



RESEARCH PAPER 01/37
29 MARCH 2001

UK Election Statistics: 1945-2000

This paper summarises the results of UK General Elections since 1945. It also includes the results of Parliamentary by-elections, local elections, European Parliamentary elections and elections to devolved bodies that have taken place since the 1997 General Election.

Full results of by-elections in this Parliament are available in Research Paper 01/36 *By-elections since the 1997 General Election* while more detailed results of the 1997 General Election, including constituency results, are available in Research Paper 01/38 *General Election Results, 1 May 1997*.

Bryn Morgan & Joseph Connelly

SOCIAL & GENERAL STATISTICS SECTION

HOUSE OF COMMONS LIBRARY

Recent Library Research Papers include:

01/22	The <i>Christmas Day (Trading) Bill</i> [Bill 14 of 2000-2001]	13.03.01
01/23	The <i>Transplant of Human Organs Bill</i> [Bill 17 of 2000-2001]	14.03.01
01/24	Direct taxes: rates & allowances 2001-02	14.03.01
01/25	Unemployment by constituency, February 2001	14.03.01
01/26	The <i>Regulatory Reform Bill</i> : Background to Red tape issues	14.03.01
01/27	The <i>Regulatory Reform Bill</i> : order-making power & parliamentary aspects	14.03.01
01/28	Police Service Strength: England & Wales (31 March 1977 to 30 September 2000)	16.03.01
01/29	The <i>Special Needs and Disability Bill</i> [HL] [Bill 55 of 2000-2001]	16.03.01
01/30	Election of a Commons Speaker (2 nd Edition)	19.03.01
01/31	The <i>National Lottery (Amendment) Bill</i> [Bill 15 of 2000-2001]	22.03.01
01/32	The <i>Social Security Fraud Bill</i> [Bill 60 of 2000-2001]	21.03.01
01/33	The <i>Adoption and Children Bill</i> [Bill 66 of 2000-2001]	23.03.01
01/34	The <i>Private Security Industry Bill</i> [Bill 67 of 2000-2001]	26.03.01
01/35	Foot and Mouth Disease	27.03.01
01/36	By-elections 1997-2000	28.03.01

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. Any comments on Research Papers 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	5
II	General Elections since 1945	6
	A. Summary of results	6
	B. Turnout	15
	C. Postal votes and spoilt ballots	16
	D. Women MPs	17
	E. Ethnic Minority MPs	18
III	The 1997 General Election	19
IV	By-elections	24
V	European Elections	25
VI	Elections to devolved bodies	27
	A. National Assembly for Wales	27
	B. Scottish Parliament Elections	29
	C. Northern Ireland Assembly	31
	D. London Assembly and Mayor	31
	1. London Mayor	31
	2. Greater London Assembly	32
VII	Local Elections	34
VIII	Referendums	37
	A. Scotland	37
	B. Wales	37
	C. Northern Ireland	38

D. London**38****IX Opinion Polls****39****List of Tables**

Table number	Title	Page
Table 1a	General Election Results: 1945-1997: United Kingdom	8
Table 1b	General Election Results: 1945-1997: Great Britain	9
Table 1c	General Election Results: 1945-1997: England	10
Table 1d	General Election Results: 1945-1997: Wales	11
Table 1e	General Election Results: 1945-1997: Scotland	12
Table 1f	General Election Results: 1945-1970: Northern Ireland	13
Table 1g	General Election Results: 1974-1997: Northern Ireland	14
Table 2	Turnout at UK General Elections: 1945-97	15
Table 3	Spoilt Ballot Papers: 1964-97	16
Table 4	Postal Ballot Papers: 1945-97	17
Table 5	Women Members elected at General Elections since 1918	18
Table 6	1997 General Election: UK	20
Table 7	1997 General Election: Northern Ireland	21
Table 8	Change in seats relative to 1992 General Election	21
Table 9	Largest and smallest absolute majorities by party	22
Table 10	Highest and lowest turnouts	23
Table 11	European Parliamentary elections: 10 June 1999	26
Table 12	Welsh Assembly elections: 6 May 1999	28
Table 13	Scottish Parliament elections: 6 May 1999	30
Table 14	Northern Ireland Assembly elections: 25 June 1998	31
Table 15	Election for London Mayor: 4 May 2000	32
Table 16	Greater London Assembly elections: 4 May 2000	33
Table 17	National Equivalent Vote at local government elections	34
Table 18	Local government elections: 1997-2000	35
Table 19	Local government elections in 2001	36
Table 20	Voting Intention: Gallup monthly polls: 1996-2001	39
Table 21	Voting Intention: ICM monthly polls: 1996-2001	40
Table 22	Voting Intention: MORI monthly polls: 1996-2001	41

I Introduction

This research paper summarises the results of General Elections since 1945 and of other elections since 1997. The paper is intended as a summary; in most cases more detailed results are available in separate papers.

Section II looks at **General Election results in the UK since 1945**. 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 ethnic minority MPs.

Section III presents more detailed results from the **1997 General Election** showing the highest and lowest turnouts, majorities, shares and changes in share of the vote.

The results of the 17 parliamentary **by-elections** that have taken place since the 1997 General Election are summarised in Section IV.

Section V looks at the results of elections to the European Parliament in the UK.

Section VI looks at the results of elections to the devolved bodies in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and London while Section VII looks at local election results.

There have been four Government-sponsored referendums in this Parliament: on the setting up of the Welsh Assembly, Scottish Parliament, Northern Ireland Assembly and Greater London Authority. Summary results are given in Section VIII.

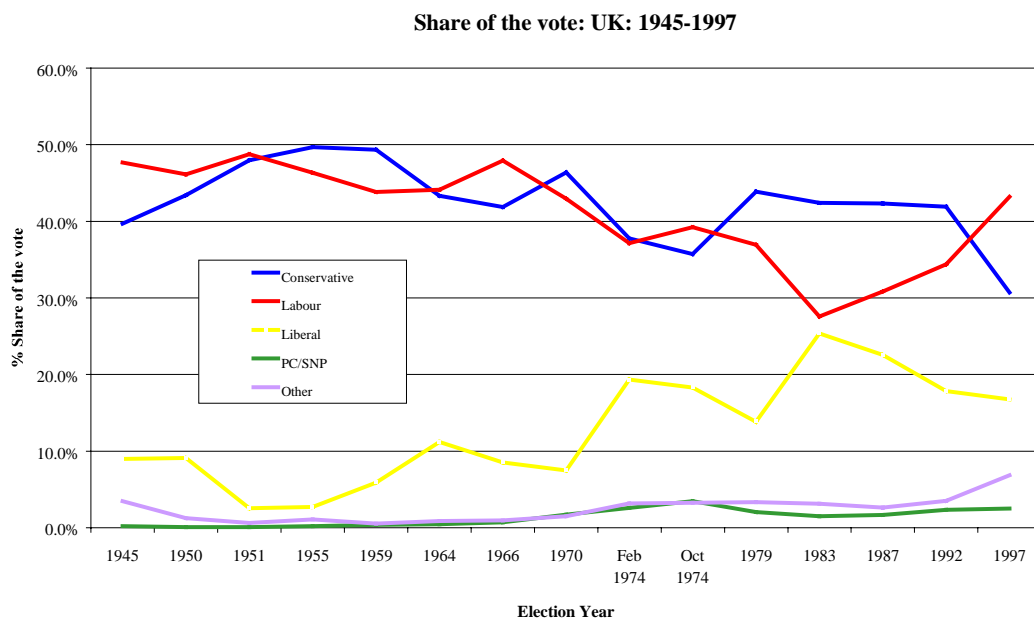
Finally, Section IX presents opinion polls on voting intention from Gallup, ICM and MORI.

The aim of this paper is to provide a quick summary of the results of elections in the UK. It is hoped to add to the version of this paper on the Parliamentary Intranet so it builds into a comprehensive compendium of UK election statistics. More information on elections in the UK since 1832 can be found in *British Electoral Facts: 1832-1999* by Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher published in 2000 by Parliamentary Research Services.

