958	Galloway	Con hold	-16.5%	-9.2%	+25.7%	...	...	72.7%
11/06/1959	Penistone	Lab hold	-1.8%	+1.8%	...	...	...	65.0%
18/06/1959	Whitehaven	Lab hold	-0.6%	+0.6%	...	...	...	79.2%

GENERAL ELECTION 1959

17/03/1960	Brighouse and Spenborough	Con gain from Lab	+0.9%	-0.9%	...	...	...	82.4%
17/03/1960	Harrow West	Con hold	-15.2%	-10.9%	+21.4%	...	+4.7%	61.6%
19/05/1960	Edinburgh North	Con hold	-9.8%	-5.7%	+15.5%	...	...	53.8%
16/11/1960	Bolton East	Con hold	-15.0%	-11.0%	+24.8%	...	+1.2%	68.2%
16/11/1960	Bedfordshire Mid	Con hold	-1.4%	-6.2%	+7.0%	...	+0.6%	...
16/11/1960	Tiverton	Con hold	-9.9%	-7.6%	+17.5%	...	...	68.4%
16/11/1960	Petersfield	Con hold	-6.5%	-4.7%	+11.2%	...	...	53.6%
16/11/1960	Ludlow	Con hold	-13.9%	-13.4%	+27.3%	...	...	63.6%
16/11/1960	Carshalton	Con hold	-2.3%	-9.8%	+12.1%	...	...	54.2%
17/11/1960	Ebbw Vale	Lab hold	-6.3%	-12.2%	+11.5%	+7.0%	...	76.1%
24/11/1960	Blyth	Lab hold	-3.8%	-5.7%	+9.5%	...	...	54.1%
16/03/1961	Worcester	Con hold	-18.0%	-12.1%	+30.1%	...	...	64.2%
16/03/1961	Cambridgeshire	Con hold	-12.0%	-12.0%	+24.0%	...	...	62.4%
16/03/1961	High Peak	Con hold	-8.6%	-1.9%	+10.5%	...	...	72.5%
16/03/1961	Colchester	Con hold	-4.4%	-2.8%	+7.2%	...	...	64.9%
23/03/1961	Birmingham, Small Heath	Lab hold	-13.8%	+1.8%	+12.0%	...	...	42.6%
20/04/1961	Warrington	Lab hold	-12.1%	-0.4%	+12.5%	...	...	56.7%
20/04/1961	Paisley	Lab hold	-29.5%	-11.9%	+41.4%	...	...	68.1%
04/05/1961	Bristol SE	Lab hold	-13.3%	+13.3%	...	...	...	56.7%
07/11/1961	Manchester, Moss Side	Con hold	-21.1%	-11.9%	+27.8%	...	+5.2%	46.7%
08/11/1961	Oswestry	Con hold	-15.1%	+0.0%	+12.3%	...	+2.8%	60.8%
08/11/1961	Fife East	Con hold	-22.4%	-3.7%	+26.1%	...	...	67.3%
16/11/1961	Glasgow, Bridgeton	Lab hold	-15.9%	-5.9%	...	+18.7%	+3.1%	41.9%
08/03/1962	Lincoln	Lab hold	-14.7%	-4.6%	+18.2%	...	+1.1%	75.0%
13/03/1962	Blackpool North	Con hold	-19.5%	+4.8%	+14.7%	...	...	55.2%
14/03/1962	Middlesbrough	Lab hold	-23.7%	-1.0%	+22.9%	...	+1.8%	52.2%
14/03/1962	Orpington	Lib gain from Con	-21.9%	-9.8%	+31.7%	...	...	80.3%
22/03/1962	Pontefract	Lab hold	-4.2%	+0.9%	...	...	+3.3%	63.3%
05/04/1962	Stockton-on-Tees	Lab hold	-18.5%	-8.4%	+26.9%	...	...	81.5%
17/04/1962	Derby North	Lab hold	-24.7%	-3.4%	+25.4%	...	+2.7%	60.5%
15/05/1962	Montgomeryshire	Lib hold	-9.4%	-6.0%	+9.2%	+6.2%	...	85.1%
06/06/1962	Middlesbrough West	Lab gain from Con	-21.2%	+4.3%	+16.1%	...	+0.8%	72.2%
06/06/1962	Debyshire West	Con hold	-25.2%	-11.4%	+32.5%	...	+4.1%	79.4%
14/06/1962	West Lothian	Lab hold	-28.3%	-9.4%	+10.8%	+23.3%	+3.6%	71.1%
12/07/1962	Leicester NE	Lab hold	-23.9%	-10.4%	+34.3%	...	...	60.8%
22/11/1962	Dorset South	Lab gain from Con	-18.0%	-1.2%	+6.2%	...	+13.0%	70.2%
22/11/1962	Norfolk Central	Con hold	-12.6%	+2.2%	+7.6%	...	+2.8%	60.2%

RESEARCH PAPER 08/12

Date	Constituency	Result	change in share of the vote since previous election:					Turnout
			Con	Lab	L Dem	SNP/PC	Other	
22/11/1962	Northamptonshire South	Con hold	-15.8%	-4.4%	+19.3%	...	+0.9%	69.0%
22/11/1962	Chippenham	Con hold	-15.2%	-1.9%	+15.6%	...	+1.5%	68.0%
22/11/1962	Glasgow, Woodside	Lab gain from Con	-19.1%	-7.0%	+14.0%	+11.1%	+1.0%	54.7%
21/03/1963	Colne Valley	Lab hold	-14.5%	+0.1%	+13.7%	...	+0.7%	78.9%
28/03/1963	Rotherham	Lab hold	-8.8%	+6.5%	...	...	+2.3%	56.3%
28/03/1963	Swansea East	Lab hold	-14.7%	-6.3%	+15.8%	-5.3%	+10.5%	55.9%
20/06/1963	Leeds South	Lab hold	-10.9%	+4.4%	+4.3%	...	+2.2%	60.5%
04/07/1963	Deptford	Lab hold	-18.9%	-3.6%	+22.5%	...	...	44.1%
04/07/1963	West Bromwich	Lab hold	-19.0%	+1.4%	+17.6%	...	...	55.2%
15/08/1963	Stratford	Con hold	-25.0%	+2.6%	+21.0%	...	+1.4%	69.4%
20/08/1964	Bristol SE	Lab gain from Con	-43.8%	+23.5%	...	...	+20.3%	42.2%
07/11/1963	Luton	Lab gain from Con	-15.6%	+3.1%	+11.4%	...	+1.1%	74.0%
07/11/1963	Kinross-shire and Perthshire West	Con hold	-10.8%	-1.6%	+19.5%	-7.7%	+0.6%	76.1%
21/11/1963	Dundee West	Lab hold	-8.9%	+1.0%	...	+7.4%	+0.5%	71.6%
05/12/1963	St.Marylebone	Con hold	-9.6%	+8.2%	+1.4%	...	...	44.2%
05/12/1963	Manchester, Openshaw	Lab hold	-10.6%	+5.7%	...	...	+4.9%	46.1%
05/12/1963	Sudbury and Woodbridge	Con hold	-3.4%	+4.0%	-0.6%	...	...	70.5%
12/12/1963	Dunfriesshire	Con hold	-17.5%	-3.1%	+10.9%	+9.7%	...	71.6%
14/05/1964	Winchester	Con hold	-15.1%	+1.9%	+13.2%	...	...	68.7%
14/05/1964	Bury St.Edmunds	Con hold	-9.7%	+2.2%	+7.5%	...	...	74.6%
14/05/1964	Devizes	Con hold	-4.6%	+1.0%	+10.3%	...	-6.7%	75.8%
14/05/1964	Rutherglen	Lab gain from Con	-7.6%	+7.6%	...	...	...	82.0%
04/06/1964	Faversham	Lab hold	+5.6%	+4.8%	...	...	+0.8%	74.8%
11/06/1964	Liverpool, Scotland	Lab hold	-12.5%	+12.5%	...	...	...	42.0%
GENERAL ELECTION 1964								
21/01/1965	Leyton	Con gain from Lab	+9.3%	-7.9%	-2.2%	...	+0.8%	57.7%
21/01/1965	Nuneaton	Lab hold	+5.8%	-3.8%	-2.0%	...	...	60.8%
04/02/1965	Altrincham and Sale	Con hold	+3.2%	+1.0%	+5.8%	...	+1.6%	62.0%
04/02/1965	East Grinstead	Con hold	+1.8%	-6.3%	+4.5%	...	...	64.5%
04/02/1965	Salisbury	Con hold	-0.1%	+3.0%	-4.4%	...	+1.5%	69.1%
23/03/1965	Saffron Walden	Con hold	-0.8%	+2.1%	-1.3%	...	...	76.1%
24/03/1965	Roxburghshire, Selkirkshire and Peeblesshire	Lib gain from Con	-4.2%	-4.5%	+10.3%	-2.5%	+0.9%	82.2%
01/04/1965	Abertillery	Lab hold	+0.2%	-6.9%	...	+6.7%	...	63.2%
06/05/1965	Birmingham, Hall Green	Con hold	+2.2%	-3.0%	+0.8%	...	...	52.4%
22/07/1965	Hove	Con hold	-6.2%	-11.0%	+16.9%	...	+0.3%	58.5%
04/11/1965	Cities of London and Westminster	Con hold	+1.2%	+2.3%	-4.8%	...	...	41.8%
11/11/1965	Erith and Crayford	Lab hold	+4.9%	+2.3%	-7.2%	...	...	-7.6%
27/01/1966	Kingston upon Hull North	Lab hold	+0.0%	+8.9%	-9.6%	...	+0.7%	76.3%
GENERAL ELECTION 1966								
14/07/1966	Carmarthen	PC gain from Lab	-4.5%	-13.1%	-5.3%	+22.9%	...	74.9%
09/03/1967	Nuneaton	Lab hold	+1.1%	-11.8%	+3.1%	...	+7.6%	66.1%
09/03/1967	Rhondda West	Lab hold	-3.5%	-27.1%	...	+31.2%	-0.6%	82.2%
09/03/1967	Glasgow, Pollok	Con gain from Lab	-10.7%	-21.2%	+1.9%	+28.2%	+1.8%	75.7%
16/03/1967	Honiton	Con hold	+2.5%	-6.3%	+3.8%	...	...	72.6%
27/04/1967	Brierley Hill	Con hold	+2.6%	-12.6%	+7.8%	...	+2.2%	68.0%
21/09/1967	Cambridge	Con gain from Lab	+8.2%	-8.9%	+1.6%	...	-0.9%	65.7%
21/09/1967	Walthamstow West	Con gain from Lab	+12.2%	-24.4%	+8.8%	...	+3.4%	54.0%
02/11/1967	Leicester SW	Con gain from Lab	+10.3%	-22.8%	+12.5%	...	...	57.5%
02/11/1967	Manchester, Gorton	Lab hold	+4.6%	-14.2%	+5.9%	...	+3.7%	72.4%
02/11/1967	Hamilton	SNP gain from Lab	-16.3%	-29.7%	...	+46.0%	...	73.7%
23/11/1967	Derbyshire West	Con hold	+7.0%	-18.8%	+6.6%	...	+5.2%	64.5%
14/03/1968	Kensington South	Con hold	+10.3%	-11.2%	-2.5%	...	+3.4%	40.0%
28/03/1968	Acton	Con gain from Lab	+6.3%	-23.8%	+11.4%	...	+6.1%	59.7%
28/03/1968	Dudley	Con gain from Lab	+17.2%	-25.1%	+7.9%	...	...	63.5%
28/03/1968	Meriden	Con gain from Lab	+18.4%	-18.4%	...	...	...	66.0%
28/03/1968	Warwick and Leamington	Con hold	+16.7%	-19.6%	+2.9%	...	...	58.5%
13/06/1968	Oldham West	Con gain from Lab	+7.7%	-27.6%	+6.7%	...	+13.2%	54.7%
13/06/1968	Sheffield Brightside	Lab hold	+13.5%	-20.8%	...	...	+7.3%	49.8%
27/06/1968	Nelson and Colne	Con gain from Lab	+11.9%	-10.9%	+9.0%	...	-10.0%	74.2%
18/07/1968	Caerphilly	Lab hold	-4.2%	-28.7%	+3.6%	+29.3%	...	75.9%
31/10/1968	Bassetlaw	Lab hold	+9.5%	-11.9%	...	...	+2.4%	68.0%
07/11/1968	New Forest	Con hold	+15.1%	-12.9%	-2.2%	...	...	55.9%
27/03/1969	Brighton, Pavilion	Con hold	+12.5%	-23.3%	+10.8%	...	...	45.1%
27/03/1969	Walthamstow East	Con gain from Lab	+20.8%	-11.0%	-9.8%	...	...	51.2%
27/03/1969	Weston-super-Mare	Con hold	+13.6%	-14.2%	+0.6%	...	...	60.8%
22/05/1969	Chichester	Con hold	+17.0%	-12.9%	-4.1%	...	...	53.4%

