

By-elections since the 1992 general election

Research Paper 96/50

15 April 1996



This paper gives the results of by-elections held since the 1992 general election and updates Research Paper 95/70. Similar information for earlier by-elections is available in Public Information Office Factsheets 16 (covering 1979 to 1983), 27 (1983 to 1987) and 58 (1987 to 1992). Further information is available in FWS Craig **Chronology of British Parliamentary By-elections 1833-1987** (Parliamentary Research Services 1987).

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CONTENTS

		Page
Table 1	Votes cast at each by-election since the general election	5
Table 2	Votes cast for candidates of minor parties	11
Table 3	Changes in shares of the vote and swing	14

Key: * indicates a lost deposit. The threshold below which a deposit is lost was reduced from 12½ per cent to 5 per cent of the total votes cast from 10 October 1985.

+ indicates a woman candidate

Sources: General election results: C Rallings & M Thrasher **Britain Votes 5** (Dartmouth 1993)

By-election results: national press and returning officers.

Table 1 **Votes cast at each by-election since the general election of 1992**

Party	By-election candidate	Votes at by-election		Votes at general election	
		Number	%	Number	%
1. Newbury - 6 May 1993 (death of Mrs Judith Chaplin on 19 February 1993)					
Liberal Democrat	D Rendel	37,590	65.1%	24,778	37.3%
Conservative	J Davidson	15,535	26.9%	37,135	55.9%
Labour	S Billcliffe	1,151 *	2.0%	3,962	6.0%
Other (15 candidates - see Table 2)		3,497 *	6.1%	539 *	0.8%
Majority of winning candidate		22,055	38.2%	12,357	18.6%
Total poll		57,773		66,414	
Electorate		81,081		80,254	
Turnout		71.3%		82.8%	

Liberal Democrat gain from Conservative

2. Christchurch - 29 July 1993 (death of Mr Robert Adley on 13 May 1993)

Liberal Democrat	D Maddock +	33,164	62.2%	13,612	23.6%
Conservative	R Hayward	16,737	31.4%	36,627	63.5%
Labour	N Lickley	1,453 *	2.7%	6,997	12.1%
Other (11 candidates - see Table 2)		1,996 *	3.7%	418 *	0.7%
Majority of winning candidate		16,427	30.8%	23,015	39.9%
Total poll		53,350		57,654	
Electorate		71,868		71,469	
Turnout		74.2%		80.7%	

Liberal Democrat gain from Conservative

Party	By-election candidate	Votes at by-election		Votes at general election	
		Number	%	Number	%

3. Rotherham - 5 May 1994 (death of Mr Jimmy Boyce on 25 January 1994)

Labour	D MacShane	14,912	55.6%	27,933	63.9%
Liberal Democrat	D Wildgoose	7,958	29.7%	5,375	12.3%
Conservative	N Gibb	2,649	9.9%	10,372	23.7%
Other (2 candidates - see Table 2)		1,287 *	4.8%	-	-
Majority of winning candidate		6,954	25.9%	17,561	40.2%
Total poll		26,806		43,680	
Electorate		61,327		60,937	
Turnout		43.7%		71.7%	

Labour hold

4. Barking - 9 June 1994 (death of Ms Jo Richardson on 1 February 1994)

Labour	M Hodge +	13,704	72.1%	18,224	51.6%
Liberal Democrat	G White	2,290	12.0%	5,133	14.5%
Conservative	T May +	1,976	10.4%	11,956	33.9%
Other (3 candidates - see Table 2)		1,047 *	5.5%	-	-
Majority of winning candidate		11,414	60.0%	6,268	17.7%
Total poll		19,017		35,313	
Electorate		49,635		50,480	
Turnout		38.3%		70.0%	

Labour hold

5. Eastleigh - 9 June 1994 (death of Mr Stephen Milligan on 7 February 1994)

Liberal Democrat	D Chidgey	24,473	44.3%	21,296	28.0%
Labour	M Birks +	15,234	27.6%	15,768	20.7%
Conservative	S Reid	13,675	24.7%	38,998	51.3%
Other (3 candidates - see Table 2)		1,880 *	3.4%	-	-
Majority of winning candidate		9,239	16.7%	17,702	23.3%
Total poll		55,262		76,062	
Electorate		94,116		91,760	
Turnout		58.7%		82.9%	

Liberal Democrat gain from Conservative

Party	By-election candidate	Votes at by-election		Votes at general election	
		Number	%	Number	%

6. Newham North East - 9 June 1994 (death of Mr Ron Leighton on 28 February 1994)

Labour	S Timms	14,668	74.9%	20,952	58.3%
Conservative	P Hammond	2,850	14.6%	10,966	30.5%
Liberal Democrat	A Kellaway	821 *	4.2%	4,020	11.2%
Other (4 candidates - see Table 2)		1,234 *	6.3%	-	-
Majority of winning candidate		11,818	60.4%	9,986	27.8%
Total poll		19,573		35,938	
Electorate		56,228		59,610	
Turnout		34.8%		60.3%	

Labour hold

Note : the Liberal Democrat candidate announced that he had joined the Labour Party the day before the by-election.