II General Elections since 1945

A. Summary of results

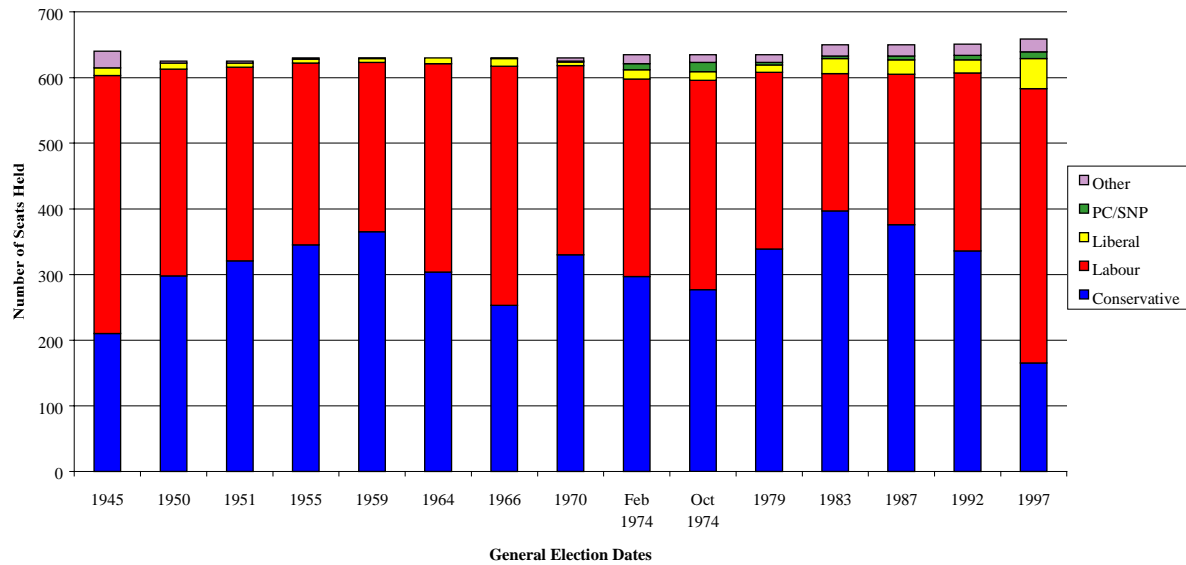
Tables 1a to 1f and the charts below summarise the results of the 15 General Elections from 1945 to 1997.



Some of the main points are:

- In terms of seats won, the Conservatives have been the largest party on eight occasions, Labour on seven. Only one General Election has resulted in the party with most seats not gaining an overall majority. That was at the February 1974 General Election when Labour gained 301 out of 635 seats.
- On two occasions the party gaining most votes not won the most seats; in 1951 when Labour polled most votes but won 26 fewer seats than the Conservatives and in February 1974 when the Conservatives polled 180,000 more votes than Labour but gained four fewer seats.
- The Conservatives' best result in terms of seats was 1983 when they won 397. Correspondingly this was Labour's worst result in terms of both seats, 209, and share, 27.6%. The Conservatives' highest share of the vote was in 1955 when they polled 49.6%.
- Labour's 418 seats won in 1997 is their highest ever while their highest share was 48.8% in 1951, an election that they lost. The lowest Conservative share was 30.6% in 1997.

Seats Won: UK: 1945-1997



- The Liberal Democrats' 46 seats at the 1997 General Election was the most won since 1945 by the party or its predecessors.
- The Scottish National Party won its first seat at a General Election in 1970, although it had won a by-election in 1967. Its highest share of the vote in Scotland was at the October 1974 Election when they polled 30.4% of the vote.
- Plaid Cymru won its first seat at a General Election in February. It had previously won a by-election in 1966. Their highest share of the vote in Wales was 11.5% in the 1970 Election.

From 1950, The Speaker of the House of Commons has sought re-election as "The Speaker" and not as a party candidate. In this paper, where The Speaker stood for re-election they have been classified as "other" rather than the Party for which they were previously a Member.

Table 1a

General Election Results: 1945-1997: 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
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%

	Candidates						Seats won					
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC/SNP	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC/SNP	Other	Total
1945	618	603	306	15	141	1,683	210	393	12		25	640
1950	618	617	475	10	148	1,868	297	315	9		4	625
1951	617	590	104	9	56	1,376	321	295	6		3	625
1955	623	620	110	13	43	1,409	344	277	6		3	630
1959	625	621	216	25	49	1,536	365	258	6		1	630
1964	629	628	365	28	97	1,747	303	317	9		1	630
1966	629	621	311	43	103	1,707	253	363	12		2	630
1970	629	624	332	101	151	1,837	330	287	6	1	6	630
1974 Feb	622	623	517	106	267	2,135	296	301	14	9	15	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

(a) Includes National and National Liberal for 1945; includes National Liberal and Conservative 1945-1970

(b) Liberal/SDP Alliance 1983-87; Liberal Democrats from 1992

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-1999, Rallings and Thrasher, Parliamentary Research Services, 2000*
House of Commons Library

Table 1b

General Election Results: 1945-1997: 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
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%

	Candidates						Seats won					
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC/SNP	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC/SNP	Other	Total
1945	606	598	306	15	134	1,659	202	393	12		21	628
1950	606	612	475	10	142	1,845	287	315	9		2	613
1951	608	586	104	9	49	1,356	312	295	6			613
1955	611	617	110	13	30	1,381	334	277	6		1	618
1959	613	618	215	25	36	1,507	353	258	6		1	618
1964	617	618	361	28	94	1,718	291	317	9		1	618
1966	617	617	308	43	95	1,680	242	363	12		1	618
1970	617	617	328	101	134	1,797	322	287	6	1	2	618
1974 Feb	622	623	517	106	219	2,087	296	301	14	9	3	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		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		634
1997	640	639	639	112	1,569	3,599	165	418	46	10	2	641

(a) Includes National and National Liberal for 1945; includes National Liberal and Conservative 1945-1970

(b) Liberal/SDP Alliance 1983-87; Liberal Democrats from 1992

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-1999*, Rallings and Thrasher, *Parliamentary Research Services*, 2000
House of Commons Library

Table 1c

General Election Results: 1945-1997: England

	Votes (millions)					Share of vote (%)				
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	Other	Total
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%

	Candidates					Seats won				
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	Other	Total
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	515	516	452	191	1,674	267	237	9	3	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

(a) Includes National and National Liberal for 1945; includes National Liberal and Conservative 1945-1970

(b) Liberal/SDP Alliance 1983-87; Liberal Democrats from 1992

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-1999*, Rallings and Thrasher, Parliamentary Research Services, 2000
House of Commons Library

Table 1d

General Election Results: 1945-1997: Wales

	Votes (thousands)					Share of vote (%)						
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC	Other	Total
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%

	Candidates					Seats won						
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	PC	Other	Total
1945	27	34	17	6	3	87	4	25	6			35
1950	35	36	21	7	6	105	4	27	5			36
1951	36	9	4	7	28	84	6	27	3			36
1955	32	36	10	11	2	91	6	27	3			36
1959	34	36	8	20	3	101	7	27	2			36
1964	36	36	12	23	5	112	6	28	2			36
1966	36	36	11	20	8	111	3	32	1			36
1970	36	36	19	36	11	138	7	27	1		1	36
1974 Feb	36	36	31	36	9	148	8	24	2	2		36
1974 Oct	36	36	36	36	6	150	8	23	2	3		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		38
1987	38	38	38	38	6	158	8	24	3	3		38
1992	38	38	38	35	31	180	6	27	1	4		38
1997	40	40	40	40	63	223		34	2	4		40

(a) Includes National and National Liberal for 1945; includes National Liberal and Conservative 1945-1970

(b) Liberal/SDP Alliance 1983-87; Liberal Democrats from 1992

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-1999*, Rallings and Thrasher, *Parliamentary Research Services*, 2000
House of Commons Library

Table 1e

General Election Results: 1945-1997: Scotland

	Votes (thousands)						Share of vote (%)					
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	SNP	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	SNP	Other	Total
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%