Date	Constituency	Result	change in share of the vote since previous election:					Turnout
			Con	Lab	L Dem	SNP/PC	Other	
26/06/1969	Birmingham, Ladywood	Lib gain from Lab	-0.6%	-33.4%	+30.6%	...	+3.4%	51.9%
30/10/1969	Islington North	Lab hold	+8.2%	-10.2%	+0.3%	...	+1.7%	32.8%
30/10/1969	Paddington North	Lab hold	+16.0%	-6.7%	-9.3%	...	...	46.3%
30/10/1969	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Lab hold	+5.7%	-15.7%	+6.4%	...	+3.6%	72.3%
30/10/1969	Swindon	Con gain from Lab	+5.1%	-20.8%	+15.3%	...	+0.4%	69.8%
30/10/1969	Glasgow, Gorbals	Lab hold	-4.2%	-19.7%	...	+25.0%	-1.1%	58.5%
04/12/1969	Louth	Con hold	+11.6%	-17.0%	+1.0%	...	+4.4%	44.7%
04/12/1969	Wellingborough	Con gain from Lab	+6.8%	-12.6%	...	...	+5.8%	69.6%
12/03/1970	Bridgwater	Con hold	+11.1%	-6.2%	-4.9%	...	...	70.3%
19/03/1970	Ayrshire South	Lab hold	-7.2%	-13.2%	...	+20.4%	...	76.3%
GENERAL ELECTION 1970								
22/10/1970	St. Marylebone	Con hold	+1.3%	-2.3%	-2.4%	...	+3.4%	35.3%
19/11/1970	Enfield West	Con hold	-0.6%	-0.2%	-0.5%	...	+1.3%	49.9%
01/04/1971	Liverpool, Scotland	Lab hold	-6.8%	-3.5%	...	...	+10.3%	37.7%
01/04/1971	Arundel and Shoreham	Con hold	+3.3%	-2.0%	-1.6%	...	+0.3%	53.1%
27/05/1971	Southampton, Itchen	Lab hold	+31.6%	-11.8%	+5.4%	...	-25.2%	50.1%
27/05/1971	Bromsgrove	Lab gain from Con	-10.1%	+10.1%	...	...	...	67.0%
27/05/1971	Goole	Lab hold	-8.7%	+8.7%	...	...	...	55.6%
17/06/1971	Hayes and Harlington	Lab hold	-15.9%	+17.0%	...	...	-1.1%	42.3%
08/07/1971	Greenwich	Lab hold	-8.3%	+9.4%	-6.4%	...	+5.3%	39.2%
16/09/1971	Stirling and Falkirk	Lab hold	-15.9%	-4.2%	...	+20.1%	...	60.0%
23/09/1971	Widnes	Lab hold	-11.4%	+11.4%	...	...	...	45.4%
30/09/1971	Macclesfield	Con hold	-7.4%	+9.4%	-3.9%	...	+1.9%	75.8%
13/04/1972	Merthyr Tydfil	Lab gain from Ind Lab	-2.4%	+19.8%	+2.4%	+27.4%	-47.2%	79.5%
04/05/1972	Southwark	Lab gain from Ind Lab	-10.1%	+12.0%	...	...	-1.9%	32.1%
04/05/1972	Kingston upon Thames	Con hold	-4.3%	-0.7%	-0.4%	...	+5.4%	53.6%
26/10/1972	Rochdale	Lib gain from Lab	-10.3%	-10.5%	+11.9%	...	+8.9%	69.1%
07/12/1972	Sutton and Cheam	Lib gain from Con	-26.2%	-18.6%	+39.0%	...	+5.8%	56.3%
07/12/1972	Uxbridge	Con hold	-9.4%	-5.1%	+1.3%	...	+13.2%	54.3%
01/03/1973	Lincoln	Dem Lab gain from Lab	-21.5%	-27.7%	...	...	+49.2%	72.6%
01/03/1973	Chester-le-Street	Lab hold	-20.0%	-18.6%	+38.6%	...	...	72.3%
01/03/1973	Dundee East	Lab hold	-17.2%	-15.6%	+8.3%	+21.3%	+3.2%	70.6%
24/05/1973	West Bromwich	Lab hold	-19.4%	-2.0%	...	...	+21.4%	43.6%
24/05/1973	Westhoughton	Lab hold	-2.3%	+1.6%	...	...	+0.7%	63.4%
27/06/1973	Manchester, Exchange	Lab hold	-20.7%	-13.2%	+36.5%	...	-2.6%	43.7%
26/07/1973	Isle of Ely	Lib gain from Con	-24.9%	-13.4%	+38.3%	...	...	65.8%
26/07/1973	Ripon	Lib gain from Con	-20.2%	-12.3%	+30.4%	...	+2.1%	64.3%
08/11/1973	Hove	Con hold	-20.9%	-19.7%	+37.3%	...	+3.3%	62.4%
08/11/1973	Berwick-upon-Tweed	Lib gain from Con	-11.0%	-7.6%	+18.0%	...	+0.6%	75.0%
08/11/1973	Edinburgh North	Con hold	-14.1%	-13.1%	+8.3%	+18.9%	...	54.4%
08/11/1973	Glasgow, Govan	SNP gain from Lab	-16.5%	-21.8%	+8.2%	+31.6%	-1.5%	51.7%
GENERAL ELECTION 1974 (FEB)								
23/05/1974	Newham South	Lab hold	-1.1%	-3.4%	-2.3%	...	+6.8%	25.9%
GENERAL ELECTION 1974 (OCT)								
26/06/1975	Greenwich, Woolwich West	Con gain from Lab	+10.2%	-5.0%	-9.0%	...	+3.8%	62.3%
04/03/1976	Coventry NW	Lab hold	+5.8%	-4.2%	-4.4%	...	+2.8%	72.9%
11/03/1976	Sutton, Carshalton	Con hold	+6.3%	-10.4%	-1.7%	...	+5.8%	60.5%
11/03/1976	Wirral	Con hold	+16.0%	-11.3%	-6.2%	...	+1.5%	55.5%
24/06/1976	Rotherham	Lab hold	+12.6%	-13.9%	-5.5%	...	+6.8%	46.8%
15/07/1976	Thurrock	Lab hold	+11.0%	-10.3%	-7.8%	...	+7.1%	54.1%
04/11/1976	Newcastle upon Tyne	Lab hold	+3.2%	-24.2%	+17.3%	...	+3.7%	41.0%
04/11/1976	Walsall North	Con gain from ENP	+17.3%	-27.9%	-10.2%	...	+20.8%	51.5%
04/11/1976	Workington	Con gain from Lab	+15.9%	-10.4%	-5.5%	...	...	74.2%
02/12/1976	Cambridge	Con hold	+9.8%	-10.0%	-2.8%	...	+3.0%	49.2%
24/02/1977	City of London and	Con hold	+7.4%	-11.2%	-5.1%	...	+8.9%	39.6%
31/03/1977	Birmingham, Stetchford	Con gain from Lab	+15.6%	-19.6%	-6.6%	...	+10.6%	58.8%
28/04/1977	Ashfield	Con gain from Lab	+20.8%	-20.9%	-4.7%	...	+4.8%	59.7%
28/04/1977	Grimsby	Lab hold	+13.8%	-0.2%	-13.9%	...	+0.3%	70.2%
07/07/1977	Saffron Walden	Con hold	+12.0%	-11.4%	-5.1%	...	+4.5%	64.8%
18/08/1977	Birmingham, Ladywood	Lab hold	+6.3%	-11.4%	-8.5%	...	+13.6%	42.6%
24/11/1977	Bournemouth East	Con hold	+11.7%	-5.7%	-11.8%	...	+5.8%	42.6%
02/03/1978	Redbridge, Ilford North	Con gain from Lab	+9.4%	-4.5%	-11.6%	...	+6.7%	69.1%
13/04/1978	Glasgow, Garscadden	Lab hold	+5.6%	-5.5%	-5.0%	+1.7%	+3.2%	69.1%

RESEARCH PAPER 08/12

Date	Constituency	Result	change in share of the vote since previous election:					Turnout
			Con	Lab	L Dem	SNP/PC	Other	
20/04/1978	Lambeth Central	Lab hold	+8.2%	-10.7%	-7.2%	...	+9.7%	44.5%
27/04/1978	Epsom and Ewell	Con hold	+9.5%	-2.8%	-13.8%	...	+7.1%	54.9%
27/04/1978	Wycombe	Con hold	+13.7%	-2.3%	-12.0%	...	+0.6%	59.0%
31/05/1978	Hamilton	Lab hold	+3.5%	+3.5%	-1.4%	-5.6%	...	72.1%
13/07/1978	Manchester, Moss Side	Lab hold	+6.3%	-0.7%	-8.4%	...	+2.8%	51.6%
13/07/1978	Penistone	Lab hold	+8.9%	-8.7%	-0.2%	...	...	59.8%
26/10/1978	Pontefract and Castleford	Lab hold	+11.1%	-4.6%	-5.4%	...	-1.1%	48.9%
26/10/1978	Berwick and East Lothian	Lab hold	+2.6%	+4.1%	-2.3%	-4.4%	...	71.2%
01/03/1979	Clitheroe	Con hold	+17.0%	-2.8%	-14.2%	...	...	62.8%
01/03/1979	Knutsford	Con hold	+16.1%	-7.0%	-10.6%	...	+1.5%	57.2%
29/03/1979	Liverpool, Edge Hill	Lib gain from Lab	-11.4%	-28.1%	+36.8%	...	+2.7%	57.2%
GENERAL ELECTION 1979								
27/09/1979	Manchester Central	Lab hold	-10.1%	-0.1%	+8.9%	...	+1.3%	33.6%
13/12/1979	Hertfordshire SW	Con hold	-8.8%	+0.0%	+7.4%	...	+1.4%	48.3%
13/03/1980	Southend East	Con hold	-19.3%	+6.5%	+12.0%	...	+0.8%	62.5%
26/06/1980	Glasgow Central	Lab hold	-7.6%	-11.7%	...	+15.2%	+4.1%	42.8%
16/07/1981	Warrington	Lab hold	-21.7%	-13.2%	+33.3%	...	+1.6%	67.0%
22/10/1981	Croydon NW	Lib gain from Con	-18.9%	-14.1%	+29.5%	...	+3.5%	62.8%
26/11/1981	Crosby	SDP gain from Con	-17.2%	-15.9%	+33.8%	...	-0.7%	69.3%
25/03/1982	Glasgow, Hillhead	SDP gain from Con	-14.5%	-8.5%	+19.0%	+1.2%	+2.8%	76.4%
27/05/1982	Beaconsfield	Con hold	+0.1%	-9.7%	+9.7%	...	-0.1%	53.9%
03/06/1982	Merton, Mitcham and Morden	Con gain from Ind SNP	-0.5%	-20.8%	+20.5%	...	+0.8%	48.5%
24/06/1982	Coatbridge and Airdrie	Lab hold	-1.3%	-5.8%	+8.2%	-1.1%	...	56.3%
16/09/1982	Gower	Lab hold	-8.4%	-9.7%	+16.0%	+1.5%	+0.6%	65.4%
28/10/1982	Southwark, Peckham	Lab hold	-15.7%	-9.5%	+25.2%	...	+0.0%	38.0%
28/10/1982	Birmingham, Northfield	Lab gain from Con	-9.8%	-8.8%	+18.0%	...	+0.6%	55.0%
02/12/1982	Glasgow, Queens's Park	Lab hold	-12.0%	-8.4%	+9.4%	+10.3%	+0.7%	47.0%
24/02/1983	Southwark, Bermondsey	Lib gain from Ind Lab	-19.4%	-37.5%	+50.9%	...	+6.0%	57.7%
24/03/1983	Darlington	Lab hold	-8.5%	-6.0%	+14.3%	...	+0.2%	80.0%
GENERAL ELECTION 1983								
28/07/1983	Penrith and The Border	Con hold	-12.8%	-5.9%	+16.7%	...	+2.0%	55.7%
01/03/1984	Chesterfield	Lab hold	-17.2%	-1.6%	+15.2%	...	+3.6%	76.9%
03/05/1984	Stafford	Con hold	-10.8%	+3.7%	+7.1%	...	+0.0%	65.6%
03/05/1984	Surrey SW	Con hold	-10.4%	-1.5%	+11.3%	...	+0.6%	61.7%
03/05/1984	Cynon Valley	Lab hold	-6.8%	+2.8%	-0.7%	+1.8%	+2.9%	65.7%
14/06/1984	Portsmouth South	SDP gain from Con	-15.7%	+3.9%	+12.2%	...	-0.4%	54.5%
13/12/1984	Enfield, Southgate	Con hold	-8.5%	-5.9%	+12.2%	...	+2.2%	50.6%
04/07/1985	Brecon and Radnor	Lib gain from Con	-20.5%	+9.4%	+11.4%	-0.6%	+0.3%	79.4%
05/12/1985	Tyne Bridge	Lab hold	-14.1%	+1.3%	+11.4%	...	+1.4%	38.1%
10/04/1986	Hammersmith and Fulham	Lab gain from Con	-11.3%	+10.4%	+0.5%	...	+0.4%	70.8%
08/05/1986	Derbyshire West	Con hold	-16.4%	+2.7%	+12.4%	...	+1.3%	71.9%
08/05/1986	Ryedale	Lib gain from Con	-17.9%	-1.9%	+19.8%	...	...	67.3%
17/07/1986	Newcastle-under-Lyme	Lab hold	-17.4%	-1.2%	+17.2%	...	+1.4%	62.2%
13/01/1986	Knowsley North	Lab hold	-13.8%	-8.2%	+19.8%	...	+2.2%	57.3%
26/02/1987	Greenwich	SDP gain from Lab	-23.6%	-4.5%	+27.9%	...	+0.2%	68.2%
12/03/1987	Truro	Lib hold	-6.5%	+2.5%	+3.1%	...	+0.9%	70.3%
GENERAL ELECTION 1987								
14/07/1988	Kensington	Con hold	-5.9%	+4.9%	...	...	+5.2%	51.6%
14/07/1988	Glasgow, Govan	SNP gain from Lab	-4.5%	-27.9%	...	+38.4%	+3.0%	60.2%
10/11/1988	Epping Forest	Con hold	-21.5%	+0.4%	+15.2%	...	+4.8%	49.1%
15/12/1988	Pontypridd	Lab hold	-6.5%	+1.1%	...	+21.2%	+5.5%	62.0%
23/02/1989	Richmond (Yorks)	Con hold	-26.0%	-4.1%	-5.0%	...	+3.4%	64.2%
23/02/1989	Vale of Glamorgan	Lab gain from Con	-10.5%	+14.2%	...	+1.7%	+6.3%	70.7%
04/05/1989	Glasgow Central	Lab hold	-5.4%	-9.9%	...	+20.3%	+3.0%	52.9%
15/06/1989	Vauxhall	Lab hold	-10.2%	+2.6%	-0.7%	...	+9.7%	44.4%
15/06/1989	Mid Staffordshire	Lab gain from Con	-18.3%	+24.3%	-12.0%	...	+0.4%	77.5%
17/05/1990	Bootle	Lab hold	-11.0%	+8.5%	...	...	+5.0%	50.6%
24/05/1990	Knowsley South	Lab hold	-6.5%	+4.4%	-5.4%	...	+2.4%	33.4%
27/09/1990	Eastbourne	LD gain from Con	-19.0%	-3.8%	+21.1%	...	+3.4%	60.7%
18/10/1990	Bootle	Lab hold	+0.1%	+3.0%	-5.1%	...	+4.1%	39.7%
08/11/1990	Bradford North	Lab hold	-22.7%	+8.8%	+7.6%	...	+12.5%	53.4%
29/11/1990	Paisley North	Lab hold	-0.9%	-11.5%	...	+16.5%	+5.1%	53.7%
29/11/1990	Paisley South	Lab hold	-1.3%	-10.0%	...	+13.5%	+7.9%	55.0%
07/03/1991	Ribble Valley	LD gain from Con	-22.3%	-8.3%	+27.1%	...	+1.5%	71.1%