7. Bradford South - 9 June 1994 (death of Mr Bob Cryer on 12 April 1994)

Labour	G Sutcliffe	17,014	55.3%	25,185	47.6%
Liberal Democrat	H Wright +	7,350	23.9%	7,243	13.7%
Conservative	R Farley	5,475	17.8%	20,283	38.4%
Other (2 candidates - see Table 2)		914 *	3.0%	156 *	0.3%
Majority of winning candidate		9,664	31.4%	4,902	9.3%
Total poll		30,753		52,867	
Electorate		69,521		69,930	
Turnout		44.2%		75.6%	

Labour hold

8. Dagenham - 9 June 1994 (resignation of Mr Bryan Gould on 17 May 1994)

Labour	J Church +	15,474	72.0%	22,029	52.3%
Conservative	J Fairrie	2,130	9.9%	15,295	36.3%
Liberal Democrat	P Dunphy	1,804	8.4%	4,824	11.4%
British National	J Tyndall	1,511	7.0%	-	-
Other (2 candidates - see Table 2)		573 *	2.7%	-	-
Majority of winning candidate		13,344	62.1%	6,734	16.0%
Total poll		21,492		42,148	
Electorate		58,123		59,656	
Turnout		37.0%		70.7%	

Labour hold

Party	By-election candidate	Votes at by-election		Votes at general election	
		Number	%	Number	%

9. Monklands East - 30 June 1994 (death of Mr John Smith on 12 May 1994)

Labour	H Liddell +	16,960	49.8%	22,266	61.3%
Scottish National	K Ullrich +	15,320	44.9%	6,554	18.0%
Liberal Democrat	S Gallagher	878 *	2.6%	1,679 *	4.6%
Conservative	S Bell +	799 *	2.3%	5,830	16.0%
Other (2 candidates - see Table 2)		127 *	0.4%	-	-
Majority of winning candidate		1,640	4.8%	15,712	43.2%
Total poll		34,084		36,329	
Electorate		48,724		48,430	
Turnout		70.0%		75.0%	

Labour hold

10. Dudley West - 15 December 1994 (death of Dr John Blackburn on 12 October 1994)

Labour	I Pearson	28,400	68.8%	28,940	40.7%
Conservative	G Postles	7,706	18.7%	34,729	48.8%
Liberal Democrat	M Hadley	3,154	7.6%	7,446	10.5%
Other (7 candidates - see Table 2)		2,047 *	5.0%	-	-
Majority of winning candidate		20,694	50.1%	5,789	8.1%
Total poll		41,307		71,115	
Electorate		87,972		86,633	
Turnout		47.0%		82.1%	

Labour gain from Conservative

11. Islwyn - 16 February 1995 (resignation of Mr Neil Kinnock on 20 January 1995)

Labour	D Touhig	16,030	69.2%	30,908	74.3%
Plaid Cymru	J Davies +	2,933	12.7%	1,606 *	3.9%
Liberal Democrat	J Bushell	2,448	10.6%	2,352	5.7%
Conservative	R Buckland	913 *	3.9%	6,180	14.9%
Other (3 candidates - see Table 2)		842 *	3.6%	547 *	1.3%
Majority of winning candidate		13,097	56.5%	24,728	59.5%
Total poll		23,166		41,593	
Electorate		51,354		51,082	
Turnout		45.1%		81.4%	

Labour hold

Party	By-election candidate	Votes at by-election		Votes at general election	
		Number	%	Number	%

12. Perth and Kinross - 25 May 1995 (death of Sir Nicholas Fairbairn on 19 February 1995)

Scottish National	R Cunningham +	16,931	40.4%	18,101	36.0%
Labour	D Alexander	9,620	22.9%	6,267	12.5%
Conservative	J Godfrey	8,990	21.4%	20,195	40.2%
Liberal Democrat	V Linklater	4,952	11.8%	5,714	11.4%
Other (5 candidates - see Table 2)		1,455 *	3.5%	-	-
Majority of winning candidate		7,311	17.4%	2,094	4.2%
Total poll		41,948		50,277	
Electorate		67,566		65,410	
Turnout		62.1%		76.9%	