	Candidates						Seats won					
	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	SNP	Other	Total	Con ^(a)	Lab	Lib ^(b)	SNP	Other	Total
1945	68	68	22	8	18	184	27	37			7	71
1950	68	71	41	3	29	212	31	37	2		1	71
1951	70	71	9	2	8	160	35	35	1			71
1955	71	71	5	2	7	156	36	34	1			71
1959	70	71	16	5	10	172	31	38	1		1	71
1964	71	71	26	5	24	197	24	43	4			71
1966	71	71	24	23	17	206	20	46	5			71
1970	71	71	27	65	22	256	23	44	3	1		71
1974 Feb	71	71	34	70	19	265	21	40	3	7		71
1974 Oct	71	71	68	71	12	293	16	41	3	11		71
1979	71	71	43	71	28	284	22	44	3	2		71
1983	72	72	72	72	26	314	21	41	8	2		72
1987	72	72	72	71	21	308	10	50	9	3		72
1992	72	72	72	72	53	341	11	49	9	3		72
1997	72	72	72	72	143	431		56	10	6		72

(a) Includes National and National Liberal for 1945; includes National Liberal and Conservative 1945-1970

(b) Liberal/SDP Alliance 1983-87; Liberal Democrats from 1992

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-1999*, Rallings and Thrasher, *Parliamentary Research Services*, 2000
House of Commons Library

Table 1f

General Election Results: 1945-1970: Northern Ireland ^(a)

	Votes (thousands)					Share of vote (%)				
	Con ^(b)	Lab	Lib	Other	Total	Con ^(b)	Lab	Lib	Other	Total
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 ^(b)	Lab	Lib	Other	Total	Con ^(b)	Lab	Lib	Other	Total
1945	68	68	22	26	184	27	37		7	71
1950	68	71	41	32	212	31	37	2	1	71
1951	70	71	9	10	160	35	35	1		71
1955	71	71	5	9	156	36	34	1		71
1959	70	71	16	15	172	31	38	1	1	71
1964	71	71	26	29	197	24	43	4		71
1966	71	71	24	40	206	20	46	5		71
1970	71	71	27	87	256	23	44	3	1	71

(a) Until the General Election of 1974, no distinction is made between Unionist, Labour-endorsed and Liberal candidates in Northern Ireland and Conservative, Labour and Liberal candidates in Great Britain. A separate table for 1975 onwards is given to reflect the changed political situation in Northern Ireland.

(b) Includes National and National Liberal for 1945; includes National Liberal and Conservative 1945-1970

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-1999*, Rallings and Thrasher, *Parliamentary Research Services*, 2000
House of Commons Library

Table 1g

General Election Results: 1974-97: Northern Ireland

	Votes (thousands)							Share of Vote										
	Feb		Oct		1979	1983	1987	1992	1997	Feb		Oct		1979	1983	1987	1992	1997
	1974	1974	1974	1974						1974	1974							
Ulster Unionist	326.4	256.1	254.6	260.0	276.2	271.0	258.3	45.5%	36.5%	36.6%	34.0%	37.8%	34.5%	32.7%				
Ulster Democratic Unionist	58.7	59.5	71.0	152.7	85.6	103.0	107.3	8.2%	8.5%	10.2%	20.0%	11.7%	13.1%	13.6%				
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	22.4%	22.0%	18.2%	17.9%	21.1%	19.7%	24.1%				
Alliance	22.7	44.6	82.9	61.3	72.7	68.7	63.0	3.2%	6.4%	11.9%	8.0%	10.0%	8.7%	8.0%				
Sinn Fein				102.7	83.4	78.3	126.9					13.4%	11.4%	10.0%	16.1%			
Others ^(a)	149.5	187.7	161.1	28.4	39.7	90.3	44.4	20.8%	26.7%	23.2%	3.7%	5.4%	11.5%	5.6%				
Total	717.6	702.1	695.9	764.9	730.1	785.1	790.8	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	7	6	5	11	9	9	10				
Ulster Democratic Unionist	2	2	5	14	4	7	9	1	1	3	3	3	3	2				
Ulster Popular Unionist				1	1	1					1	1	1					
SDLP	12	9	9	17	13	13	18	1	1	1	1	3	4	3				
Alliance	3	5	12	12	16	16	17											
Sinn Fein				14	14	14	17				1	1		2				
Others ^(a)	17	20	27	21	17	36	48	3	4	3				1				
Total	48	43	64	95	77	100	125	12	12	12	17	17	17	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 (as opposed to the Official Ulster Unionist Party) in 1979; the UK Unionist Party in 1997.

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-1999, Rallings and Thrasher, Parliamentary Research Services, 2000*
House of Commons Library

B. Turnout

Table 2 shows turnout at General Elections since 1945.

- Turnout in the 2001 election was the lowest in the table.
- Turnout in Northern Ireland was lower than in the other countries of the UK in each election between 1945 and 1997. In 2001, turnout was highest in Northern Ireland. Turnout in Wales was the highest at each election, with the exception of the 2001 general election.

Table 2

Turnout at UK General Elections: 1945-97

Valid votes as % of electorate

	England	Wales	Scotland	Northern Ireland	United Kingdom
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%

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-1999, Parliamentary Research Services*

House of Commons Library data on disk

C. Postal votes and spoilt ballots

Tables 3 and 4 show the numbers of spoilt ballot papers and postal votes at UK General Election. Figures on spoilt ballots have generally only been collected since 1964. The proportion of all ballot papers that were spoilt was highest at the 1979 and 1997 General Elections. These were years where local elections were held on the same day as the General Election.

Under the Representation of the People Act 2000, and more specifically parts IV and V of the draft *Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001* the rules for applying for postal ballots have changed. It is no longer necessary to state a reason when applying for a postal vote and it is thought that this will increase the number of postal votes and hence turnout. In pilot schemes at the 2000 local elections the introduction of all-postal ballots was found to have increased turnout.¹

Table 3

Spoilt Ballot Papers: 1964-97

	Spoilt ballot papers by reason				Total	Average per Constituency	Percentage of total ballot Papers
	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	0.15%
1966	2,061	11,519	8,525	27,794	49,899	79	0.18%
1970	2,118	14,144	7,541	17,544	41,347	66	0.15%
1974 Feb	3,176	12,214	7,320	19,542	42,252	67	0.13%
1974 Oct	2,938	13,492	6,009	15,267	37,706	59	0.13%
1979	3,282	72,515	5,801	36,250	117,848	186	0.38%
1983	2,819	27,938	4,693	15,654	51,104	79	0.17%
1987	2,408	14,216	4,976	15,345	36,945	57	0.11%
1992	2,593	14,538	5,008	17,587	39,726	61	0.12%
1997	2,169	25,234	4,421	61,415	93,408	142	0.30%

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-1999*, Rallings and Thrasher, *Parliamentary Research Services*, 2000

¹ HC Deb 15 May 2000 c64W

Table 4

Postal Ballot Papers: 1945-97

Dates	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%

Sources: British Electoral Facts: 1832-1999, Rallings and Thrasher, Parliamentary Research Services, 2000

D. Women MPs

Table 5 shows the number of women elected at General Elections since 1918.

The first woman MP to win an election 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.

Between 1945 and 1983, the number of women MPs remained between 19 and 29. In 1987 the number increased to 41 and then to 60 in 1992. The number doubled at the 1997 General Election to 120, of whom 101 were Labour MPs.

The election of two women at by-elections since the 1997 General Election took the total to 122, although with the retirement of the Speaker and the death of Audrey Wise the number is currently 120.

Table 5

Women Members Elected at General Elections Between 1918-1997

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

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-1999*, Rallings and Thrasher, *Parliamentary Research Services*, 2000
House of Commons Library

E. Ethnic Minority MPs

- The first Conservative ethnic minority MP to be elected was Mancherjee Bhownaggee (later Sir Mancherjee) who was Member for Bethnal Green North-East from 1895 to 1905.
- The first Labour MPs from ethnic minorities were elected in 1987: Diane Abbott (Hackney North & Stoke Newington), Paul Boateng (Brent South), Bernie Grant (Tottenham) and Keith Vaz (Leicester East). The first three of these were the first black/afro-caribbean MPs to be elected and Diane Abbott was the first black woman MP.
- The total number of ethnic minority MPs rose to six in 1992 with five Labour and one Conservative. In 1997 the number totalled nine, all from the Labour Party.

III The 1997 General Election

The tables in this section look at the results of the 1997 General Election. Table 6 summarises the voting in the UK, while table 7 looks at Northern Ireland. Table 8 shows the movement of seats between parties, table 9 shows the highest and lowest majorities by party while table 10 shows the highest and lowest turnouts. More detailed results from 1997, including results by constituency, are available in research paper 01/38 *General Election Results, 1 May 1997*.