Date	Constituency	Result	change in share of the vote since previous election:					Turnout
			Con	Lab	L Dem	SNP/PC	Other	
04/04/1991	Neath	Lab hold	-7.5%	-11.6%	...	+17.0%	...	63.7%
16/05/1991	Monmouth	Lab gain from Con	-13.5%	+11.6%	+0.8%	-0.2%	...	75.8%
04/07/1991	Liverpool Walton	Lab hold	-12.2%	+0.1%	+14.8%	...	...	74.9%
07/11/1991	Hemsworth	Lab hold	-6.7%	-0.7%	+4.3%	...	...	42.6%
29/08/1991	Kincardine and Deeside	LD gain from Con	-10.1%	-8.2%	+12.7%	+4.7%	...	64.6%
07/11/1991	Langbaugh	Lab gain from Con	-2.6%	+4.5%	-3.8%	...	...	65.3%
GENERAL ELECTION 1992								
06/05/1993	Newbury	LD gain from Con	-29.0%	-4.0%	+27.8%	...	+5.2%	71.3%
29/07/1993	Christchurch	LD gain from Con	-32.2%	-9.4%	+38.6%	...	+3.0%	74.2%
05/05/1994	Rotherham	Lab hold	-13.9%	-8.3%	+17.4%	...	+4.8%	43.7%
09/06/1994	Barking	Lab hold	-23.5%	+20.5%	-2.5%	...	+5.5%	38.3%
09/06/1994	Eastleigh	LD gain from Con	-26.5%	+6.8%	+16.3%	...	+3.4%	58.7%
09/06/1994	Newham North East	Lab hold	-16.0%	+16.6%	-7.0%	...	+6.3%	34.8%
09/06/1994	Bradford South	Lab hold	-20.7%	+7.5%	+10.2%	...	+3.0%	44.2%
09/06/1994	Dagenham	Lab hold	-26.4%	+19.7%	-3.1%	...	+9.7%	37.0%
30/06/1994	Monklands East	Lab hold	-13.7%	-11.5%	-2.0%	+26.9%	+0.4%	70.0%
15/12/1994	Dudley West	Lab gain from Con	-30.2%	+28.1%	-2.8%	...	+5.0%	47.0%
16/02/1995	Islwyn	Lab hold	-10.9%	-5.1%	+4.9%	+8.7%	+2.4%	45.1%
25/05/1995	Perth and Kinross	SNP gain from Con	-18.7%	+10.5%	+0.4%	+4.4%	+3.4%	62.1%
27/07/1995	Littleborough & Saddleworth	LD gain from Con	-20.7%	+13.9%	+2.7%	...	+4.1%	64.4%
01/02/1996	Hemsworth	Lab hold	-9.8%	+1.0%	-3.7%	...	+12.5%	39.5%
11/04/1996	South East Staffordshire	Lab gain from Con	-22.2%	+22.0%	-4.9%	...	+5.1%	59.6%
11/10/1996	Barnsley East	Lab hold	-6.9%	-0.7%	-0.3%	...	+7.9%	33.6%
27/02/1997	Wirral South	Lab gain from Con	-16.5%	18.0%	-3.0%	...	+1.5%	73.0%
GENERAL ELECTION 1997								
31/07/1997	Uxbridge	Con hold	+7.6%	-2.5%	-5.3%	...	+0.2%	55.5%
06/11/1997	Paisley South	Lab hold	-1.7%	-13.4%	+1.6%	+9.1%	+4.3%	43.1%
20/11/1997	Beckenham	Con hold	-1.2%	+4.0%	+0.2%	...	-3.1%	43.6%
20/11/1997	Winchester	LD win	-13.6%	-8.8%	+26.0%	...	-3.6%	68.7%
10/06/1999	Leeds Central	Lab hold	-1.4%	-21.4%	+19.6%	...	+3.2%	19.6%
22/07/1999	Eddisbury	Con hold	+2.3%	+0.0%	+0.6%	...	-2.9%	51.4%
23/09/1999	Hamilton South	Lab hold	-1.4%	-28.7%	-1.9%	+16.4%	+15.7%	41.3%
23/09/1999	Wigan	Lab hold	+1.1%	-9.0%	+3.3%	...	+4.6%	25.0%
25/11/1999	Kensington and Chelsea	Con hold	+2.8%	-5.9%	-5.9%	...	+9.1%	29.7%
03/02/2000	Ceredigion	PC hold	+1.6%	-9.9%	+6.5%	+1.1%	+0.6%	45.6%
04/05/2000	Romsey	LD gain from Con	-4.0%	-14.8%	+21.1%	...	-2.3%	55.5%
22/06/2000	Tottenham	Lab hold	+0.3%	-15.8%	+8.3%	...	+7.1%	25.4%
23/11/2000	Glasgow, Anniesland	Lab hold	-0.6%	-9.7%	+0.8%	+3.7%	+5.8%	38.4%
23/11/2000	Preston	Lab hold	+3.1%	-15.1%	+1.5%	...	+10.5%	29.6%
23/11/2000	West Bromwich West	Lab win	Not Comparable					27.6%
21/12/2000	Falkirk West	Lab hold	-3.8%	-15.8%	-2.0%	+16.5%	+5.1%	36.2%
GENERAL ELECTION 2001								
15/10/2001	Ipswich	Lab hold	-2.1%	-8.0%	+7.2%	...	+2.8%	40.2%
14/02/2002	Ogmore	Lab hold	-3.7%	-10.1%	-4.0%	+6.8%	+11.0%	35.2%
18/09/2003	Brent East	LD gain from Lab	-2.1%	-29.4%	+28.6%	...	+2.9%	36.2%
15/07/2004	Birmingham Hodge Hill	Lab hold	-3.3%	-29.6%	+25.8%	...	+0.9%	37.9%
15/07/2004	Leicester South	LD gain from Lab	-3.3%	-25.2%	+17.7%	...	-1.9%	40.6%
GENERAL ELECTION 2005								
14/07/2005	Cheadle	LD hold	+2.0%	-4.2%	+3.3%	...	-1.1%	55.2%
29/09/2005	Livingston	LAB hold	-3.4%	-9.3%	-0.6%	+11.1%	+2.2%	38.6%
09/02/2006	Dunfermline & W Fife	LD gain from Lab	-2.6%	-17.4%	+15.4%	+1.8%	+2.8%	48.7%
29/06/2006	Blaenau Gwent	IND hold	+1.4%	+4.7%	+1.2%	+4.1%	-11.4%	51.7%
29/06/2006	Bromley & Chislehurst	CON hold	-11.1%	-15.6%	+17.5%	...	+9.2%	40.5%
19/07/2007	Ealing, Southall	LAB hold	+0.9%	-7.3%	+3.2%	...	+3.2%	42.9%
19/07/2007	Sedgefield	LAB hold	+0.2%	-14.1%	+8.0%	...	+5.8%	41.5%

Sources: Chronology of British Parliamentary By-elections 1833-1987, F.W.S. Craig
British Electoral Facts 1832-2006
House of Commons Library

V European elections

Elections to the European Parliament were last held in the UK on 10 June 2004.

The first direct elections to the European Parliament took place in June 1979 when nine Member States went to the polls to elect members of a single Parliament. Previously, members of the European Parliament had been delegates from national parliaments. Direct elections have taken place at five-yearly intervals, in 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999 and 2004.

Table 14 details the number of UK MEPs by party since 1979. In 1994, the Liberal Democrats gained their first European Parliament seats – Cornwall & West Plymouth and Somerset & North Devon – and the SNP increased their number of MEPs from one to two. The change in the electoral system in 1999 helped the Liberal Democrats to increase their representation, from 2 to 10. The SNP remained with 2 MEPs, and other parties (Plaid Cymru, UKIP and the Green Party) gained their first UK MEPs.

In 2004 the number of UK MEPs was reduced from 87 to 78 as the number of EU Members States rose to 27. The number of Labour MEPs fell as the Liberal Democrats and the UK Independence Party increased their representation in the European Parliament.

Table 14

UK MEPs by party - 1979 to 2004

	1979	1984	1989	1994	1999	2004
Great Britain						
Labour	17	32	45	62	29	19
Conservative	60	45	32	18	36	27
Liberal Democrat	...	...	...	2	10	12
Scottish National	1	1	1	2	2	2
Plaid Cymru	...	...	...	...	2	1
Green	...	...	...	...	2	2
UKIP	...	...	...	...	3	12
Total	78	78	78	82	84	75
Northern Ireland						
Democratic Unionist	1	1	1	1	1	1
Sinn Fein	...	...	...	...	...	1
SDLP	1	1	1	1	1	...
Ulster Unionist	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	3	3	3	3	3	3
Total UK	81	81	81	85	87	78

UK MEPS by party 1979-2004

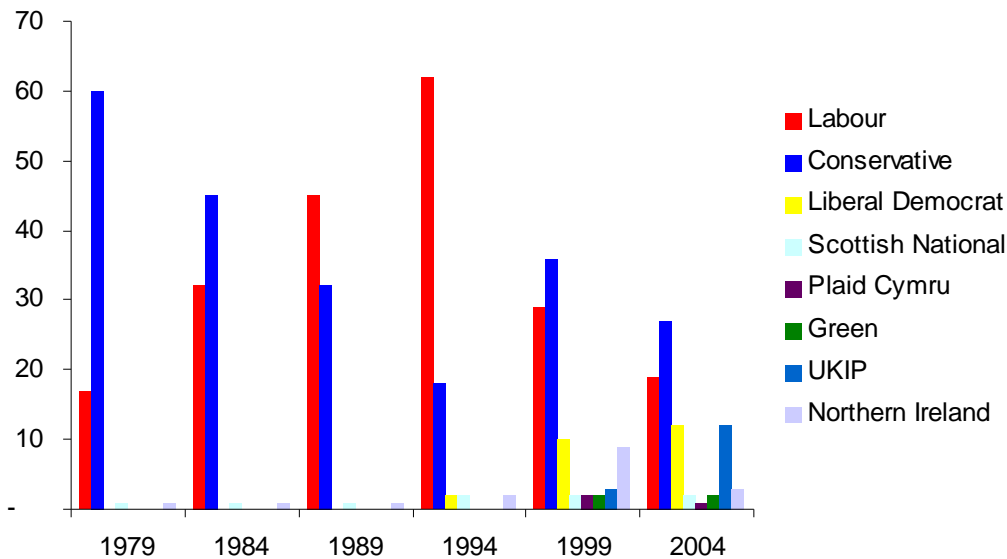


Table 15 shows the number of votes for each party at European Parliament elections in the UK since 1979. In Great Britain until 1994 elections were held on a first-past-the-post basis, with constituencies comprising a number of Westminster seats. In 1999 and 2004 elections were held under a regional list system. In Northern Ireland elections have been on the basis of a system of single transferable vote. The table below reports first preference votes only.

Table 15

**European Election Results:
Votes by Party 1979 to 2004**

	Votes					
	1979	1984	1989	1994	1999	2004
Great Britain						
Labour	4,253,207	4,865,261	6,153,661	6,753,881	3,578,203	3,718,683
Conservative	6,508,493	5,426,821	5,331,098	4,268,539	2,803,820	4,397,087
Liberal Democrat (a)	1,691,531	1,358,145	(c) 944,861	2,557,887	1,266,549	2,452,327
Scottish National	247,836	230,594	406,686	487,237	185,235	231,505
Plaid Cymru	83,399	103,031	115,062	162,478	268,528	159,888
Green (b)	17,953	70,853	2,292,718	494,561	625,378	1,028,283
SDP	...	1,233,490	(c) 75,886	...	...	...
UKIP	...	...	...	150,251	696,055	2,660,768
BNP	...	...	...	...	102,644	808,201
Respect	...	...	...	...	...	252,216
Others	71,433	24,678	41,295	417,888	475,841	749,645
Total	12,873,852	13,312,873	15,361,267	15,292,722	10,002,253	16,458,603

	Votes					
	1979	1984	1989	1994	1999	2004
Northern Ireland						
(first preference votes)						
Democratic Unionist	170,688	230,251	160,110	163,246	192,762	175,761
SDLP	140,622	151,399	136,335	161,992	190,731	87,559
Ulster Unionist	125,169	147,169	118,785	133,459	119,507	91,164
Sinn Fein	...	91,476	48,914	55,215	117,643	144,541
Alliance	39,026	34,046	27,905	23,157	14,391	...
Green	...	...	...	...	...	4,810
Others	96,734	30,976	42,762	22,798	43,775	45,442
Total	572,239	685,317	534,811	559,867	678,809	549,277

	Votes %					
	1979	1984	1989	1994	1999	2004
Great Britain						
Labour	33%	37%	40%	44%	36%	23%
Conservative	51%	41%	35%	28%	28%	27%
Liberal Democrat (a)	13%	10%	6%	17%	13%	15%
Scottish National	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	1%
Plaid Cymru	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	1%
Green (b)	0%	1%	15%	3%	6%	6%
SDP	...	9%	0%	...	...	...
UKIP	...	...	...	1%	7%	16%
BNP	...	...	...	...	1%	5%
Respect	...	...	...	...	...	2%
Other	1%	0%	0%	3%	5%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Northern Ireland						
(first preference votes)						
Democratic Unionist	30%	34%	30%	29%	28%	32%
SDLP	25%	22%	25%	29%	28%	16%
Ulster Unionist	22%	21%	22%	24%	18%	17%
Sinn Fein	...	13%	9%	10%	17%	26%
Alliance	7%	5%	5%	4%	2%	...
Green	...	...	...	...	...	1%
Others	17%	5%	8%	4%	6%	8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

(a) SLD in 1989/Liberal SDP Alliance in 1984/Liberal Party in 1979

(b) Ecology Party in 1979 and 1984

(c) The Liberal/SDP Alliance total is 2,591,635 in 1984

Sources: Library Research Paper 04/50

Craig & Mackie *Europe Votes 3*

Home Office Statistical Bulletin 26/84 June 1984

Home Office *European Assembly election expenses 1979*

VI Elections to devolved legislatures

A. National Assembly for Wales

The third set of elections to the National Assembly for Wales took place on 3 May 2007. Previous elections were in 1999 and 2003.

The electoral system for electing members of the National Assembly is known as the *Additional Member System*. Voters have two ballots. The first is used to elect 40 constituency Assembly Members (AMs) under the traditional first-past-the-post system. The second is used to elect four AMs from five electoral regions. These additional members are elected so that the total representation from each geographical area, including those members elected under first-past-the-post, corresponds more closely to the share of the votes cast for each political party in the region.

Following a review by the Boundary Commission for Wales new constituencies came into force for the 2007 Assembly elections. The most significant boundary changes took place in North Wales where three new constituencies were established (Aberconwy, Arfon, and Dwyfor Meirionnydd) in place of the constituencies of Conwy, Caernarfon, and Meirionnydd Nant Conwy. The North Wales and Mid and West Wales electoral regions were reconfigured to reflect changes to constituency boundaries. These constituency boundaries will be used for the next UK parliamentary elections.

In 2007, Labour secured the highest share of the vote (30.9%) down from 38.3% in 2003. The Conservatives polled 21.9%, up from 19.5%, Plaid Cymru 21.7%, up from 20.5%, and the Liberal Democrats 13.3%, down slightly from 13.4%. With 26 of the 60 seats, Labour is the largest party in the Assembly, but it does not have an overall majority.

Average turnout across all the regions and constituencies was 43.5%, up by 5% points compared to 2003.

Following the elections, the composition of the Assembly is 32 men and 28 women. The number of women Assembly Members is two fewer than after the 2003 elections.

The first minority ethnic Assembly Member, Mohammad Asghar (Plaid Cymru), was elected from the regional list to represent South Wales East.

Table 16 provides a summary of the results for the 1999, 2003 and 2007 elections. Detailed analysis of the Welsh Assembly elections is available in Library Research Paper 07/45 *National Assembly for Wales elections: 3 May 2007*.

Table 16

National Assembly for Wales elections: 2003 and 2007

	Number of Votes			% share of votes				Seats won			2003-2007
	1999	2003	2007	1999	2003	2007	change	1999	2003	2007	change
Constituencies											
Labour	384,671	340,515	314,925	37.6%	40.0%	32.2%	-7.8%	27	30	24	-6
Plaid Cymru	290,572	180,183	219,121	28.4%	21.2%	22.4%	+1.2%	9	5	7	+2
Conservative	162,133	169,432	218,730	15.8%	19.9%	22.4%	+2.5%	1	1	5	+4
Liberal Democrat	137,857	120,220	144,450	13.5%	14.1%	14.8%	+0.7%	3	3	3	+0
Others	47,992	40,053	80,906	4.7%	4.8%	8.3%	+3.5%	...	1	1	+0
Total	1,023,225	850,403	978,132	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	...	40	40	40	...
Regional lists											
Labour	361,657	310,658	288,954	35.4%	36.6%	29.6%	-7.0%	1	0	2	+2
Plaid Cymru	312,048	167,653	204,757	30.5%	19.7%	21.0%	+1.3%	8	7	8	+1
Conservative	168,206	162,725	209,153	16.5%	19.2%	21.5%	+2.3%	8	10	7	-3
Liberal Democrat	128,008	108,013	114,500	12.5%	12.7%	11.7%	-1.0%	3	3	3	+0
Others	51,938	100,503	157,520	5.1%	11.8%	16.2%	+4.4%	...	...	...	...
Total	1,021,857	849,552	974,884	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	...	20	20	20	...
Total											
Labour	746,328	651,173	603,879	36.5%	38.3%	30.9%	-7.4%	28	30	26	-4
Plaid Cymru	602,620	347,836	423,878	29.5%	20.5%	21.7%	+1.2%	17	12	15	+3
Conservative	330,339	332,157	427,883	16.2%	19.5%	21.9%	+2.4%	9	11	12	+1
Liberal Democrat	265,865	228,233	258,950	13.0%	13.4%	13.3%	-0.2%	6	6	6	+0
Other	99,930	140,556	238,426	4.9%	8.3%	12.2%	+3.9%		1	1	+0
Total	2,045,082	1,699,955	1,953,016	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	...	60	60	60	...