SNP gain from Conservative

13. North Down - 15 June 1995 (death of Sir James Kilfedder on 20 March 1995)

United Kingdom Unionist	R McCartney	10,124	37.0%	-	-
Ulster Popular Unionist	-	-	-	19,305	42.9%
Ulster Unionist	A McFarland	7,232	26.4%	-	-
Alliance	Sir O Napier	6,970	25.4%	6,611	14.7%
Independent Unionist	A Chambers	2,170	7.9%	-	-
Conservative	S Sexton	583 *	2.1%	14,371	32.0%
Other (3 candidates - see Table 2)		309 *	1.1%	4,669	10.4%
Majority of winning candidate		2,892	10.6%	4,934	9.8%
Total poll		27,388		44,956	
Electorate		70,872		68,662	
Turnout		38.6%		65.5%	

UK Unionist 'gain' from Ulster Popular Unionist

Party	By-election candidate	Votes at by-election		Votes at general election	
		Number	%	Number	%

14. Littleborough & Saddleworth - 27 July 1995 (death of Mr Geoffrey Dickens on 17 May 1995)

Liberal Democrat	C Davies	16,231	38.5%	19,188	35.9%
Labour	P Woolas	14,238	33.8%	10,649	19.9%
Conservative	J Hudson	9,934	23.6%	23,682	44.2%
Other (7 candidates - see Table 2)		1,733 *	4.1%	-	-
Majority of winning candidate		1,993	4.7%	4,494	8.4%
Total poll		42,136		53,519	
Electorate		65,445		65,577	
Turnout		64.4%		81.6%	

Liberal Democrat gain from Conservative

15. Hemsworth - 1 February 1996 (death of Mr Derek Enright on 31 October 1995)

Labour	J Trickett	15,817	71.9%	29,942	70.8%
Conservative	N Hazell	1,942	8.8%	7,867	18.6%
Liberal Democrat	D Ridgway	1,516	6.9%	4,459	10.5%
Socialist Labour	B Nixon +	1,193	5.4%	-	-
Other (6 candidates - see Table 2)		1,525 *	6.9%	-	-
Majority of winning candidate		13,875	63.1%	22,075	52.2%
Total poll		21,993		42,268	
Electorate		55,745		55,696	
Turnout		39.5%		75.9%	

Labour hold

Table 2 **Votes cast for candidates of minor parties**

All the candidates listed lost their deposits

Candidate	Party	Votes	%
1. Newbury			
A Sked	Anti-Maastricht/Anti-Federalist League	601	1.0%
A Bannon	The Conservative Candidate	561	1.0%
S Martin	The Commoners Party Movement	435	0.8%
D Sutch	Monster Raving Loony Thirty Year Party	432	0.7%
J Wallis	Green Party	341	0.6%
R Marlar	The Referendum Party	338	0.6%
J Browne	The Conservative Party Rebel	267	0.5%
L St Clair +	Corrective Party	170	0.3%
W Board	The Maastricht Referendum for Great Britain	84	0.1%
M Grenville	Natural Law Party	60	0.1%
J Day	People and Pensioners Party	49	0.1%
C Palmer	21st Century Party	40	0.1%
M Grbin	The Defence of Childrens Humanity - Bosnia	33	0.1%
A Page	SDP (Social Democratic Party)	33	0.1%
A Murphy +	Communist Party of Great Britain	32	0.1%
M Stone	Give the Royal Billions to Schools	21	0.0%
2. Christchurch			
A Sked	Anti-Maastricht/Anti-Federalist League	878	1.6%
D Sutch	Monster Raving Loony Rock and Roll	404	0.8%
A Bannon	The Conservative Candidate	357	0.7%
P Newman	Sack Graham Taylor	80	0.1%
T Jackson +	Buy the Daily Sport	67	0.1%
P Hollyman	Save the NHS	60	0.1%
J Crockard	Highlander IV Wednesday Promotion Night	48	0.1%
M Griffiths	Natural Law Party	45	0.1%
M Belcher	Ian for King	23	0.0%
K Fitzhugh	Alfred Chicken	18	0.0%
J Walley	Rainbow Alliance Coalition	16	0.0%
3. Rotherham			
D Sutch	Rotherham Official Monster Raving Loony Party	1,114	4.2%
K Laycock	Natural Law Party	173	0.6%
4. Barking			
G Needs	National Front	551	2.9%
G Batten	UK Independence Party	406	2.1%
H Butensky +	Natural Law Party	90	0.5%