The 1997 election was notable in many ways. Labour's 13.5 million votes have only been exceeded in 1951 and the party's share of 43.2% was its highest since 1966. The 418 seats won were the party's most ever, and compare with 393 won in 1945. The Conservatives' 9.6 million votes was the party's lowest total since 1929 and their share of 30.7% the lowest since 1832. Their 165 seats were the party's fewest since 1906. The Liberal Democrats' 5.2 million votes were fewer than in 1992, as was the party's share of the vote, but 46 seats represents the party's most since 1929, when it won 56².

Turnout at the election was relatively low, at 71.5%; this is the lowest national level of turnout since 1935.

The boundaries of many seats were redrawn before the 1997 election and any comparisons with 1992 shown in subsequent tables use the notional results for 1992 based on the new boundaries, taken from work by Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher of the University of Plymouth.³

A record number of women were elected in 1997. In all, 120 women MPs were returned, double the number in 1992. Of these, 101 were Labour, 13 Conservative, three Liberal Democrat, two SNP and one was the Speaker.

² This is the Liberal Party total.

³ In the **Media Guide to the New Parliamentary Constituencies**, published by BBC, ITN, PA News and Sky.

Table 6

1997 General Election: UK

Party	Votes	% share	Seats won		Candidates	Lost deposits
			1997	Change from 1992 ^(d)		
Labour	13,518,167	43.2	418	+146	639	
Conservative	(a) 9,600,943	30.7	165	-178	648	8
Liberal Democrat	5,242,947	16.8	46	+28	639	13
Referendum	811,849	2.6			547	505
Scottish National	621,550	2.0	6	+3	72	
Ulster Unionist	258,349	0.8	10	+1	16	1
SDLP	190,814	0.6	3	-1	18	3
Plaid Cymru	161,030	0.5	4		40	15
Sinn Fein	126,921	0.4	2	+2	17	4
Democratic Unionist	107,348	0.3	2	-2	9	
UK Independence Party	105,722	0.3			193	192
Independent	(b) 76,521	0.2	1	+1	153	152
Green	63,991	0.2			95	95
Alliance	62,972	0.2			17	6
Socialist Labour Party	52,109	0.2			64	61
Liberal Party	45,166	0.1			55	53
British National Party	(c) 35,832	0.1			57	54
Independent Labour	30,828	0.1			17	13
Natural Law Party	30,604	0.1			197	197
Speaker	23,969	0.1	1	+1	1	
Prolife Alliance	19,332	0.1			56	56
Independent Conservative	18,888	0.1			13	11
UK Unionist	12,817	0.0	1	+1	1	
Socialist	11,265	0.0			24	23
Progressive Unionists	10,928	0.0			3	
National Democrats	10,829	0.0			21	20
Scottish Socialist Alliance	9,740	0.0			16	15
Monster Raving Loony Party	7,757	0.0			24	24
Rainbow Dream Ticket	4,104	0.0			31	31
Workers Party	2,766	0.0			8	8
National Front	2,716	0.0			6	6
Legalise Cannabis	2,085	0.0			4	4
Mebyon Kernow	1,906	0.0			4	4
Workers Revolutionary Party	1,178	0.0			9	9
Christian Democrat	694	0.0			3	3
Independent Green	593	0.0			1	1
Communist	516	0.0			3	3
Humanist	288	0.0			2	2
Independent Liberal Democrat	250	0.0			1	1
Total	31,286,284	100.0	659		3,724	1,593

Turnout: 71.4%

(a) Includes eight candidates in Northern Ireland

(b) Includes one candidate in Northern Ireland

(c) Includes eighteen candidates in Northern Ireland

(d) Change from notional results in 1992.

(e) The Ulster Popular Unionist Party won a seat in 1992 but did not stand in 1997.

House of Commons Library

Table 7

1997 General Election: Northern Ireland

Party	Votes	% share	MPs		Lost deposits
			elected	Candidates	
Ulster Unionist	258,349	32.7	10	16	1
SDLP	190,814	24.1	3	18	3
Sinn Fein	126,921	16.1	2	17	4
Democratic Unionist	107,348	13.6	2	9	
Alliance	62,972	8.0		17	6
UK Unionist	12,817	1.6	1	1	
Progressive Unionists	10,928	1.4		3	
Conservative	9,858	1.2		8	7
Independent	4,869	0.6		7	7
Workers Party	2,766	0.3		8	8
Natural Law Party	2,208	0.3		18	18
Green	539	0.1		1	1
Independent Labour	292	0.0		1	1
National Democrats	81	0.0		1	1
Total	790,762	100.0	18	125	57

Turnout: 67.1%

House of Commons Library

Table 8

Change in seats relative to notional 1992 General Election results

1997 General Election: UK

Party losing	Party gaining							Total
	Labour	Liberal Democrat	SNP	Other	Sinn Fein	UUP	UKUP	
Conservative	144	30	3	1				178
Labour				1				2
Liberal Democrat	2							2
DUP					1	1		1
SDLP					1			1
UPUP							1	1
Total	146	30	3	2	2	1	1	184

House of Commons Library

Table 9

Largest and smallest absolute majorities, by party

		Name	Constituency	Majority	
				Votes	Per cent
Conservative					
Largest	1st	John Major	Huntingdon	18,140	31.8%
	2nd	Nick Hawkins	Surrey Heath	16,287	29.8%
	3rd	Peter Ainsworth	East Surrey	15,093	27.6%
	4th	Norman Fowler	Sutton Coldfield	14,885	28.4%
	5th	Francis Maude	Horsham	14,862	26.0%
Smallest	1st	Ian Bruce	South Dorset	77	0.2%
	2nd	David Madel	South West Bedfordshire	132	0.2%
	3rd	Peter Atkinson	Hexham	222	0.5%
	4th	Michael Fabricant	Lichfield	238	0.5%
	5th	Patrick Nicholls	Teignbridge	281	0.4%
Labour					
Largest	1st	Eddie O'Hara	Knowsley South	30,708	64.5%
	2nd	John Cummings	Easington	30,012	71.6%
	3rd	Joe Benton	Bootle	28,421	74.4%
	4th	Llew Smith	Blaenau Gwent	28,035	70.7%
	5th	Dennis Skinner	Bolsover	27,149	57.3%
Smallest	1st	Paul Stinchcombe	Wellingborough	187	0.3%
	2nd	Philip Sawford	Kettering	189	0.3%
	3rd	Brian White	North East Milton Keynes	240	0.5%
	4th	Andrew King	Rugby & Kenilworth	495	0.8%
	5th	Eileen Gordon	Romford	649	1.5%
Liberal Democrat					
Largest	1st	Paul Tyler	North Cornwall	13,847	23.7%
	2nd	Matthew Taylor	Truro & St Austell	12,501	22.0%
	3rd	Andrew Stunell	Hazel Grove	11,814	23.9%
Smallest	1st	Mark Oaten	Winchester ^(a)	2	0.0%
	2nd	Adrian Sanders	Torbay	12	0.0%
	3rd	Edward Davey	Kingston & Surbiton	56	0.1%
Plaid Cymru					
Largest		Dafydd Wigley	Caernarfon	7,449	21.6%
Smallest		Ieuan Wyn Jones	Ynys-Mon	2,481	6.2%
Scottish National Party					
Largest		Alex Salmond	Banff & Buchan	12,845	32.0%
Smallest		Roseanna Cunningham	Perth	3,141	7.1%
Majorities in Northern Ireland					
Largest		Jeffrey Donaldson (UUP)	Lagan Valley	16,925	38.2%
Smallest		William Thompson (UUP)	West Tyrone	1,161	2.5%

(a) This result was challenged and a writ for a re-run was issued. This resulted in a Liberal Democrat majority of 21,556

Table 10

Highest and lowest turnouts (per cent)

Highest		Lowest	
ENGLAND			
1 Wirral South	81.1%	1 Liverpool, Riverside	51.6%
2 North West Leicestershire	80.0%	2 Manchester Central	51.7%
3 Northavon	79.1%	3 Hackney North & Stoke Newington	52.0%
4 Twickenham	79.0%	4 Sheffield Central	53.0%
5 Richmond Park	79.0%	5 Birmingham, Ladywood	54.2%
WALES			
1 Brecon & Radnorshire	82.2%	1 Swansea East	67.4%
2 Monmouth	80.5%	2 Swansea West	67.6%
3 Cardiff North	80.2%	3 Cardiff South & Penarth	68.3%
SCOTLAND			
1 Stirling	81.8%	1 Glasgow Shettleston	55.7%
2 Ayr	80.0%	2 Glasgow Kelvin	56.1%
3 Galloway & Upper Nithsdale	79.7%	3 Glasgow Maryhill	56.4%
NORTHERN IRELAND			
1 Mid Ulster	86.1%	1 South Antrim	57.9%
2 West Tyrone	79.6%	2 North Down	58.0%
3 Newry & Armagh	75.4%	3 East Antrim	58.3%

House of Commons Library

IV By-elections

There have been 17 by-elections since the 1997 General Election. The results are summarised below.