B. Scottish Parliament elections

The third elections to the Scottish Parliament were held on 3 May 2007 simultaneously with the local authority elections.

Scottish Parliament elections are conducted under the Additional Member System. Voters are given two ballots: one ballot is used to elect each of 73 constituency Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) under the first-past-the-post system; the second ballot is used to elect an additional 56 MSPs, seven MSPs from each of eight electoral regions. These additional members are elected so that the total representation from each area, including those Members elected under first-past-the-post, corresponds more closely to the share of votes cast for each party in the region.

The number of Scottish Westminster constituencies was reduced from 72 to 59 for the 2005 General Election. The 2007 Scottish Parliament elections used the former (pre-2005) Westminster constituency boundaries. However, for the 2007 elections, the former constituency of Orkney and Shetland was divided into two. Consequently the total number of Scottish Parliament constituencies is 73.

The Scottish National Party secured the highest share of the vote (32.0%). Labour polled 30.6%, the Conservatives 15.2%, and the Liberal Democrats 13.7%.

With 47 of the 129 seats, the SNP is the largest party in the Scottish Parliament, although it failed to secure an overall majority of seats. The SNP won 20 seats more than in the previous elections in 2003. The Greens had five fewer seats, Labour four fewer, and the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats one fewer each.

Turnout was 51.7% in the constituency ballot and 52.4% in the regional ballot, compared to 49.4% for both ballots in 2003.

Following the 2007 elections the composition of the Parliament is 86 men and 43 women. The first minority ethnic MSP, Bashir Ahmad (SNP) was elected from the Glasgow regional list.⁵

There were a significant number of spoilt ballot papers in the 2007 elections and this became an issue of comment and is now the subject of an independent review into the 2007 Scottish elections led by Ron Gould.⁶ 85,643 ballots in the constituency vote were rejected, and a further 60,454 ballots in the regional vote. Edinburgh East and Musselburgh recorded the highest number of spoilt ballots in the constituency vote (2,521) and Dumfries recorded the highest number of spoilt ballots in the regional vote (1,191).

⁵ Election 2007 Spice briefing 07/21

⁶ <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/>

Table 17 provides a summary of the results for the 1999, 2007 and 2003 elections. Detailed analysis of the Scottish Parliament elections is available in Library Research Paper 07/46 Scottish Parliament *elections: 3 May 2007*.

Table 17

Scottish Parliament elections: 2003 and 2007

	Number of Votes			% Share of Vote				Seats won			2003-2007 change
	1999	2003	2007	1999	2003	2007	change	1999	2003	2007	
Constituencies											
Labour	908,346	663,585	648,374	38.8%	34.5%	32.1%	-2.4%	53	46	37	-9
Scottish National Party	672,768	455,772	664,227	28.7%	23.7%	32.9%	+9.2%	7	9	21	+12
Conservative	364,425	318,279	334,742	15.6%	16.6%	16.6%	+0.0%	0	3	4	+1
Liberal Democrat	333,179	294,347	326,232	14.2%	15.3%	16.2%	+0.9%	12	13	11	-2
Others	63,770	189,636	43,402	2.7%	9.9%	2.2%	-7.7%	1	2	0	-2
Total	2,342,488	1,921,619	2,016,977	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	...	73	73	73	...
Regional lists											
Labour	786,818	561,879	595,415	33.6%	29.4%	29.2%	-0.3%	3	4	9	+5
Scottish National Party	638,644	399,659	633,401	27.3%	20.9%	31.0%	+10.1%	28	18	26	+8
Conservative	359,109	296,929	284,005	15.4%	15.6%	13.9%	-1.6%	18	15	13	-2
Liberal Democrat	290,760	225,810	230,671	12.4%	11.8%	11.3%	-0.5%	5	4	5	+1
Scottish Green Party	84,023	132,138	82,584	3.6%	6.9%	4.0%	-2.9%	1	7	2	-5
Scottish Socialist Party	46,714	128,126	12,731	2.0%	6.7%	0.6%	-6.1%	1	6	0	-6
Scottish Senior Citizens Unity Party	...	28,966	38,743	...	1.5%	1.9%	+0.4%	...	1	0	-1
Socialist Labour Party	55,153	21,657	14,244	2.4%	1.1%	0.7%	-0.4%	0	0	0	+0
United Kingdom Independence Party	...	11,969	8,197	...	0.6%	0.4%	-0.2%	...	0	0	+0
Others	77,693	101,461	142,058	3.3%	5.3%	7.0%	+1.6%	0	1	1	+0
Total	2,338,914	1,908,594	2,042,049	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	...	56	56	56	...
Total seats won											
Labour	1,695,164	1,225,464	1,243,789	36.2%	32.0%	30.6%	-1.4%	56	50	46	-4
Scottish National Party	1,311,412	855,431	1,297,628	28.0%	22.3%	32.0%	+9.6%	35	27	47	+20
Conservative	723,534	615,208	618,747	15.5%	16.1%	15.2%	-0.8%	18	18	17	-1
Liberal Democrat	623,939	520,157	556,903	13.3%	13.6%	13.7%	+0.1%	17	17	16	-1
Others	327,353	613,953	341,959	7.0%	16.0%	8.4%	-7.6%	3	17	3	-14
Total	4,681,402	3,830,213	4,059,026	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	...	129	129	129	...

C. Northern Ireland Assembly

The Northern Ireland Assembly was first elected in July 1998, but devolution was suspended on 14 October 2002 under the terms of the *Northern Ireland Act 2000*.

Assembly elections next took place on 26 November 2003. The Assembly elected in 2003 finally convened in May 2006 solely for the purpose of choosing the Northern Ireland ministers, but without any legislative powers. The Assembly was dissolved on 30 January 2007. The next elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly took place on 7 March 2007.

Table 18 shows the results of the elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly in 1998, 2003 and 2007. Voting in the election was by proportional representation using the *Single Transferable Vote system*.

Table 18

Northern Ireland Assembly elections: 2003 and 2007

Party	First Preference Votes			% Votes			2003-2007	Seats			2003-2007
	1998	2003	2007	1998	2003	2007	change	1998	2003	2007	change
SDLP	177,963	117,547	105,164	22.0%	17.0%	15.2%	-1.8%	24	18	16	-2
Ulster Unionist	172,225	156,931	103,145	21.3%	22.7%	14.9%	-7.7%	28	27	18	-9
Democratic Unionist	146,917	177,944	207,721	18.1%	25.7%	30.1%	4.4%	20	30	36	6
Sinn Féin	142,858	162,758	180,573	17.6%	23.5%	26.2%	2.6%	18	24	28	4
Alliance	52,636	25,372	36,139	6.5%	3.7%	5.2%	1.6%	6	6	7	1
United Kingdom Unionists	36,541	5,700	10,452	4.5%	0.8%	1.5%	0.7%	5	1	0	-1
Progressive Unionist Party	20,634	8,032	3,822	2.5%	1.2%	0.6%	-0.6%	2	1	1	0
Others	60,471	37,744	43,297	7.5%	5.5%	6.3%	0.8%	5	1	2	1
Total	810,245	692,028	690,313	100%	100%	100%	...	108	108	108	...

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-2006, Rallings and Thrasher*
 CAIN web service (cain.ulst.ac.uk)
 House of Commons Library

In 2007:

- The Democratic Unionist Party won 36 (33%) of the 108 seats, six more than in 2003. The DUP won the highest share (30%) of the first preference votes.
- Sinn Féin, gained four more seats than in 2003 and secured the second highest share of first preference votes, 26%.
- The UUP lost ground in 2007. In 2003 the UUP polled 23% of first preferences, falling to just under 15% in 2007. The UUP's of 18 seats was down by nine on 2003.
- The SDLP also won around 15% of first preference votes, which was slightly down on its 17% in 2003. The party had two fewer seats compared to 2003, and two fewer seats than the UUP in spite of receiving a slightly larger proportion of first preference votes.
- Turnout was slightly lower than in the 2005 General Election (62.9%) and the 2003 Assembly election (63.1%).

Elections were held to the Northern Ireland House of Commons (Stormont) from its creation in 1921 to its prorogation in 1972. Of the 52 Members elected two-thirds or more were Unionist

Table 18a

Northern Ireland House of Commons 1921-1969

Election	Unionist	Ulster Unionist Association/ Other Unionist ¹	Northern Ireland Labour Party	Independent Labour ²	Nationalist/ Republicans ³	Liberal Party	Others	Total
1921	40	0	0	0	12	0	0	52
1925	32	4	3	0	12	0	1	52
1929	37	3	1	0	11	0	0	52
1933	36	3	2	0	11	0	0	52
1938	39	3	1	1	8	0	0	52
1945	33	2	2	3	10	0	2	52
1949	37	2	0	2	9	0	2	52
1953	38	1	0	3	9	0	1	52
1958	37	0	4	2	8	0	1	52
1962	34	0	4	3	9	1	1	52
1965	36	0	2	2	9	1	2	52
1969	36 ⁴	3	2	2	6	0	3	52

¹ Including Independent Unionist, Progressive Unionists, Protestant Unionists and Independent O'Neill Unionists.

² Including Independent Labour, Commonwealth Labour, Federation of Labour, Irish Labour, Republican Labour and Socialist Republican.

³ Including Nationalists, Republicans, Sinn Fein, Fianna Fail and Anti-Partitionists.

⁴ 24 pro-O'Neill and 12 anti-O'Neill

Source: *Northern Ireland Parliamentary Election Results 1921-1972* Sidney Elliott

D. Greater London Assembly

The London Assembly has 25 Members. There are 14 constituency members topped-up by 11 London-wide members. Voters have two votes: one for a constituency member and another for a party or independent candidate that is used to determine the number of London-wide Assembly members.

In 2004, the Conservative Party won nine GLA seats, the Labour Party seven, the Liberal Democrats five and the Green Party two. The UK Independence Party gained its first two seats in the Assembly. Turnout for the GLA elections in 2004 was 36%.

Table 19

Greater London Assembly Elections: 4 May 2000 and 10 June 2004
Votes for Constituency Assembly Members - London totals

Party of candidates	Number of Votes		% Share of Vote		Seats won		
	2000	2004	2000	2004	2000	2004	Change
Conservative Party	526,707	562,047	33.2%	31.2%	8	9	+1
Labour Party	501,296	444,808	31.6%	24.7%	6	5	-1
Liberal Democrats	299,998	332,237	18.9%	18.4%	0	0	0
Green Party	162,457	138,242	10.2%	7.7%	0	0	0
UK Independence Party	2,115	181,146	0.1%	10.0%	0	0	0
Respect	...	82,301	...	4.6%	...	0	0
Christian Peoples Alliance	...	43,322	...	2.4%	...	0	0
Other	93,497	19,064	5.9%	1.1%	0	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,586,070</i>	<i>1,803,167</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>14</i>	

Votes for London-wide Assembly Members - London totals

Party	Number of Votes		% Share of Vote		Seats won		
	2000	2004	2000	2004	2000	2004	Change
Conservative Party	481,053	533,696	29.0%	28.5%	1	0	-1
Labour Party	502,874	468,247	30.3%	25.0%	3	2	-1
Liberal Democrats	245,555	316,218	14.8%	16.9%	4	5	+1
Green Party	183,910	160,445	11.1%	8.6%	3	2	-1
UK Independence Party	34,054	156,780	2.1%	8.4%	0	2	+2
British National Party	47,670	90,365	2.9%	4.8%	0	0	0
Respect	...	87,533	...	4.7%	...	0	0
Christian Peoples Alliance	55,192	54,914	3.3%	2.9%	0	0	0
Others	109,322	4,968	6.6%	0.3%	0	0	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,659,630</i>	<i>1,873,166</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>	

Composition of London Assembly - 2000 and 2004

Party	2000	2004	Change
Conservative Party	9	9	0
Labour Party	9	7	-2
Liberal Democrats	4	5	+1
Green Party	3	2	-1
UK Independence Party	0	2	+2
<i>Total</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>...</i>

VII Local Elections

A. Council Elections

As the areas holding elections change from year to year, the actual votes cast do not fully reflect the pattern of voting that would occur if elections were held in all areas. However, estimates of national equivalent shares of the vote for Great Britain are calculated each year. These are shown in Table 20. The 2000 local elections were the

first since 1992 in which the Conservatives gained a higher estimated national share than Labour.

Table 20

Estimated national equivalent vote at Local Government elections

1979-2007: Great Britain

	Con	Lab	Lib
1979	45%	38%	14%
1980	40%	42%	13%
1981	38%	41%	17%
1982	40%	29%	27%
1983	39%	36%	20%
1984	38%	37%	21%
1985	32%	39%	26%
1986	34%	37%	26%
1987	38%	32%	27%
1988	39%	38%	18%
1989	36%	42%	19%
1990	33%	44%	17%
1991	35%	38%	22%
1992	46%	30%	20%
1993	31%	39%	25%
1994	28%	40%	27%
1995	25%	47%	23%
1996	29%	43%	24%
1997	31%	44%	17%
1998	33%	37%	25%
1999	34%	36%	25%
2000	38%	30%	26%
2001	33%	42%	19%
2002	34%	33%	25%
2003	35%	30%	27%
2004	37%	26%	27%
2005	33%	36%	23%
2006	39%	26%	25%
2007	40%	26%	24%

Sources: Rallings and Thrasher, *British electoral facts 1832-2006*
 Rallings and Thrasher, *Local elections handbook*, various
 Local Government Elections Centre

Local elections in 1979, 1997, 2001 and 2005 were held on same day as the general election, and general election results are shown. These figures are emboldened

Following the 2007 local elections, the **Conservatives** have almost 9,500 councillors, 43% of the Great Britain total and their highest number since 1985. The number of Conservative councillors has risen consistently since 1997. The Conservatives control 206 councils, 47% of the total, including 68% of county councils and 61% of shire district councils in England. The Conservatives do not control any of the 32 unitary authorities in Scotland.

Labour have almost 5,500 councillors, 25% of the Great Britain total and their lowest number since the reorganisation of local government in 1973. The number of Labour councillors has fallen consistently since 1998. Labour control 58 councils, 13% of the Great Britain total. They control 36% of both Metropolitan Borough councils and Welsh unitary authorities, but only 6% of Scottish councils and 5% of shire districts in England.

The **Liberal Democrats** have just over 4,400 councillors, 20% of the Great Britain total. The number of Liberal Democrat councillors fell in both 2006 and 2007, and is 13% lower than the number of councillors in 1996. The party controls 29 councils, 7% of the Great Britain total. They do not control any of the unitary authorities in Scotland or Wales.

Table 20a

Party affiliation of councillors 1973-2007

Great Britain

	Number					Total	% total				
	CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Others		CON	LAB	LD	PC/SNP	Others
1973	7,709	9,781	1,427	65	5,183	24,165	32%	40%	6%	0%	21%
1974	8,102	10,325	1,474	145	5,664	25,710	32%	40%	6%	1%	22%
1975	8,301	10,117	1,462	145	5,685	25,710	32%	39%	6%	1%	22%
1976	11,077	8,213	1,113	223	5,132	25,758	43%	32%	4%	1%	20%
1977	12,370	7,115	950	349	4,965	25,749	48%	28%	4%	1%	19%
1978	12,645	6,644	923	349	4,920	25,481	50%	26%	4%	1%	19%
1979	12,222	7,410	1,059	301	4,388	25,380	48%	29%	4%	1%	17%
1980	11,738	8,011	1,149	186	4,325	25,409	46%	32%	5%	1%	17%
1981	10,545	8,999	1,455	172	4,208	25,379	42%	35%	6%	1%	17%
1982	10,447	8,774	1,850	177	4,099	25,347	41%	35%	7%	1%	16%
1983	10,557	8,782	2,171	175	3,570	25,255	42%	35%	9%	1%	14%
1984	10,393	8,870	2,331	179	3,515	25,288	41%	35%	9%	1%	14%
1985	10,191	8,746	2,633	177	3,432	25,179	40%	35%	10%	1%	14%
1986	9,216	8,759	2,971	191	3,364	24,501	38%	36%	12%	1%	14%
1987	9,141	8,525	3,640	203	2,974	24,483	37%	35%	15%	1%	12%
1988	9,150	8,601	3,518	254	2,968	24,491	37%	35%	14%	1%	12%
1989	9,242	8,636	3,343	258	2,958	24,437	38%	35%	14%	1%	12%
1990	9,020	8,920	3,265	264	2,968	24,437	37%	37%	13%	1%	12%
1991	7,985	9,504	3,672	292	2,997	24,450	33%	39%	15%	1%	12%
1992	8,288	9,102	3,728	334	2,977	24,429	34%	37%	15%	1%	12%
1993	7,802	9,213	4,123	358	2,948	24,444	32%	38%	17%	1%	12%
1994	7,286	9,257	4,551	392	2,941	24,427	30%	38%	19%	2%	12%
1995	4,883	10,461	4,942	294	2,157	22,737	21%	46%	22%	1%	9%
1996	4,276	10,929	5,078	298	2,157	22,738	19%	48%	22%	1%	9%
1997	4,449	10,608	4,754	301	2,076	22,188	20%	48%	21%	1%	9%
1998	4,772	10,411	4,629	304	2,083	22,199	21%	47%	21%	1%	9%
1999	6,144	9,134	4,485	444	1,973	22,180	28%	41%	20%	2%	9%
2000	6,748	8,536	4,472	444	2,078	22,278	30%	38%	20%	2%	9%
2001	6,941	8,487	4,382	418	2,132	22,360	31%	38%	20%	2%	10%
2002	7,177	8,117	4,379	412	2,069	22,154	32%	37%	20%	2%	9%
2003	7,776	7,175	4,581	383	2,101	22,016	35%	33%	21%	2%	10%
2004	8,033	6,652	4,708	361	2,201	21,955	37%	30%	21%	2%	10%
2005	8,193	6,500	4,743	357	2,233	22,044	37%	29%	22%	2%	10%
2006	8,482	6,105	4,708	368	2,229	21,892	39%	28%	22%	2%	10%
2007	9,431	5,483	4,420	546	2,164	22,044	43%	25%	20%	2%	10%

Note: LD includes predecessor parties

Sources: House of Commons Library Research Paper 04/61 UK Election Statistics 1918-2004
Rallings and Thrasher *Local Elections Handbook*
Local Government Information online, <http://www.gwydir.demon.co.uk/uklocalgov>

The table overleaf summarises the local election results from 1997 to 2006.

RESEARCH PAPER 08/12

Table 21

Local Election results: 1997-2007

	Share of votes					Seats won					
	Con	Lab	Lib	PC/SNP	Other	Con	Lab	Lib	PC/SNP	Other	Total
1997											
All Authorities	36.2%	33.2%	26.4%	...	4.2%	1,106	1,294	724	...	123	3,247
Shire counties	36.9%	32.2%	26.8%	...	4.1%	873	745	495	...	90	2,203
English unitary authorities	31.3%	40.2%	23.5%	...	5.0%	233	549	229	...	33	1,044
1998											
All Authorities	30.4%	40.3%	23.5%	...	5.8%	1,105	2,239	853	...	147	4,344
London boroughs	32.0%	40.6%	20.8%	...	6.6%	538	1,050	301	...	28	1,917
Metropolitan boroughs	26.0%	45.8%	22.9%	...	5.3%	107	575	152	...	15	849
Shire districts	34.8%	33.3%	26.4%	...	5.5%	423	512	351	...	86	1,372
English unitary authorities	26.7%	40.4%	26.4%	...	6.5%	37	102	49	...	18	206
1999											
All Authorities	27.6%	33.8%	21.5%	6.7%	10.4%	3,781	4,816	2,611	409	1,684	13,301
England	32.9%	33.1%	24.6%	...	9.4%	3,598	3,703	2,357	...	1,151	10,809
Metropolitan boroughs	25.6%	44.8%	24.5%	...	5.1%	116	532	172	...	16	836
English unitary authorities	30.2%	38.3%	25.0%	...	6.5%	310	624	293	...	47	1,274
Shire districts	36.5%	27.2%	24.6%	...	11.7%	3,172	2,547	1,892	...	1,088	8,699
Scottish unitary authorities	13.5%	36.3%	12.7%	28.7%	8.8%	108	550	156	204	204	1,222
Welsh unitary authorities	10.1%	34.4%	13.4%	18.2%	23.9%	75	563	98	205	329	1,270
2000											
All Authorities	37.2%	32.4%	24.3%	...	6.1%	1,327	1,117	726	...	204	3,374
Metropolitan boroughs	31.4%	38.4%	24.4%	...	5.8%	203	458	202	...	21	884
English unitary authorities	39.3%	31.9%	23.3%	...	5.5%	356	302	180	...	44	882
Shire districts	43.0%	25.4%	24.8%	...	6.8%	768	357	344	...	139	1,608
2001											
All Authorities	39.4%	30.9%	25.1%	...	4.6%	1,094	835	460	...	95	2,484
English unitary authorities	32.0%	38.4%	23.5%	...	6.1%	73	127	53	...	16	269
Shire counties	39.9%	30.4%	25.2%	...	4.5%	1,021	708	407	...	79	2,215
2002											
All Authorities	32.2%	35.2%	23.7%	...	8.9%	2,011	2,400	1,263	...	240	5,914
London boroughs	34.2%	34.1%	20.6%	...	11.1%	655	865	307	...	34	1,861
Metropolitan boroughs	26.2%	43.1%	23.3%	...	7.4%	133	528	153	...	24	838
Shire districts	38.5%	27.0%	25.4%	...	9.1%	1,108	775	657	...	148	2,688
English unitary authorities	29.7%	34.9%	27.2%	...	8.2%	115	232	146	...	34	527
2003											
All Authorities	31.5%	27.9%	24.2%	...	16.4%	4,417	2,994	2,652	181	1,405	11,649
England	34.6%	27.0%	26.1%	...	12.3%	4,294	2,485	2,477	...	1,171	10,427
Metropolitan boroughs	26.0%	39.9%	24.7%	...	9.4%	160	458	193	...	25	836
English unitary authorities	32.5%	27.8%	28.0%	...	11.7%	527	501	488	...	109	1,625
Shire districts	39.4%	20.7%	26.0%	...	13.9%	3,607	1,526	1,796	...	1,037	7,966
Scottish unitary authorities	15.1%	32.6%	14.5%	24.1%	13.7%	123	509	175	181	234	1,222
2004											
All Authorities	29.6%	28.7%	23.9%	...	17.8%	1,713	2,249	1,279	175	659	6,075
Metropolitan boroughs	25.9%	32.6%	25.5%	...	16.0%	547	1,183	594	0	121	2,445
English unitary authorities	30.9%	29.6%	24.1%	...	15.4%	203	262	129	0	50	644
Shire districts	41.7%	21.8%	25.3%	...	11.1%	856	325	410	0	132	1,723
Welsh unitary authorities	11.0%	30.6%	13.9%	16.4%	28.1%	107	479	146	175	356	1,263
2005											
All Authorities	39.8%	25.0%	27.6%	...	7.5%	1,196	614	495	...	91	2,396
Shire counties	40.0%	25.0%	27.6%	...	...	1,147	575	471	...	76	2,269
English unitary authorities	29.5%	27.8%	29.7%	...	13.1%	49	39	24	...	15	127
2006											
All Authorities	39.0%	26.0%	25.0%	...	10.0%	1,820	1,441	912	...	241	4,414
London boroughs	35.0%	28.0%	20.8%	...	16.1%	785	685	316	...	75	1,861
Metropolitan boroughs	27.0%	34.0%	23.6%	...	15.5%	193	396	189	...	49	827
English unitary authorities	33.5%	28.5%	25.1%	...	12.9%	128	117	89	...	26	360
Shire districts	44.6%	20.1%	25.3%	...	10.1%	714	243	318	...	91	1,366
2007											
All Authorities	34.6%	23.1%	21.9%	4.3%	16.0%	4,660	1,885	1,972	363	1,210	10,090
England	38.1%	22.2%	23.6%	0.0%	16.9%	4,517	1,537	1,806	0	1,008	8,868
Metropolitan boroughs	27.0%	34.4%	22.0%	0.0%	16.7%	186	400	204	0	37	827
English unitary authorities	36.0%	24.8%	23.3%	0.0%	15.9%	615	337	244	0	102	1,298
Shire districts	43.9%	15.7%	24.5%	0.0%	15.9%	3,716	800	1,358	0	869	6,743
Scottish unitary authorities	15.6%	28.1%	12.7%	27.9%	15.8%	143	348	166	363	202	1,222

Source: Rallings and Thrasher, *Local Elections Handbooks*, (1997-2007)

B. Elected Mayors

1. London Mayor

Table 22 details the 2000 and 2004 London mayoral election results. The two round *Supplementary Vote* system was used. Under the SV system, voters mark the ballot paper with their first and second choice candidates. In 2004, the second preferences of all but the leading two first preference candidates were redistributed to Ken Livingstone (Labour) and Steve Norris (Conservative). As a result, Ken Livingstone polled 828,380 votes (55%) and was re-elected as Mayor. Although Livingstone received more votes than in 2000, his vote share fell by 2.6 percentage points. Livingstone received relatively high shares of the vote in Lambeth and Southwark (46%), North East London (45%), and Greenwich and Lewisham (43%).

Turnout in the 2004 Mayoral election was 36%, an increase of over two percentage points compared with 2000. Turnout was relatively high in Bexley and Bromley (41%), and Havering and Redbridge (38%), but lower in City and East (32%), Lambeth and Southwark (32%).

Table 22

Election for London Mayor: 10 June 2004

Name	Party	1st Pref	%	2nd Pref ^(a)	%	Final ^(b)	%
Ken Livingstone	Labour	685,541	36.8	250,517	15.7	828,380	57.9
Steve Norris	Conservative	542,423	29.1	222,559	14.0	667,178	42.1
Simon Hughes	Liberal Democrat	284,645	15.3	465,704	29.3	...	...
Frank Maloney	UK Independence Party	115,665	6.2	193,157	12.1	...	...
Lindsey German	Respect	61,731	3.3	63,294	4.0	...	...
Julian Leppert	British National Party	58,405	3.1	70,736	4.4	...	...
Darren Johnson	Green	57,331	3.1	208,686	13.1	...	...
Ram Gidoomal	Christian Peoples Alliance	41,696	2.2	56,721	3.6	...	...
Lorna Reid	Indep. Working Class Assoc.	9,542	0.5	39,678	2.5	...	...
Tammy Nagalingam	Indep. Working Class Assoc.	6,692	0.4	20,391	1.3	...	...

Election for London Mayor: 4 May 2000

Name	Party	1st Pref	%	2nd Pref ^(a)	%	Final ^(b)	%
Ken Livingstone	Independent	667,877	39.0	178,809	12.6	776,427	57.9
Steve Norris	Conservative	464,434	27.1	188,041	13.2	564,137	42.1
Frank Dobson	Labour	223,884	13.1	228,095	16.0	...	...
Susan Kramer	Liberal Democrat	203,452	11.9	404,815	28.5	...	...
Ram Gidoomal	Christian Peoples Alliance	42,060	2.4	56,489	4.0	...	...
Darren Johnson	Green	38,121	2.2	192,764	13.6	...	...
Michael Newland	British National Party	33,569	2.0	45,337	3.2	...	...
Damian Hockney	UK Independence Party	16,234	1.0	43,672	3.1	...	...
Geoffrey Ben-Nathan	Pro-Motorist Small Shop	9,956	0.6	23,021	1.6	...	...
Ashwin Kumar Tanna	Independent	9,015	0.5	41,766	2.9	...	...
Geoffrey Clements	Natural Law Party	5,470	0.3	18,185	1.3	...	...

(a) 2nd preference votes are only used if no candidate receives more than 50% of 1st pref votes.

(b) If no candidate receives more than 50% of 1st preference votes, the top two receive 2nd preferences from remaining candidates.

2. Mayoral elections

a. *Mayoral referenda*

The first referendum on whether to have an elected local authority mayor was held in Berwick-upon-Tweed on 7 June 2001. 35 councils have held referendums on elected mayors, with 12 voting in favour of a mayor and 23 against. Full details are listed below:

Table 23

Mayoral referendum results

Council	Date	Result	For	Against	Turnout
Berwick-upon-Tweed	7 Jun 2001	No	3,617	10,212	63.8%#
Cheltenham	28 Jun 2001	No	8,083	16,602	31.0%
Gloucester	28 Jun 2001	No	7,731	16,317	30.8%
Watford	12 Jul 2001	Yes	7,636	7,140	24.5%
Doncaster	20 Sep 2001	Yes	35,453	19,398	25.0%
Kirklees	4 Oct 2001	No	10,169	27,977	13.0%
Sunderland	11 Oct 2001	No	9,593	12,209	10.0%
Hartlepool	18 Oct 2001	Yes	10,667	10,294	31.0%
Lewisham	18 Oct 2001	Yes	16,822	15,914	18.0%
North Tyneside	18 Oct 2001	Yes	30,262	22,296	36.0%
Sedgefield	18 Oct 2001	No	10,628	11,869	33.3%
Middlesbrough	18 Oct 2001	Yes	29,067	5,422	34.0%
Brighton and Hove	18 Oct 2001	No	22,724	37,214	31.6%
Redditch	8 Nov 2001	No	7,250	9,198	28.3%
Durham City	20 Nov 2001	No	8,327	11,974	28.5%
Harrow	7 Dec 2001	No	17,502	23,554	26.0%
Harlow	24 Jan 2001	No	5,296	15,490	36.4%
Plymouth	24 Jan 2001	No	29,559	42,811	39.8%
Southwark	31 Jan 2002	No	6,054	13,217	11.2%
Newham	31 Jan 2002	Yes	27,263	12,687	25.9%
West Devon	31 Jan 2002	No	3,555	12,190	41.8%
Shepway	31 Jan 2002	No	11,357	14,435	36.3%
Bedford	21 Feb 2002	Yes	11,316	5,537	15.5%
Newcastle under Lyme	2 May 2002	No	12,912	16,468	31.5%
Oxford	2 May 2002	No	14,692	18,686	33.8%
Hackney	3 May 2002	Yes	24,697	10,547	31.9%
Stoke on Trent	3 May 2002	Yes	28,601	20,578	27.8%
Mansfield	3 May 2002	Yes	8,973	7,350	21.0%
Corby	26 Sep 2002	No	5,351	6,239	30.9%
Ealing	11 Dec 2002	No	9,454	11,655	9.8%
Ceredigion	20 May 2004	No	5,308	14,013	36.3%
Isle of Wight	5 May 2005	No	28,786	37,097	62.4%#
Torbay	14 Jul 2005	Yes	18,074	14,682	32.1%
Crewe & Nantwich	4 May 2006	No	11,808	18,768	35.3%
Darlington	27 Sep 2007	No	7,981	11,226	24.7%

Source: British Electoral Facts 1832-2006 (updated)

Same day as General Election

Two of the mayoral referenda achieved a relatively high (over 60%) turnout but these coincided with a general election. The lowest turnout was in Ealing in 2002 (10%).

b. *Mayoral election results*

Mayoral elections were held on nine different occasions; 4 May 2000, 2 May 2002, 17 October 2002, 12 June 2003, 10 June 2004, 5 May 2005, 20 October 2005, 4 May 2006, and 3 May 2007. These took place in twenty-two councils with 11 Labour, 2 Conservative and 2 Liberal Democrat elected as Mayors. The other successful candidates were all independents (7), including Stuart Drummond in Hartlepool also known as H'Angus the Monkey, the mascot of Hartlepool FC, re-elected in 2005.