By-election winner, swing, change in share of the vote and turnout

Great Britain

	Result	Winner	Swing since 1997		change in share of vote since 1997:				Turnout
			General Election		Con	Lab	LDem	SNP/PC	
Uxbridge	Con hold	J Randall	5.0%	Lab to Con	+7.6%	-2.5%	-5.3%		55.5%
Paisley South	Lab hold	D Alexander	11.2%	Lab to SNP	-1.7%	-13.4%	+1.6%	+9.1%	43.1%
Beckenham	Con hold	J Lait +	2.6%	Con to Lab	-1.2%	+4.0%	+0.2%		43.6%
Winchester ^(a)	LD	M Oaten	19.8%	Con to LDem	-13.6%	-8.8%	+26.0%		68.7%
Leeds Central	Lab hold	H Benn	20.5%	Lab to LDem	-1.4%	-21.4%	+19.6%		19.6%
Eddisbury	Con hold	S O'Brien	1.1%	Lab to Con	+2.3%	+0.0%	+0.6%		51.4%
Hamilton South	Lab hold	B Tynan	22.6%	Lab to SNP	-1.4%	-28.7%	-1.9%	+16.4%	41.3%
Wigan	Lab hold	N Turner	6.1%	Lab to LDem	+1.1%	-9.0%	+3.3%		25.0%
Kensington and Chelsea	Con hold	M Portillo	4.4%	Lab to Con	+2.8%	-5.9%	-5.9%		29.7%
Ceredigion	PC hold	S Thomas	8.2%	Lab to LDem	+1.6%	-9.9%	+6.5%	+1.1%	45.6%
Romsey	LD gain	S Gidley +	12.6%	Con to LDem	-4.0%	-14.8%	+21.1%		55.5%
Tottenham	Lab hold	D Lammy	12.1%	Lab to LDem	+0.3%	-15.8%	+8.3%		25.4%
Glasgow, Anniesland	Lab hold	J Robertson	6.7%	Lab to SNP	-0.6%	-9.7%	+0.8%	+3.7%	38.4%
Preston	Lab hold	M Hendrick	9.1%	Lab to Con	+3.1%	-15.1%	+1.5%		29.6%
West Bromwich West ^(b)	Lab	A Bailev	n/a		27.6%
Falkirk West	Lab hold	E Joyce	16.2%	Lab to SNP	-3.8%	-15.8%	-2.0%	+16.5%	36.2%

Northern Ireland

	Result	Winner	Swing since 1997		change in share of vote since 1997:					Turnout
			General Election		DUP	UUP	SDLP	SF	Alliance	
South Antrim ^(c)	DUP gain	W McCrea	30.1%	UUP to DUP	+38.0%	-22.2%	-4.7%	+3.0%	-5.0%	43.0%

+ indicates a woman

(a) General election result (LDem gain from Con) successfully challenged and election re-run.

(b) Constituency was won in 1997 by the Speaker. The major parties did not contest the constituency at that election. On the basis of notional results for the current constituency boundaries, Labour would have won West Bromwich West in 1992.

(c) There was no Democratic Unionist candidate in South Antrim at the 1997 general election

Percentages may not sum to zero because of candidates from other parties.

The figures given for swing should be used with care as they do not take account of the often complex flows of votes between the parties. Swing is defined as the average of one party's gain and another's loss in shares of vote between the 1997 general election and the by-election.

Of the 17 by-elections, only two, Romsey and South Antrim, resulted in a change in winning party compared with the 1997 General Election.

The Winchester "by-election" was technically a re-run of the 1997 General Election in that constituency and is therefore not classed as a gain. The original result, a Liberal Democrat gain from Conservative with a majority of just two votes, was challenged and a writ for a re-run issued. West Bromwich West was not contested by the major parties in 1997, when the Speaker won it. As Labour would have been likely to have won the seat in 1997, it is not classed as a "Labour gain" here.

This is the first Parliament since 1951-55 where the party in Government has not lost a seat at a by-election. The Conservative win in Uxbridge was their first at a by-election since February 1989.

Two of the winning candidates were women - Jacqui Lait and Sandra Gidley - as were two of those leaving Parliament: Audrey Wise and Betty Boothroyd. Therefore, there are currently 120 women MPs, the same as immediately after the 1997 General Election, although the total did reach 122 after the Romsey by-election.

Ten of the by-elections were caused by the death of the sitting Member of Parliament, while five were due to resignations.

A more comprehensive study of by-election results can be found in Research Paper 01/36 *By-elections: 1997-2000*.

V European Elections

In the UK, elections to the European Parliament were held on 10 June 1999.

These were the first national elections in Great Britain to use a form of proportional representation. This involved aggregating votes in Great Britain for regions to determine the number of MEPs for each party using the d'Hondt quota system. (Northern Ireland retained its system of electing its three MEPs by Single Transferable Vote.) The regional aggregates in GB were compiled from returns made for Westminster constituency areas by local returning officers.

In Great Britain, the Conservatives won 36 of the 81 seats, with Labour winning 29. Plaid Cymru, the Green Party and the UK Independence Party gained their first ever MEPs.

In Northern Ireland, the DUP gained the most first preference votes. The DUP, SDLP and UUP shared the three seats in Northern Ireland.

Turnout in Great Britain was 23.1%, with around 57.0% voting in Northern Ireland. Turnout in the UK was lower than in any other EU country and than in any previous election to the European Parliament.

As votes were counted on a constituency basis, we can show how many seats would have been won by each party if these votes had been at a General Election instead. On this notional basis, the Conservatives would have won 352 seats in a General Election, Labour 261 and the Liberal Democrats just three. Plaid Cymru polled most votes in 10 seats, with the SNP polling most in 15.

Table 11

European Parliamentary Elections: 10 June 1999

	Votes		Seats won		Lists entered	Deposits lost
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent		
Great Britain						
Conservative	3,578,203	35.8%	36	43%	11	
Labour	2,803,820	28.0%	29	35%	11	
Liberal Democrat	1,266,549	12.7%	10	12%	11	
Scottish National Party	268,528	2.7%	2	2%	1	
Plaid Cymru	185,235	1.9%	2	2%	1	
Green Party	625,378	6.3%	2	2%	11	2
UK Independence Party	696,055	7.0%	3	4%	11	2
Pro Euro Conservative Party	138,097	1.4%			11	11
British National Party	102,644	1.0%			10	10
Liberal	93,051	0.9%			5	5
Socialist Labour Party	86,749	0.9%			11	11
Scottish Socialist Party	39,720	0.4%			1	1
Natural Law Party	20,329	0.2%			11	11
Socialist Alliance	7,203	0.1%			1	1
Humanist	2,586	0.0%			1	1
Weekly Worker	1,724	0.0%			2	2
Socialist Party (Great Britain)	1,510	0.0%			1	1
Others	84,872	0.8%			12	12
Total	10,002,253	100.0%	84	100%	123	70
Northern Ireland (first preferences)						
Democratic Unionist	192,762	28.4%	1	33%		
SDLP	190,731	28.1%	1	33%		
Ulster Unionist	119,507	17.6%	1	33%		
Sinn Fein	117,643	17.3%				
Popular Unionist Party	22,494	3.3%				
UK Unionist Party	20,283	3.0%				
Alliance	14,391	2.1%				
Natural Law	998	0.1%				
Total	678,809	100.0%	3	100%		

House of Commons Library

A more detailed analysis of the European Elections is available in Research Paper 99/64 *Elections to the European Parliament - June 1999*.