A mayoral by-election was held in North Tyneside on 12 June 2003 after Christopher Morgan resigned as Mayor. The Conservatives held the Mayoralty, with 56.4% of the vote, although turnout fell to 31.4%.

Prior to 2005, none of the mayoral elections achieved a turnout over 50%. The highest turnout was in North Tyneside (42.5%) in 2002 and the lowest in Mansfield (18.5%) also in 2002. The 2005 mayoral elections were held on the same day as the General Election. Turnout for all four elections on this occasion exceeded 50%. The highest turnout was in North Tyneside (61.4%).

Table 24

Mayoral Elections, 2002			1st pref		2nd pref		Total	
Authority/Turnout	Candidate	Party	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
2 May 2002								
Doncaster Turnout 28.4%	Andrew Burden	Con	9,000	15.4	3,170	42.9	12,170	32.1
	Jessie Credland	CG	8,469	14.5	...	...	...	...
	Shafiq Kham	Ind	2,836	4.8	...	...	...	...
	Michael Maye	Ind	7,502	12.8	...	...	...	...
	Graham Newman	LD	5,150	8.8	...	...	...	...
	Terence Wilcox	Ind	4,036	6.9	...	...	...	...
	Martin Winter	Lab	21,494	36.8	4,213	57.1	25,707	67.9
			58,487	100.0	7,383	100.0	37,877	100.0
Hartlepool Turnout 30.1%	Ian Cameron	Ind	5,174	26.5	...	...	...	...
	Stephen Close	Con	1,561	8.0	...	...	...	...
	Stuart Drummond	ND	5,696	29.1	1,699	55.7	7,395	52.1
	Leo Gillen	Lab	5,438	27.8	1,354	44.3	6,792	47.9
	Arthur Preece	LD	1,675	8.6	...	...	...	...
			19,544	100.0	3,053	100.0	14,187	100.0
London Borough of Lewisham Turnout 25.5%	Steve Bullock	Lab	20,011	45.0	4,509	70.9	24,520	71.3
	Alex Feakes	LD	7,276	16.3	...	...	...	...
	Louise Irvine	LEAP	3,710	8.3	...	...	...	...
	Sinna Mani	Gr	5,517	12.4	...	...	...	...
	Derek Stone	Con	8,004	18.0	1,851	29.1	9,855	28.7
			44,518	100.0	6,360	100.0	34,375	100.0
Middlesborough Turnout 41.3%	Sylvia Connolly	Lab	9,653	23.0	...	...	...	...
	Ronald Darby	Con	1,510	3.6	...	...	...	...
	Jeffrey Fowler	SA	352	0.8	...	...	...	...
	Rod Jones	Ind	297	0.7	...	...	...	...
	Raymond Mallon	ND	26,362	62.8	...	...	Not required	...
	Joseph Michna	LD	3,820	9.1	...	...	...	...
			41,994	100.0	...	...	...	...

RESEARCH PAPER 08/12

Authority/Turnout	Candidate	Party	1st pref		2nd pref		Total	
			Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
2 May 2002								
London Borough of Newham Turnout 27.6%	Tawfique Choudhury	Ind	5,907	14.7	...	...	...	...
	Alan Craig	CPA	3,649	9.1	...	...	...	...
	Michael Davidson	BNP	2,881	7.2	...	...	...	...
	Graham Postles	Con	4,635	11.5	...	...	...	...
	Gabrielle Rolfe	Gr	2,691	6.7	...	...	...	...
	Robert Wales	Lab	20,384	50.8	...	...	Not required	...
			40,147	100.0				
North Tyneside Turnout 42.5%	Eddie Darke	Lab	19,601	32.2	4,930	53.7	24,531	48.5
	Michael Elliott	SA	2,119	3.5	...	...	...	...
	Michael Huscroft	LD	12,323	20.2	...	...	...	...
	Christopher Morgan	Con	21,829	35.9	4,254	46.3	26,083	51.5
	Allan Pond	Ind	4,993	8.2	...	...	...	...
			60,865	100.0	9,184	100.0	50,614	100.0
Watford Turnout 37.4%	Tristram Cooke	FC	330	1.5	...	...	...	...
	Gary Ling	Con	4,746	21.4	...	...	...	...
	Vincent Muspratt	Lab	4,899	22.1	370	12.8	5,269	28.1
	Stephen Rackett	Gr	851	3.8	...	...	...	...
	Dorothy Thornhill	LD	10,954	49.4	2,519	87.2	13,473	71.9
	Paul Woodward	SA	390	1.8	...	...	...	...
			22,170	100.0	2,889	100.0	18,742	100.0
17 October 2002								
Bedford Turnout 25.3%	Frank Branston	BBI	9,557	34.5	2,522	52.8	12,079	63.4
	Christine McHugh	LD	4,711	17.0	2,253	47.2	6,964	36.6
	Charles Rose	Con	4,661	16.8	...	...	...	...
	Apu Bagchi	Lab	4,114	14.8	...	...	...	...
	Ian Clifton	Ind	1,893	6.8	...	...	...	...
	Arthur Foster	Ind	1,826	6.6	...	...	...	...
	Mark Powell	Gr	735	2.6	...	...	...	...
	Gurminder Singh Dosanjh	Ind	218	0.8	...	...	...	...
				27,715	100.0	4,775	100.0	19,043	100.0
London Borough of Hackney Turnout 25.2%	Jules Pipe	Labour	13,813	42.0	2,421	68.2	16,234	74.3
	Andrew Boff	Con	4,502	13.7	1,127	31.8	5,629	25.7
	Paul Foot	SA	4,187	12.7	...	...	...	...
	Ian Sharer	LD	4,185	12.7	...	...	...	...
	Crospin Truman	Gr	3,002	9.1	...	...	...	...
	Bruce Spenser	Ind	1,543	4.7	...	...	...	...
	Terry Edwards	Ind	1,253	3.8	...	...	...	...
	Errol Carr	Ind	441	1.3	...	...	...	...
				32,926	100.0	3,548	100.0	21,863	100.0
Mansfield Turnout 18.5%	Tony Egginton	Ind	4,150	29.6	1,801	75.3	5,951	52.6
	Lorna Carter	Lab	4,773	34.0	590	24.7	5,363	47.4
	Kathryn Allsop	Con	3,351	23.9	...	...	...	...
	Phillip Smith	LD	958	6.8	...	...	...	...
	Michael Comerford	Gr	811	5.8	...	...	...	...
			14,043	100.0	2,391	100.0	11,314	100.0
17 October 2002								
Stoke on Trent City Turnout 24.0%	Mike Wolfe	M4S	9,356	21.3	3,337	56.0	12,693	50.6
	George Stevenson	Lab	9,752	22.2	2,627	44.0	12,379	49.4
	Steven Batkin	BNP	8,213	18.7	...	...	...	...
	Roger Ibbs	Con	4,417	10.0	...	...	...	...
	Geoffrey Snow	ND	3,975	9.0	...	...	...	...
	Fred Morrow	LD	2,408	5.5	...	...	...	...
	Paul Breeze	ND	1,349	3.0	...	...	...	...
	Patricia Whitehouse	Ind	1,280	2.9	...	...	...	...
	Graham Wilkes	Ind	1,157	2.6	...	...	...	...
	David Chatton	Ind	926	2.1	...	...	...	...
	Adrian Knapper	AKIP	708	1.6	...	...	...	...
	Harry Chesters	ND	453	1.0	...	...	...	...
			43,994	100.0	5,964	100.0	25,072	100.0

Authority/Turnout	Candidate	Party	1st pref		2nd pref		Total	
			Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
12 June 2003								
North Tyneside mayoral by-election Turnout 31.4%	Linda Arkley	Con	18,478	43.1	2,810	45.6	21,288	56.4
	Gordon Adam	Lab	13,070	30.5	3,357	54.4	16,427	43.6
	Michael Huscroft	LD	8,404	19.6	...	...	...	...
	Robert Batten	NF	2,554	6.0	...	...	...	...
	Louise van der Hoeven	SA	400	0.9	...	...	...	...
			42,906	100.0	6,167	100.0	37,715	100.0
05 May 2005								
Hartlepool Turnout 51.1%	Stuart Drummond	Ind	14,227	42.1%	2,685	69.5%	16,912	71.6%
	Carl Richardson	Lab	5,527	16.4%	1,180	30.5%	6,707	28.4%
	Ian John Henry Cameron	Ind	4,272	12.6%	...	...	...	...
	Stephen Allison	LLH	3,765	11.1%	...	...	...	...
	Stan Kaiser	Ind	2,701	8.0%	...	...	...	...
	John Lauderdale	Ind	1,821	5.4%	...	...	...	...
	Brenda Pearson	Con	1,482	4.4%	...	...	...	...
			33,795	100.0	3,865	100.0	23,619	100.0
Stoke-on-Trent Turnout 50.8%	Mark Joseph Meredith	Lab	27,253	32.9%	9,708	58.4%	36,961	61.5%
	Roger Michael Ibbs	Con	16,211	19.5%	6,919	41.6%	23,130	38.5%
	Mike Wolfe	SGS	15,882	19.1%	...	...	...	...
	Steven Reginald Batkin	BNP	15,776	19.0%	...	...	...	...
	Gary Chevin	Ind	4,505	5.4%	...	...	...	...
	Justin Harvey	Ind	1,955	2.4%	...	...	...	...
	Gary Falconer	Ind	1,368	1.6%	...	...	...	...
			82,950	100.0	16,627	100.0	60,091	100.0
Doncaster Turnout 54.5%	Martin Winter	Lab	40,015	36.7%	5,727	36.4%	45,742	55.1%
	Michael Maye	Ind	27,304	25.1%	10,004	63.6%	37,308	44.9%
	Raymond Bartlett	Con	12,533	11.5%	...	...	...	...
	Jessie Credland	CG	10,263	9.4%	...	...	...	...
	Michael Cooper	Ind	7,773	7.1%	...	...	...	...
	David Owen	BNP	6,128	5.6%	...	...	...	...
	Richard Rolt	Green	4,930	4.5%	...	...	...	...
			108,946	100.0	15,731	100.0	83,050	100.0
North Tyneside Turnout 61.4%	John Harrison	Lab	34,053	40.2%	6,407	61.6%	40,460	50.6%
	Linda Arkley	Con	35,467	41.8%	3,991	38.4%	39,458	49.4%
	Dr Joan Harvey	LD	12,761	15.1%	...	...	...	...
	Robert Batten	NF	2,470	2.9%	...	...	...	...
			84,751	100.0	10,398	100.0	79,918	100.0
03 May 2007								
Bedford Turnout 40.1%	Frank Branston	Ind	15,966	36.7%	3,732	58.9%	19,698	59.7%
	Nicky Attenborough	Con	10,710	24.6%	2,603	41.1%	13,313	40.3%
	Christine McHugh	LD	10,553	24.2%	...	...	...	...
	Randolph Charles	Lab	4,758	10.9%	...	...	...	...
	Justina McLennan	Green	1,538	3.5%	...	...	...	...
			43,525	100.0	6,335	100.0	33,011	100.0
Mansfield Turnout 34.2%	Tony Egginton	Ind	12,051	45.7%	1,705	72.2%	13,756	61.0%
	Alan Meale	Lab	8,129	30.8%	645	27.4%	8,774	39.0%
	Aaron Beattie	Con	2,770	10.5%	...	...	...	...
	Philip Burman	LD	1,944	7.4%	...	...	...	...
	Mary Button	Green	1,489	5.6%	...	...	...	...
			26,383	100.0	2,350	100.0	22,530	100.0
Middlesborough Turnout 30.8%	Ray Mallon	Ind	17,455	58.7%	...	...	17,455	58.7%
	Joe Michna	Green	7,026	23.6%	...	...	...	...
	Charles Rooney	Lab	3,529	11.9%	...	...	...	...
	Dorothy Smith	Con	1,733	5.8%	...	...	...	...
			29,743	100.0	...	...	...	...

BBI Better Bedford Independent
M4S Mayor 4 Stoke
SA Socialist Alliance
CPA Christian People's Alliance
FCP Fat Cat Party

ND: No description
LEAP: Local Education Action by Parents
NF: National Front
SGS: Supporting Green Shoots

Source: HoC Library

VIII Referenda

A. Scotland

On 11 September 1997, two questions were asked in Scotland on separate ballot papers, one concerning the proposed Scottish Parliament and the other on tax varying powers. In Scotland, electors were asked whether they or not they agreed that there should be a Scottish Parliament. A comparison with the results of the 1979 referendum is provided in table 25:

Table 25

Change in voting for/against devolution in Scotland, 1979 and 1997

	Yes		No		Yes % point Change 79-97
	% Share of vote		% Share of vote		
	1979	1997	1979	1997	
<i>1979 areas</i>					
Borders	40.3	62.8	59.7	37.2	+22.5
Central	54.7	76.3	45.3	23.7	+21.7
Dumfries and Galloway	40.3	60.7	59.7	39.3	+20.4
Fife	53.7	76.1	46.3	23.9	+22.4
Grampian	48.3	67.6	51.7	32.4	+19.3
Highland	51.0	72.6	49.0	27.4	+21.6
Lothian	50.1	74.5	49.9	25.5	+24.4
Orkney	27.9	57.3	72.1	42.7	+29.4
Shetland	27.0	62.4	73.0	37.6	+35.4
Strathclyde	54.0	78.1	46.0	21.9	+24.1
Tayside	49.5	67.6	50.5	32.4	+18.1
Western Isles	55.8	79.4	44.2	20.6	+23.6
Scotland	51.6	74.3	48.4	25.7	+22.7

1997 results fitted to 1979 areas on the following basis:

Borders (Borders); Central (Clackmannan, Falkirk, Stirling); Dumfries & Galloway (Dufries & Galloway); Fife (Fife); Grampian (City of Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Moray); Highland (Highland); Lothian (City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, West Lothian, Midlothian); Orkney (Orkney); Shetland (Shetland Islands); Strathclyde (Argyle & Bute, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire, City of Glasgow, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire); Tayside (Angus, City of Dundee, Perthshire & Kinross); Western Isles (Western Isles)

Sources: Scottish Office; FWS Craig *British Electoral Facts, 1832-1987*

Electors were asked whether they agreed or disagreed that a Scottish Parliament should have tax varying powers. 63.5% voted for tax varying powers, although there was confusion among some voters which led to a sizeable number of spoilt ballots on the tax varying powers question.

Turnout was 60.2%, not only lower than the 1997 General Election (71.3%), but also lower than the turnout in the previous referendum on devolution for Scotland in 1979 where turnout was 63.0%.⁷

⁷ Scottish Office

B. Wales

On 18 September 1997, a single question was asked in Wales, concerning the proposed National Assembly for Wales. Voters were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the Government's proposals for an assembly, 50.3% of those voting agreed with the question asked.

Turnout was 50.1%, well below the turnout in the May General Election (73.5%) and also lower than the last referendum on Welsh devolution in 1979 (58.3%).⁸

A comparison between the 1997 and 1979 referenda is provided in the table below:

Table 26

Voting for/against devolution in Wales, 1979 and 1997

	Yes		No		Yes % point Change 79-97
	% Share of vote		% Share of vote		
	1979	1997	1979	1997	
<i>1979 areas</i>					
Clwyd & Gwynedd	27.1	47.4	72.9	52.6	+20.3
Dyfed	28.1	57.2	71.9	42.8	+29.1
Powys	18.5	42.7	81.5	57.3	+24.2
Gwent & Mid Glamorgan	16.7	51.3	83.3	48.7	+34.6
South Glamorgan	13.1	42.0	86.9	58.0	+28.8
West Glamorgan	18.7	57.8	81.3	42.2	+39.1
Wales	20.3	50.3	79.7	49.7	+30.0

1997 results fitted to 1979 areas on the following basis:

Clwyd & Gwynedd (Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Wrexham) -- 1997 area *excludes* communities of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Llansilin and Llangedwyn (formerly in Glyndwr DC in Clwyd, now in Powys UA)

Dyfed (Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire)

Powys (Powys) -- 1997 area includes communities of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Llansilin and Llangedwyn (formerly in Glyndwr DC in Clwyd, now in Powys UA) Powys (Powys) -- 1997 area includes communities of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Llansilin and Llangedwyn (formerly in Glyndwr DC in Clwyd, now in Powys UA)

Gwent & Mid Glamorgan (Wick, St Bride's Major and Ewenny (formerly in Ogwr BC in Mid Glamorgan, now in Vale of Glamorgan UA) and excludes community of Pentyrch (formerly in Taff-Ely BC in Mid Glamorgan, now in Cardiff UA)

South Glamorgan (Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff) -- 1997 area includes communities of Wick, St Bride's Major and Ewenny (formerly in Ogwr BC in Mid Glamorgan, now in Vale of Glamorgan UA) and includes community of Pentyrch (formerly in Taff-Ely BC in Mid Glamorgan, now in Cardiff UA)

West Glamorgan (Neath & Port Talbot, Swansea)

Source: Welsh Office, FWS Craig, *British Electoral Facts, 1832-1987; Local government (Wales) Act 1994 (Schedule 1)*

C. Northern Ireland

A referendum was held in Northern Ireland in 1973, asking the electorate if they wanted to remain part of the UK. Turnout was 58.7%, with 98.9% voting in favour.

On 22 May 1998, the electorate of Northern Ireland was asked to vote on the question:

⁸ Welsh Office & The Western Mail (20 September 1997)

“Do you support the agreement reached in the multi-party talks on Northern Ireland and set out in Command Paper 3883”

Turnout was 81.1% of those voting, and 71.1% (676,966) voted yes.

Table 27

1973 Referendum: NI remaining part of UK						
The Northern Ireland Border Poll 8 March 1973						
	Yes		No		Total	
	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
Do you want Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom?	591,820	98.9%	6,582	1.1%	598,402	100.0
Do you want Northern Ireland to be joined with the Republic of Ireland outside the United Kingdom?	6,463	1.1%	581,082	98.9%	587,545	100.0
Rejected ballot papers					5,973	
Turnout						58.7%
1998 Referendum:						
Referendum in Northern Ireland 22 May 1998						
	Yes		No		Total	
	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
Do you support the agreement reached in the multi-party talks on Northern Ireland and set out in the Command Paper 3883?	676,966	71.1%	274,879	28.9%	951,845	100.0
Rejected ballot papers					1,738	
Turnout						81.1%

Sources: British electoral facts 1832-2006
The Northern Ireland Border poll 1973 (Cmnd 5875 paragraph 68)

D. London

On 7 May 1998 a referendum question was put to London voters.

“Are you in favour of the Government’s proposals for a Greater London Authority made up of an elected Mayor and separately elected authority?”

The total number of valid votes was 1,709,128, a turnout of 34.1%. 1,230,759 voted in favour of the Government’s proposals, 72% of those voting. 478,413 voted against (28%).

Out of the 33 London Boroughs, all voted in favour of the Government’s proposals with Haringey the strongest in favour with a “Yes” vote of 84%. Bromley returned the lowest “Yes” vote, 57%.⁹

⁹ Table 21.08 British Electoral Facts 1832-2006 Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, Parliamentary Research Services, 2000

E. North East England

On 4 November 2004, electors in the North East region were asked

“Should there be an elected regional assembly for the North East region?”

The total number of valid vote recorded was 893,829 and turnout was 47.7%. 696,519 voters (77.9%) voted against the Government’s proposals.

In the region, voters in all 23 local authorities, voted against the Government proposals with Darlington most strongly opposed (87.1%). Derwentside returned the lowest “No” vote of 70.2%. The lowest turnout was recorded in Middlesborough (42.1%) and the highest in Alnwick (57.4%)

F. Europe

A referendum was held in June 1975 to ascertain public opinion on whether the United Kingdom should remain within the European Community, as it was then known. The results were as follows:

Table 28

Referendum on E.C. Membership, Thursday 5 June 1975

Do you think that the United Kingdom should stay in the European Community (the Common Market)?

	Total Electorate	Total Votes	% turnout	% 'yes'
England	33,356,208	21,730,061	64.6	68.7
Wales	2,011,136	1,341,206	66.7	64.8
Scotland	3,688,799	2,280,225	61.7	58.4
N.Ireland	1,028,451	497,162	47.5	52.1
U.K.	40,084,594	25,848,654	64.0	67.2

Source: *British Electoral Facts 1832-2006*, Rallings and Thrasher (2006)

IX Opinion polls

This section presents recent trends in opinion polls using data from ICM and MORI. Individuals were asked about how they would vote if there was a general election tomorrow. Approval ratings since January 2000 for party leaders from MORI are included in Table 31.

Table 29

Voting Intention: ICM monthly polls since the 1997 general election

	Con	Lab	LD	Other	Lab Lead		Con	Lab	LD	Other	Lab Lead
1997											
Jun 1997	23	61	12	4	+38						
Jul 1997			No poll								
Aug 1997	29	55	12	4	+26						
Sep 1997	24	60	10	6	+36						
Oct 1997	23	59	13	4	+36						
Nov 1997	30	52	14	4	+22						
Dec 1997	29	50	17	4	+21						
1998						2003					
Jan 1998	30	48	17	5	+18	Jan 2003	30	43	21	6	+13
Feb 1998	31	47	18	4	+16	Feb 2003	31	39	22	8	+8
Mar 1998	33	46	17	5	+13	Mar 2003	32	38	24	6	+6
Apr 1998	31	48	16	6	+17	Apr 2003	30	42	21	7	+12
May 1998	29	50	16	5	+21	May 2003	29	42	21	8	+13
Jun 1998	29	51	16	4	+22	Jun 2003	34	38	21	7	+4
Jul 1998	27	52	17	4	+25	Jul 2003	34	36	30	9	+2
Aug 1998	31	47	17	4	+16	Aug 2003	32	37	22	9	+5
Sep 1998	29	48	17	6	+19	Sep 2003	30	35	22	8	+5
Oct 1998	29	51	15	5	+22	Oct 2003	33	38	28	8	+5
Nov 1998	27	51	17	5	+24	Nov 2003	33	38	21	8	+5
Dec 1998	29	49	16	6	+20	Dec 2003	33	38	22	7	+5
1999						2004					
Jan 1999	30	50	15	5	+20	Jan 2004	34	39	20	7	+5
Feb 1999	28	49	16	6	+21	Feb 2004	34	36	21	8	+2
Mar 1999	29	52	16	4	+23	Mar 2004	35	37	21	7	+2
Apr 1999	28	50	17	5	+22	Apr 2004	33	38	22	6	+5
May 1999	28	51	16	6	+23	May 2004	34	39	20	7	+5
Jun 1999	29	46	19	7	+17	Jun 2004	31	34	22	13	+3
Jul 1999	31	48	16	5	+17	Jul 2004	30	35	25	10	+5
Aug 1999	30	48	16	6	+18	Aug 2004	33	36	22	9	+3
Sep 1999	32	45	16	8	+13	Sep 2004	32	36	22	10	+4
Oct 1999	32	45	17	6	+13	Oct 2004	31	37	23	9	+6
Nov 1999	34	44	15	7	+10	Nov 2004	30	38	22	10	+8
Dec 1999	29	48	17	6	+19	Dec 2004	31	40	21	7	+9
2000						2005					
Jan 2000	30	47	17	6	+17	Jan 2005	31	38	21	9	+7
Feb 2000	29	44	18	9	+15	Feb 2005	34	37	21	8	+3
Mar 2000	32	44	16	8	+12	Mar 2005	32	40	20	7	+8
Apr 2000	32	45	15	8	+13	Apr 2005	33	39	22	7	+6
May 2000	34	41	18	7	+7	May 2005	32	38	22	8	+6
Jun 2000	32	43	17	8	+11	Jun 2005	31	38	23	8	+7
Jul 2000	35	42	17	6	+7	Jul 2005	31	39	23	7	+8
Aug 2000	34	44	17	5	+10	Aug 2005	31	38	22	9	+7
Sep 2000	38	34	22	7	-4	Sep 2005	31	40	21	8	+9
Oct 2000	35	40	19	6	+5	Oct 2005	33	35	22	8	+2
Nov 2000	34	40	20	7	+6	Nov 2005	No poll				
Dec 2000	34	44	16	6	+10	Dec 2005	37	36	21	7	-1

	Con	Lab	LD	Other	Lab Lead		Con	Lab	LD	Other	Lab Lead
2001						2006					
Jan 2001	34	44	16	6	+10	Jan 2006	37	36	19	7	-1
Feb 2001	32	47	15	7	+15	Feb 2006	37	34	21	8	-3
Mar 2001	35	44	16	6	+9	Mar 2006	34	37	21	8	+3
Apr 2001	33	47	14	6	+14	Apr 2006	34	32	24	10	-2
May 2001	32	48	15	5	+16	May 2006	38	34	20	8	-4
Jun 2001	30	47	18	5	+17	Jun 2006	33	36	22	9	+3
Jul 2001	30	46	18	6	+16	Jul 2006	39	35	17	9	-4
Aug 2001	30	46	17	7	+16	Aug 2006	40	31	22	8	-9
Sep 2001	29	46	20	5	+17	Sep 2006	36	32	22	10	-4
Oct 2001	29	47	19	5	+18	Oct 2006	39	29	22	9	-10
Nov 2001	29	46	19	6	+17	Nov 2006	37	32	22	9	-5
Dec 2001	29	44	20	7	+15	Dec 2006	40	32	18	10	-8
2002						2007					
Jan 2002	30	45	19	6	+15	Jan 2007	37	31	23	9	-6
Feb 2002	30	47	18	5	+17	Feb 2007	40	31	19	10	-9
Mar 2002	34	43	17	6	+9	Mar 2007	41	31	18	10	-10
Apr 2002	29	45	18	8	+16	Apr 2007	37	30	21	12	-7
May 2002	34	42	19	5	+8	May 2007	No poll				
Jun 2002	32	42	20	7	+10	Jun 2007	35	39	18	8	+4
Jul 2002	33	42	20	4	+9	Jul 2007	32	38	20	10	+6
Aug 2002	32	41	21	6	+9	Aug 2007	34	39	18	9	+5
Sep 2002	34	39	20	7	+5	Sep 2007	32	40	20	8	+8
Oct 2002	32	43	20	6	+11	Oct 2007	40	35	18	7	-5
Nov 2002	29	42	22	7	+13	Nov 2007	37	31	21	10	-6
Dec 2002	27	41	23	8	+14	Dec 2007	39	34	18	9	-5

Source: www.icmresearch.co.uk

Figures are based on all adults naming a party..

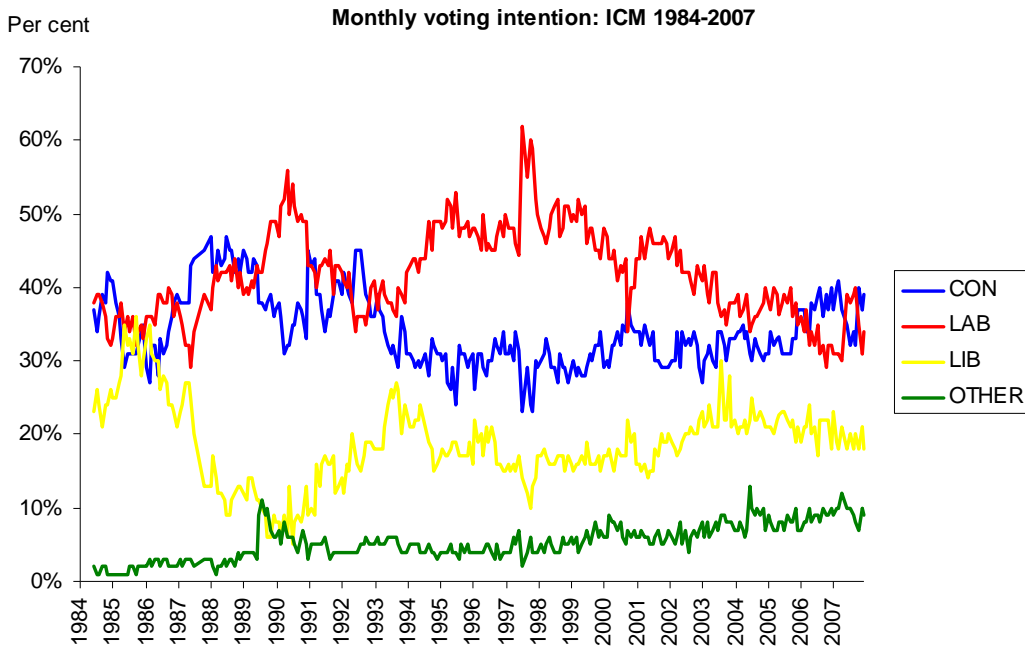


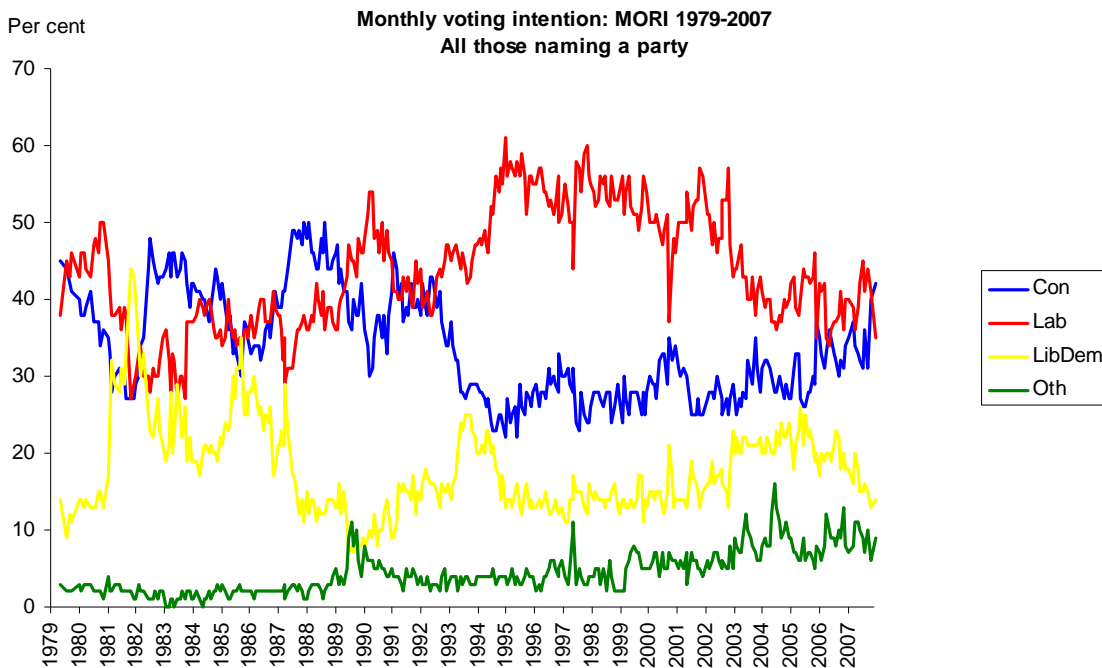
Table 30

Voting Intention: MORI monthly polls (all those naming a party)