VI Elections to devolved bodies

A. National Assembly for Wales

The first elections to the National Assembly for Wales were held on 6 May 1999.

Along with the Scottish Parliament elections, these elections were the first in Great Britain to be conducted under the Additional Member System. In Wales voters were given two ballot papers: one used to elect each of 40 members under the first-past-the-post system⁴ and the second to elect four members from each of five electoral regions⁵. These additional members were elected so that the total representation from each area, including those Members elected under first-past-the-post, corresponds as closely as possible with the share of votes cast for each party in the region.

Labour gained the highest share of the vote in both parts of the election and the highest number of seats of any party with 28. Plaid Cymru gained 17 seats, the Conservatives nine and the Liberal Democrats six.

Turnout in the constituency section of the election was 46.3% while in the regional list section it was 46.1%.

Table 12 provides a summary of the results. A more detailed analysis of the Welsh Assembly Elections is available in Research Paper 99/51 *Welsh Assembly Elections: 6 May 1999*.

⁴ Based on the existing 40 Parliamentary Constituencies

⁵ Based on the constituencies used for the 1994 European Elections

Table 12

Welsh Assembly elections: 6 May 1999

	Candidates ^(a)	% Share of Vote	Lost deposits ^(b)	Seats won
Constituencies				
Conservative	40	15.8%	3	1
Labour	40	37.6%		27
Liberal Democrat	40	13.5%	2	3
Plaid Cymru	40	28.4%		9
United Socialist	9	0.4%	9	
Independent	17	3.0%	6	
Independent Labour	2	0.4%	1	
Communist	2	0.1%	2	
Green	1	0.1%	1	
Others	8	0.8%	6	
Total	199	100.0%	30	40
Regional lists				
Conservative	5	16.5%	0	8
Labour	5	35.4%	0	1
Liberal Democrat	5	12.5%	0	3
Plaid Cymru	5	30.5%	0	8
Green	5	2.5%	5	
Natural Law Party	5	0.4%	5	
Socialist Labour	3	1.0%	3	
United Socialist	4	0.4%	4	
Communist	2	0.1%	2	
Others	5	0.6%	5	
Total	44	100.0%	24	20

(a) For the regional lists these figures show the number of lists entered by the party or the number of "others" entering lists

(b) The deposit for the election was £500 per constituency candidate and £500 per list. A deposit was lost if the candidate or list failed to gain at least 5% of the vote in the area that they were standing.

House of Commons Library

B. Scottish Parliament Elections

The first elections to the Scottish Parliament were also held on 6 May 1999.

In Scotland voters were given two ballot papers: one used to elect each of 73 constituency members under the first-past-the-post system⁶ and the second to elect seven members from each of eight electoral regions⁷. These additional members were elected so that the total representation from each area, including those Members elected under first-past-the-post, corresponds as closely as possible with the share of votes cast for each party in the region.

Overall, Labour gained 38.8% of the constituency votes and 34.0% on the regional lists. This gave them a total of 56 seats, 9 short of an overall majority. The Scottish National Party gained 35 seats, the Conservatives 18, all of them top-up seats, and the Liberal Democrats gained 17.

Turnout in the constituency section of the election is put at 58.2% while in the regional list section it was 57.4%.

Table 13 provides a summary of the results. A more detailed analysis is available in Research Paper 99/50 *Scottish Parliament Elections: 6 May 1999*.

⁶ Based on the existing 72 Parliamentary Constituencies with Orkney and Shetland split into two separate constituencies

⁷ Based on the constituencies used for the 1994 European Elections

Table 13

Scottish Parliament elections: 6 May 1999

	Candidates ^(a)	% share of vote	Lost deposits(a)	Seats won
Constituencies				
Conservative	73	15.6%	1	
Labour	73	38.8%		53
Liberal Democrat	73	14.2%	6	12
Scottish National Party	73	28.7%		7
Scottish Socialist Party	19	1.1%	15	
Socialist Labour Party	4	0.2%	3	
Others	24	1.5%	21	1
Total	339	100.0%	46	73
Regional lists				
Conservative	8	15.4%		18
Labour	8	33.8%		3
Liberal Democrat	8	12.5%		5
Scottish National Party	8	27.5%		28
Scottish Socialist Party	1	0.0%	1	1
Socialist Labour Party	1	0.1%	1	
Scottish Green Party	8	3.6%	7	1
Pro-life	2	0.2%	2	
Scottish Unionist Party	5	0.4%	5	
Highlands and Islands Alliance	1	0.0%	1	
Others	34	6.3%	32	
Total lists entered	84	100.0%	49	56

(a) For the regional lists these figures show the number of lists entered by the party

(b) The deposit for the election was £500 per constituency candidate and £500 per list. A deposit was lost if the candidate or list failed to gain at least 5% of the vote in the area that they were standing.

The other candidate winning a constituency seat was Dennis Canavan in Falkirk West standing as an independent

House of Commons Library

C. Northern Ireland Assembly

Table 14 shows the results of the first elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly. These were held on the 25th June 1998. Voting in the election was by Proportional Representation (PR) using the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system.

Turnout was 68.7%.

Table 14

Northern Ireland Assembly elections: 25 June 1998

Party	First Preference		Seats	% Seats
	Votes	% Votes		
SDLP	177,963	22.0%	24	22.2%
Ulster Unionist	172,225	21.3%	28	25.9%
Democratic Unionist	146,917	18.1%	20	18.5%
Sinn Féin	142,858	17.6%	18	16.7%
Alliance	52,636	6.5%	6	5.6%
United Kingdom Unionists	36,541	4.5%	5	4.6%
Progressive Unionist Party	20,634	2.5%	2	1.9%
NI Women's Coalition	13,019	1.6%	2	1.9%
Ulster Democratic Party	8,651	1.1%	0	0.0%
Others	38,801	4.8%	3	2.8%
Total	810,245	100%	108	

Sources: *British Electoral Facts: 1832-1999*, *Rallings and Thrasher*
CAIN web service (cain.ulst.ac.uk)

D. London Assembly and Mayor

1. London Mayor

Table 15 shows the number of 1st and 2nd preference votes cast for each of the candidates for mayor. Under the Supplementary Vote system, the 2nd preferences of all but the top two 1st preference candidates were redistributed to Ken Livingstone and Steve Norris. This gave Ken Livingstone 58% of the final vote. Turnout was 34%.

Table 15

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
Steve Norris	Conservative	464,434	27.1	188,041	13.2	564,137
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 preference votes.

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

House of Commons Research Paper 00/59 *The local elections and elections for a London Mayor and Assembly: 4 May 2000*

2. Greater London Assembly

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

In total, the Conservative Party won 9 members; the Labour Party 9; the Liberal Democrats 4 and the Green Party 3.

Turnout for the GLA election was 31%.

More details of the elections for the London Mayor and Assembly can be found in Research Paper 00/59 *The local elections and elections for a London Mayor and Assembly: 4 May 2000*.

Table 16

Greater London Assembly Election: 4 May 2000**Votes for Constituency Members - London totals**

Party of candidates	Number of votes	%	Seats
Conservative Party	526,707	33.2%	8
Labour Party	501,296	31.6%	6
Liberal Democrats Against Tube Sell-Off	299,998	18.9%	
Green Party	162,457	10.2%	
London Socialist Alliance	46,530	2.9%	
Other	49,082	3.1%	
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,586,070</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>14</i>

Votes for London Members - London totals

Party	Number of votes	%	Seats
Conservative Party	481,053	29.0%	1
Labour Party	502,874	30.3%	3
Liberal Democrats Against Tube Sell-Off	245,555	14.8%	4
Green Party	183,910	11.1%	3
Christian Peoples Alliance – Ram Gidoomal	55,192	3.3%	
London Socialist Alliance	27,073	1.6%	
British National Party	47,670	2.9%	
UK Independence Party	34,054	2.1%	
Peter Gary Tatchell (Independent)	22,862	1.4%	
Campaign Against Tube Privatisation	17,401	1.0%	
Pro-Motorist & Small Shop	13,248	0.8%	
Socialist Labour Party, Leader Arthur Scargill	13,690	0.8%	
Natural Law Party	7,559	0.5%	
Communist Party of Britain	7,489	0.5%	
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,659,630</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	<i>11</i>

House of Commons Research Paper 00/59 *The local elections and elections for a London Mayor and Assembly: 4 May 2000*

VII Local Elections

There have been local elections held each May since the General Election. In May 1997, on the same day as the General Election, elections were held in England in all shire counties, some unitary authorities and one shire district. In 1998, 1999 and 2000 elections were held in English metropolitan districts, unitary authorities and shire districts. Also in 1998, there were elections in London boroughs while elections to Scottish and Welsh unitary authorities were held in 1999. Table 19 shows the authorities in England which are due to have local elections in 2001. There will also be elections to all district councils in Northern Ireland.