	Con	Lab	LD	Other	Lab Lead		Con	Lab	LD	Other	Lab Lead
1997											
Jun 1997	24	58	15	3	+34						
Jul 1997	23	57	15	5	+34						
Aug 1997	28	54	15	4	+26						
Sep 1997	25	59	13	3	+34						
Oct 1997	24	60	12	3	+36						
Nov 1997	24	56	16	4	+32						
Dec 1997	26	55	15	4	+29						
1998											
Jan 1998	28	54	14	4	+26						
Feb 1998	28	52	15	5	+24						
Mar 1998	28	53	14	5	+25						
Apr 1998	27	56	14	3	+29						
May 1998	26	55	14	5	+29						
Jun 1998	27	56	13	4	+29						
Jul 1998	28	53	14	2	+25						
Aug 1998	28	52	14	6	+24						
Sep 1998	24	56	15	4	+32						
Oct 1998	26	53	16	2	+27						
Nov 1998	29	53	13	2	+24						
Dec 1998	27	54	12	2	+27						
1999											
Jan 1999	24	56	14	2	+32						
Feb 1999	30	51	14	2	+21						
Mar 1999	27	54	13	5	+27						
Apr 1999	25	56	13	6	+31						
May 1999	28	52	14	7	+24						
Jun 1999	28	51	13	8	+23						
Jul 1999	28	51	14	7	+23						
Aug 1999	27	49	17	7	+22						
Sep 1999	25	52	17	5	+27						
Oct 1999	28	56	11	5	+28						
Nov 1999	25	55	14	5	+30						
Dec 1999	28	54	13	5	+26						
2000											
Jan 2000	30	50	15	5	+20						
Feb 2000	29	50	15	6	+21						
Mar 2000	29	50	14	7	+21						
Apr 2000	27	51	15	7	+24						
May 2000	32	49	15	4	+17						
Jun 2000	33	47	13	7	+14						
Jul 2000	33	49	12	5	+16						
Aug 2000	29	51	15	5	+22						
Sep 2000	35	37	21	7	+2						
Oct 2000	32	45	17	6	+13						
Nov 2000	33	48	13	6	+15						
Dec 2000	34	46	14	6	+12						
						2003					
						Jan 2003	27	44	20	9	+17
						Feb 2003	25	44	22	8	+19
						Mar 2003	27	46	20	7	+19
						Apr 2003	26	47	20	7	+21
						May 2003	28	43	22	9	+15
						Jun 2003	27	43	22	12	+16
						Jul 2003	32	40	21	10	+8
						Aug 2003	30	40	21	9	+10
						Sep 2003	29	43	21	8	+14
						Oct 2003	35	38	21	7	+3
						Nov 2003	31	41	21	6	+10
						Dec 2003	28	43	22	6	+15
						2004					
						Jan 2004	31	41	20	8	+10
						Feb 2004	32	39	20	9	+7
						Mar 2004	32	40	22	8	+8
						Apr 2004	31	40	21	8	+9
						May 2004	30	37	20	12	+7
						Jun 2004	28	37	20	16	+9
						Jul 2004	28	36	23	13	+8
						Aug 2004	30	38	21	11	+8
						Sep 2004	29	37	24	9	+8
						Oct 2004	27	40	22	10	+13
						Nov 2004	29	39	22	11	+10
						Dec 2004	27	40	24	9	+13
						2005					
						Jan 2005	27	42	22	9	+15
						Feb 2005	31	43	18	7	+12
						Mar 2005	33	39	21	7	+6
						Apr 2005	33	38	23	6	+5
						May 2005	27	40	26	6	+13
						Jun 2005	26	44	21	9	+18
						Jul 2005	26	43	25	6	+17
						Aug 2005	28	43	22	7	+15
						Sep 2005	28	42	23	7	+14
						Oct 2005	30	43	21	6	+13
						Nov 2005	29	46	19	5	+17
						Dec 2005	37	35	20	8	-2

	Con	Lab	LD	Other	Lab Lead		Con	Lab	LD	Other	Lab Lead
2001						2006					
Jan 2001	31	50	14	5	+19	Jan 2006	35	42	17	7	+7
Feb 2001	30	50	14	6	+20	Feb 2006	33	41	20	6	+8
Mar 2001	31	50	14	5	+19	Mar 2006	31	42	19	8	+11
Apr 2001	30	50	13	7	+20	Apr 2006	33	35	20	12	+2
May 2001	30	54	13	3	+24	May 2006	36	34	20	10	-2
Jun 2001	25	49	19	7	+24	Jun 2006	35	36	19	9	+1
Jul 2001	25	52	17	6	+27	Jul 2006	33	37	21	9	+4
Aug 2001	25	53	16	6	+28	Aug 2006	32	37	23	8	+5
Sep 2001	27	53	15	5	+26	Sep 2006	30	38	22	10	+8
Oct 2001	25	57	13	5	+32	Oct 2006	32	41	18	9	+9
Nov 2001	25	56	15	4	+31	Nov 2006	31	36	20	13	+5
Dec 2001			No poll			Dec 2006	34	40	18	8	+6
2002						2007					
Jan 2002	27	51	16	6	+24	Jan 2007	35	40	18	7	+5
Feb 2002	28	51	16	5	+23	Feb 2007			No poll		
Mar 2002	28	47	19	6	+19	Mar 2007	37	39	16	8	+2
Apr 2002	27	50	16	7	+23	Apr 2007	34	36	20	11	+2
May 2002	30	46	17	7	+16	May 2007	33	39	18	11	+6
Jun 2002	29	48	17	6	+19	Jun 2007	32	42	15	10	+10
Jul 2002	27	48	18	5	+21	Jul 2007	31	45	15	9	+14
Aug 2002	25	53	16	6	+28	Aug 2007	36	41	16	7	+5
Sep 2002	27	53	15	5	+26	Sep 2007	31	44	15	10	+13
Oct 2002	25	57	13	5	+32	Oct 2007	40	41	13	6	+1
Nov 2002	27	47	18	8	+20	Nov 2007			No poll		
Dec 2002	29	43	23	5	+14	Dec 2007	42	35	14	9	-7

Source: www.mori.com



Mori is one of a number of polling organisations in the UK. Most give data on their websites. A summary of results from all polling companies are available at <http://www.ukpollingreport.co.uk>

Table 31

MORI Approval Ratings for Party Leaders

	2000			Blair			Hague			Kennedy		
	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Net	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Net	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Net	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Net
Jan 2000	53	38	+15	19	56	-37	28	14	+14			
Feb 2000	49	42	+7	22	55	-33	26	15	+11			
Mar 2000	47	43	+4	26	49	-23	30	16	+14			
Apr 2000	52	41	+11	24	51	-27	34	16	+18			
May 2000	47	42	+5	27	47	-20	32	15	+17			
Jun 2000	39	52	-13	29	48	-19	31	17	+14			
Jul 2000	42	50	-8	29	49	-20	31	19	+12			
Aug 2000	45	45	0	26	51	-25	32	18	+14			
Sep 2000	32	63	-31	23	56	-33	42	17	+25			
Oct 2000	37	55	-18	28	51	-23	34	19	+15			
Nov 2000	42	49	-7	26	52	-26	34	16	+18			
Dec 2000	43	50	-7	25	52	-27	35	18	+17			
2001												
Jan 2001	47	44	+3	25	52	-27	33	19	+14			
Feb 2001	48	43	+5	25	56	-31	35	19	+16			
Mar 2001	47	46	+1	25	53	-28	40	22	+18			
Apr 2001	44	46	-2	25	54	-29	35	20	+15			
General Election												
Jun 2001	55	37	+18	23	55	-32	59	17	+42			
Jul 2001	51	41	+10	...	...	...	46	15	+31			
Aug 2001	49	43	+6	...	...	...	43	14	+29			
Blair												
Sep 2001	67	26	+41	15	15	0	47	15	+32			
Oct 2001	65	28	+37	22	14	+8	45	16	+29			
Nov 2001	64	28	+36	24	22	+2	44	15	+29			
Dec 2001												
<i>No poll</i>												
2002												
Jan 2002	51	39	+12	25	33	-8	53	16	+37			
Feb 2002	46	46	0	27	30	-3	46	16	+30			
Mar 2002	42	50	-8	23	31	-8	46	15	+31			
Apr 2002	46	46	0	26	27	-1	47	14	+33			
May 2002	39	50	-11	26	35	-9	41	19	+22			
Jun 2002	46	47	-1	24	33	-9	44	16	+28			
Jul 2002	42	50	-8	22	35	-13	46	17	+29			
Aug 2002												
<i>No poll</i>												
Sep 2002	42	49	-7	22	39	-17	43	17	+26			
Nov 2002	40	51	-11	22	49	-27	47	19	+28			
Dec 2002	38	54	-16	19	49	-30	43	20	+23			
2003												
Blair												
Jan 2003	33	58	-25	18	49	-31	42	20	+22			
Feb 2003	31	61	-30	16	53	-37	42	23	+19			
Mar 2003	43	48	-5	21	47	-26	39	26	+13			
Apr 2003	47	45	+2	22	47	-25	40	26	+14			
May 2003	38	54	-16	23	44	-21	38	26	+12			
Jun 2003	31	61	-30	21	49	-28	37	27	+10			
Jul 2003	32	60	-28	25	45	-20	39	26	+13			
Aug 2003	30	63	-33	20	47	-27	38	25	+13			
Sep 2003	29	64	-35	19	49	-30	35	29	+6			
Oct 2003	31	60	-29	22	49	-27	38	24	+14			
Blair												
Nov 2003	32	57	-25	26	17	+9	40	18	+22			
Dec 2003	36	55	-19	22	21	+1	41	20	+21			
2004												
Jan 2004	32	59	-27	30	22	+8	39	20	+19			
Feb 2004	31	60	-29	29	27	+2	39	23	+16			
Mar 2004	32	60	-28	31	28	+3	40	21	+19			
Apr 2004	31	61	-30	28	30	-2	38	25	+13			
May 2004	29	61	-32	30	31	-1	38	24	+14			
Jun 2004	30	61	-31	26	38	-12	36	28	+8			
Blair												
Duncan Smith												
Kennedy												
Howard												

2004	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Net	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Net	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Net
Jan 2004	32	59	-27	30	22	+8	39	20	+19
Feb 2004	31	60	-29	29	27	+2	39	23	+16
Mar 2004	32	60	-28	31	28	+3	40	21	+19
Apr 2004	31	61	-30	28	30	-2	38	25	+13
May 2004	29	61	-32	30	31	-1	38	24	+14
Jun 2004	30	61	-31	26	38	-12	36	28	+8
Jul 2004	30	63	-33	26	42	-16	44	26	+18
Aug 2004	29	61	-32	26	41	-15	39	30	+9
Sep 2004	32	61	-29	26	40	-14	39	25	+14
Oct 2004	30	61	-31	23	45	-22	38	27	+11
Nov 2004	32	60	-28	23	44	-21	38	28	+10
Dec 2004	33	58	-25	22	43	-21	41	27	+14
2005									
Jan 2005	33	57	-24	22	48	-26	39	28	+11
Feb 2005	35	57	-22	25	45	-20	37	29	+8
Mar 2005	34	59	-25	31	41	-10	39	29	+10
Apr 2005						-			
May 2005	39	55	-16	28	48	-20	49	28	+21
Jun 2005	39	52	-13	23	49	-26	46	26	+20
Jul 2005	44	47	-3	25	48	-23	42	29	+13
Aug 2005	39	51	-12	25	45	-20	46	26	+20
Sep 2005	31	60	-29						
Oct 2005	36	55	-19						
Nov 2005	37	55	-18						
Dec 2005									
2006									
Jan 2006	36	57	-21	31	17	+14			
Feb 2006	31	60	-29	31	16	+15			
Mar 2006	31	62	-31	32	19	+13	22	17	+5
Apr 2006	29	64	-35	29	27	+2	26	20	+6
May 2006	26	67	-41	33	27	+6	22	31	-9
Jun 2006	32	60	-28	32	28	+4	22	28	-6
Jul 2006	23	67	-44	29	31	-2	22	28	-6
Aug 2006	26	66	-40	30	28	+2	22	28	-6
Sep 2006					No poll				
Oct 2006	32	60	-28	31	32	-1	22	31	-9
Nov 2006	27	65	-38	25	31	-6	23	26	-3
Dec 2006	30	64	-34	28	33	-5	22	31	-9
2007									
Jan 2007	25	68	-43	28	37	-9	22	33	-11
Feb 2007					No poll				
Mar 2007					No poll				
Apr 2007	28	66	-38	30	33	-3	22	32	-10
May 2007	35	57	-22	29	33	-4	21	34	-13
Jun 2007	33	60	-27	28	33	-5	21	33	-12
Brown									
Jul 2007	36	20	+16	31	35	-4	22	32	-10
Aug 2007	43	23	+20	29	39	-10	23	32	-9
Sep 2007	44	26	+18	23	45	-22	24	35	-11
Oct 2007	37	38	-1	36	38	-2			
Nov 2007					No poll				
Dec 2007	31	54	-23	39	33	+6			

Note: net approval rating is the percentage satisfied subtract the percentage dissatisfied
Source: www.mori.com

MORI Overall approval ratings for party leaders: Net