As the areas with 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. Equivalent shares of the vote for Great Britain are calculated each year based on the votes actually cast. These are shown in table 17. The 2000 local elections were the first since 1992 in which the Conservatives gained a higher estimated national share than Labour.

Table 17

National Equivalent Vote at local government elections:
1979-2000: 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%

1979 and 1997 figures are General Election results

British Electoral Facts: 1832-1999, Rallings and Thrasher, Parliamentary Research Services, 2000

Table 18

Local Election results: 1997-2000

	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%	1,105	2,239	853		147	4,344
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

Local Elections Handbooks, Rallings and Thrasher

Table 19

Local government elections in 2001**Shire counties (34 authorities)**

Bedfordshire	Leicestershire
Buckinghamshire	Lincolnshire +
Cambridgeshire	Norfolk
Cheshire +	North Yorkshire
Cornwall	Northamptonshire +
Cumbria +	Northumberland +
Derbyshire	Nottinghamshire
Devon	Oxfordshire
Dorset	Shropshire
Durham	Somerset +
East Sussex	Staffordshire
Essex	Suffolk
Gloucestershire	Surrey
Hampshire	Warwickshire
Hertfordshire +	West Sussex
Kent	Wiltshire
Lancashire	Worcestershire

English unitary authorities (11 authorities)

Blackburn *	Slough *
Bristol *	Southend-on-Sea +
Halton *	Thurrock *
Isle of Wight +	Warrington *
Peterborough *	Wokingham *
Reading *	

* indicates elections by thirds

+ indicates all out elections on new boundaries

On 11 December 2000 the Home Office approved 5 councils to pilot alternative voting arrangements at the 2001 local elections. They are:

- Hertfordshire- Electronic Counting
- Norfolk- (7 Divisions) All Postal
- Reading- (Three Wards) All Postal
- Staffordshire- (8 Divisions) All Postal
- West Sussex- (1 Divisions) All Postal

HC Deb 11 December 2000 c49W

VIII Referendums

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.

The question put in Scotland was:

“Parliament has decided to consult people in Scotland on the Government’s proposals for a Scottish Parliament”

The voters were asked either to agree or disagree with 74.3% agreeing with the Government's proposals.

The second question put in Scotland was:

“Parliament has decided to consult people in Scotland on the Government’s proposals for a Scottish Parliament to have tax-varying powers”

Again the voters were asked to agree or disagree with 63.5% voting for tax-varying powers, although there was thought to be confusion among some voters which led to a number of spoilt ballots on the tax-varying powers question.

Turnout was 60.2%, not only lower than the General Election of 71.3% but also lower than the turnout of the last referendum on devolution to Scotland in 1979 where turnout was 63.0%.⁸

B. Wales

On 18 September 1997, one question was put in Wales, concerning the proposed Welsh Assembly.

The question put in Wales was:

“Parliament had decided to consult people in Wales on the Government’s proposals for a Welsh Assembly”

The voters were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the Governments proposals with 50.3% voting agreed.

Turnout was 50.1%, well below the turnout in the May General Election which was 73.5%, and also lower than the last referendum on Welsh devolution in 1979 where turnout was 58.3%.⁹

⁸ Scottish Office

⁹ Welsh Office & The Western Mail (20 September 1997)

C. Northern Ireland

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

“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%, the only referendum in the UK where turnout was comparable to the 1997 General Election turnout.

The Yes vote amounted to 676,966 votes, 71.1% of the total.¹⁰

D. London

On May 7th 1998 the question was put to Londoners:

“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 valid votes were 1,709,128, a turnout of 34.1%. 1,230,759 voted for the Government’s proposals, 72% of the total. 478,413 voted against.

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 with 57% voting in favour.¹¹

¹⁰ Table 21.07 British Electoral Facts 1832-1999 Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, Parliamentary Research Services, 2000

¹¹ Table 21.08 British Electoral Facts 1832-1999 Colin Rallings and Michael Thrasher, Parliamentary Research Services, 2000

IX Opinion Polls

This chapter presents recent trends in opinion polls using figures from Gallup, ICM and MORI.

Table 20

Voting Intention: Gallup monthly polls

	Con	Lab	LDem	Other	Lab Lead		Con	Lab	LDem	Other	Lab Lead
1996						1999					
Jan 1996	21	61	15	4	40	Jan 1999	29	52	13	5	23
Feb 1996	28	55	15	3	27	Feb 1999	29	53	13	5	24
Mar 1996	23	58	16	4	35	Mar 1999	30	52	11	7	22
Apr 1996	26	56	16	3	30	Early Apr 1999	27	54	13	5	27
May 1996	25	56	16	5	31	Late Apr 1999	29	52	13	7	23
Jun 1996	23	57	16	5	35	May 1999	24	52	13	7	28
Jul 1996	26	55	15	5	29	Jun 1999	27	51	14	8	24
Aug 1996	25	59	11	5	34	Jul 1999	27	51	14	8	24
Sep 1996	26	59	11	5	33	Aug 1999	27	52	13	7	25
Oct 1996	28	52	15	6	25	Sep 1999	29	52	13	7	23
Nov 1996	28	55	11	6	27	Oct 1999	28	52	14	6	24
Dec 1996	22	59	12	7	37	Nov 1999	27	53	15	5	26
1997						2000					
Jan 1997	33	51	11	7	18	Jan 2000	30	53	12	5	23
Feb 1997	34	49	12	5	15	Feb 2000	28	49	15	8	21
Mar 1997	28	54	13	6	26	Mar 2000	31	51	11	6	20
Apr 1997	31	52	11	6	21	Apr 2000	32	50	12	5	18
May 1997	31	44	17	7	13	May 2000	31	47	14	8	16
Jun 1997	23	59	13	5	36	Jun 2000	30	49	15	5	19
Jul 1997	23	61	13	3	38	Jul 2000	35	45	14	6	10
Aug 1997	25	58	12	4	33	Aug 2000	32	47	14	6	15
Sep 1997	26	58	12	5	32	Early Sep 2000	32	45	16	6	13
Oct 1997	22	60	14	4	38	Late Sep 2000	36	39	20	5	3
Nov 1997	23	63	11	4	40	Nov 2000	34	45	14	6	11
Dec 1997	21	57	17	5	36	Dec 2000	32	47	14	6	15
1998						2001					
Jan 1998	26	56	12	5	30	Jan 2001	31	51	13	6	20
Feb 1998	29	54	11	5	25	Feb 2001	29	50	17	4	
Mar 1998	29	51	14	6	22	Mar 2001	29	55	12	4	
Apr 1998	26	54	16	4	28						
May 1998	28	54	12	6	26						
Jun 1998	28	52	14	6	24						
Jul 1998	28	53	13	5	25						
Aug 1998	28	53	13	5	25						
Early Sep 1998	28	54	12	6	26						
Late Sep 1998	23	57	15	5	34						
Oct 1998	28	54	14	5	26						
Nov 1998	29	55	11	5	26						

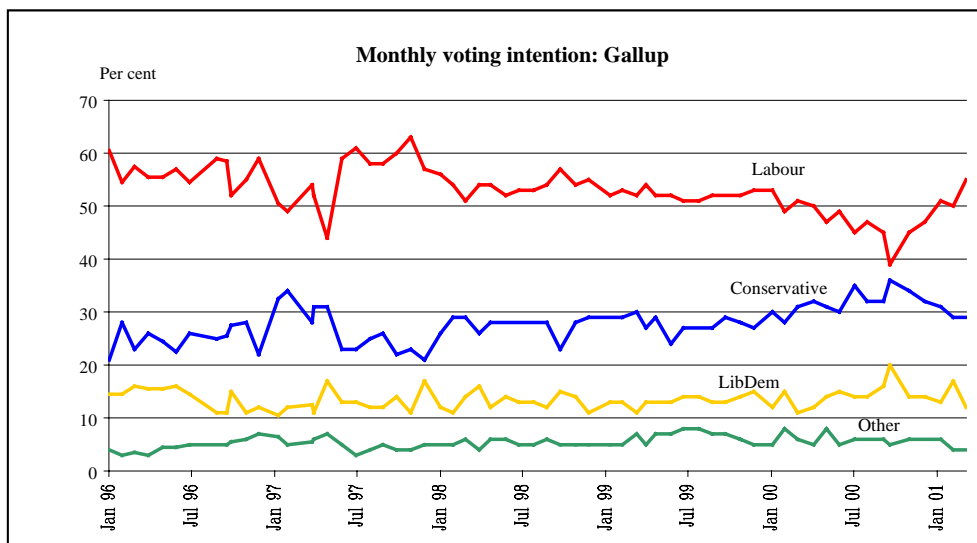


Table 21

Voting Intention: ICM monthly polls

	Con	Lab	LDem	Other	Lab Lead		Con	Lab	LDem	Other	Lab Lead
1996						1999					
Jan 1996	26	48	22	4	22	Jan 1999	30	50	15	5	20
Feb 1996	31	47	19	4	16	Feb 1999	28	49	16	6	21
Mar 1996	31	45	20	4	14	Mar 1999	29	52	16	4	23
Apr 1996	29	50	17	4	21	Apr 1999	28	50	17	5	22
May 1996	28	45	21	5	17	May 1999	28	51	16	6	23
May 1996	30	46	19	5	16	Jun 1999	29	46	19	7	17
Jul 1996	30	45	21	4	15	Jul 1999	31	48	16	5	17
Aug 1996	33	45	19	3	12	Aug 1999	30	48	16	6	18
Sep 1996	32	47	16	5	15	Sep 1999	32	45	16	8	13
Oct 1996	31	49	16	3	18	Oct 1999	32	45	17	6	13
Nov 1996	34	47	15	4	13	Nov 1999	34	44	15	7	10
Dec 1996	31	50	15	4	19	Dec 1999	29	48	17	6	19
1997						2000					
Jan 1997	31	48	16	4	17	Jan 2000	30	47	17	6	17
Feb 1997	32	48	15	4	16	Feb 2000	29	44	18	9	15
Mar 1997	32	46	17	5	14	Mar 2000	32	44	16	8	12
Apr 1997	34	46	15	5	12	Apr 2000	32	45	15	8	13
May 1997	31	44	17	7	13	May 2000	34	41	18	7	7
Jun 1997	23	62	14	2	39	Jun 2000	32	43	17	8	11
Jun 1997	23	61	12	4	38	Jul 2000	35	42	17	6	7
Aug 1997	29	55	12	4	26	Aug 2000	34	44	17	5	10
Sep 1997	24	60	10	6	36	Sep 2000	38	34	22	7	-4
Oct 1997	23	59	13	4	36	Oct 2000	35	40	19	6	5
Nov 1997	30	52	14	4	22	Nov 2000	34	40	20	7	6
Dec 1997	29	50	17	4	21	Dec 2000	34	44	16	6	10
1998						2001					
Jan 1998	30	48	17	5	18	Jan 2001	34	44	16	6	10
Feb 1998	31	47	18	4	16	Feb 2001	32	47	15	7	15
Mar 1998	33	46	17	5	13	Mar 2001	35	44	16	6	9
Apr 1998	31	48	16	6	17						
May 1998	29	50	16	5	21						
Jun 1998	29	51	16	4	22						
Jul 1998	27	52	17	4	25						
Aug 1998	31	47	17	4	16						
Sep 1998	29	48	17	6	19						
Oct 1998	29	51	15	5	22						
Nov 1998	27	51	17	5	24						
Dec 1998	29	49	16	6	20						

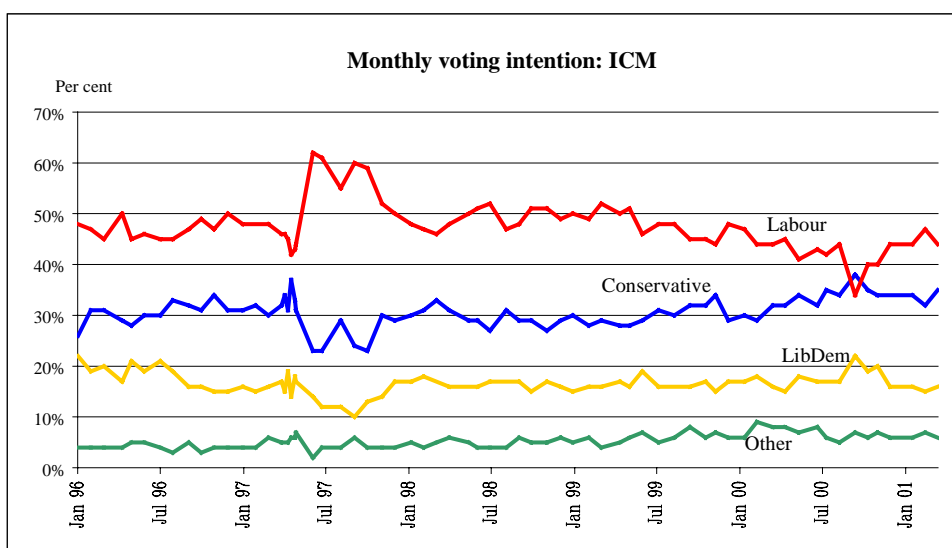


Table 22

Voting Intention: MORI monthly polls

	Con	Lab	LDem	Other	Lab Lead		Con	Lab	LDem	Other	Lab Lead
1996						1999					
Jan 1996	29	55	13	2	26	Jan 1999	24	56	14	2	32
Feb 1996	26	57	14	3	31	Feb 1999	30	51	14	2	21
Mar 1996	28	57	13	2	29	Mar 1999	27	54	13	5	27
Apr 1996	28	54	14	4	26	Apr 1999	25	56	13	6	31
May 1996	27	54	15	4	27	May 1999	28	52	14	7	24
Jun 1996	31	52	12	5	21	Jun 1999	28	51	13	8	23
Jul 1996	29	53	12	6	24	Jul 1999	28	51	14	7	23
Aug 1996	30	51	13	6	21	Aug 1999	27	49	17	7	22
Sep 1996	29	52	14	5	23	Sep 1999	25	52	17	5	27
Oct 1996	28	56	12	4	28	Oct 1999	28	56	11	5	28
Nov 1996	33	50	12	5	17	Nov 1999	25	55	14	5	30
Dec 1996	30	51	13	6	21	Dec 1999	28	54	13	5	26
1997						2000					
Jan 1997	30	55	11	4	25	Jan 2000	30	50	15	5	20
Feb 1997	31	52	11	3	21	Feb 2000	29	50	15	6	21
Mar 1997	29	50	14	5	21	Mar 2000	29	50	14	7	21
Apr 1997	28	50	14	10	22	Apr 2000	27	51	15	7	24
May 1997	31	44	17	11	13	May 2000	32	49	15	4	17
Jun 1997	24	58	15	3	34	Jun 2000	33	47	13	7	14
Jul 1997	23	57	15	5	34	Jul 2000	33	49	12	5	16
Aug 1997	28	54	15	4	26	Aug 2000	29	51	15	5	22
Sep 1997	25	59	13	3	34	Sep 2000	35	37	21	7	2
Oct 1997	24	60	12	3	36	Oct 2000	32	45	17	6	13
Nov 1997	24	56	16	4	32	Nov 2000	33	48	13	6	15
Dec 1997	26	55	15	4	29	Dec 2000	34	46	14	6	12
1998						2001					
Jan 1998	28	54	14	4	26	Jan 2001	31	50	14	5	19
Feb 1998	28	52	15	5	24	Feb 2001	30	50	14	6	20
Mar 1998	28	53	14	5	25	Mar 2001	31	50	14	5	19
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						