Candidate	Party	Votes	%
5. Eastleigh			
N Farage	UK Independence Party	952	1.7%
D Sutch	Raving Loony Will Beat William Hill	783	1.4%
P Warburton	Natural Law Party	145	0.3%
6. Newham North East			
A Scholefield	UK Independence Party	509	2.6%
J Homeless +	House Homeless People	342	1.7%
R Archer	Natural Law Party	228	1.2%
V Garman +	Buy The Daily Sport	155	0.8%
7. Bradford South			
D Sutch	Bradford Official Monster Raving Loony Party	727	2.4%
K Laycock	Natural Law Party	187	0.6%
8. Dagenham			
P Compobassi	UK Independence Party	457	2.1%
M Leighton	Natural Law Party	116	0.5%
9. Monklands East			
A Bremner +	Network Against the Criminal Justice Bill	69	0.2%
D Paterson	Natural Law Party	58	0.2%
10. Dudley West			
M Floyd	UK Independence Party	590	1.4%
A Carmichael	National Front	561	1.4%
M Hyde	Liberal Party Candidate	548	1.3%
M Natrass	New Britain	146	0.4%
M Nicholson +	Forest, Freedom of Choice for Smokers	77	0.2%
J Oldbury	Natural Law Party	70	0.2%
C Palmer	21st Century Party	55	0.1%
11. Islwyn			
D Sutch	The Official Welsh Raving Loony Party	506	2.2%
H Hughes	UK Independence Party	289	1.2%
T Rees	Natural Law Party	47	0.2%
12. Perth and Kinross			
D Sutch	Official Monster Munch Raving Loony	586	1.4%
V Linacre	UK Independence Party	504	1.2%
R Harper	Green Party	223	0.5%
M Halford	Scottish Conservatory and Unionist Candidate	88	0.2%
G Black	Natural Law Party	54	0.1%

Candidate	Party	Votes	%
13. North Down			
M Brooks	Free Para Lee Clegg Now	108	0.4%
C Carter	Ulster's Independent Voice	101	0.4%
J Anderson	Natural Law Party	100	0.4%
14. Littleborough & Saddleworth			
D Sutch	Official Monster Raving Loony Party	782	1.9%
J Whittaker	UK Independence Party	549	1.3%
P Douglas	Conservative	193	0.5%
M Blobby	House Party	105	0.2%
A Pitts	Socialist Party	46	0.1%
L McLaren	Old Labour/Probity of Imposed Candidates	33	0.1%
C Palmer	21st Century Party	25	0.1%
15. Hemsworth			
D Sutch	Official Monster Raving Loony Party	652	3.0%
P Davies	UK Independence Party	455	2.1%
P Alexander +	Green	157	0.7%
M Cooper	National Democrat	111	0.5%
M Thomas	Mark Thomas Friday Nights Channel 4	122	0.6%
D Leighton +	Natural Law Party	28	0.1%
16. South East Staffordshire			
A Smith	UK Independence Party	1,272	2.9%
D Sutch	Official Monster Raving Loony Party	506	1.2%
S Edwards +	National Democrat	358	0.8%
S Mountford	Liberal Party Candidate	332	0.8%
L Tucker	Churchill Conservative Party	123	0.3%
N Bunny	Official News Bunny Party	85	0.2%
N Samuelson	Daily Loonylugs Earing-Up The World	80	0.2%
D Lucas	Natural Law Party	53	0.1%
F Sandy	Action Against Crime Life Means Life	53	0.1%
A Wood	Democratic Restoration of the Death Penalty	45	0.1%

Table 3**Changes in percentage shares of the vote and swing
between 1992 general election and by-election****By-elections in Great Britain only**

	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	SNP/PC	Swing	
Newbury	-29.0%	-4.0%	27.8%		28.4%	Con to LDem
Christchurch	-32.2%	-9.4%	38.6%		35.4%	Con to LDem
Rotherham	-13.9%	-8.3%	17.4%		12.9%	Lab to LDem
Barking	-23.5%	20.5%	-2.5%		22.0%	Con to Lab
Eastleigh	-26.5%	6.8%	16.3%		21.4%	Con to LDem
Newham North East	-16.0%	16.6%	-7.0%		16.3%	Con to Lab
Bradford South	-20.6%	7.7%	10.2%		14.1%	Con to Lab
Dagenham	-26.4%	19.7%	-3.1%		23.1%	Con to Lab
Monklands East	-13.7%	-11.5%	-2.0%	26.9%	19.2%	Lab to SNP
Dudley West	-30.2%	28.1%	-2.8%		29.1%	Con to Lab
Islwyn	-10.9%	-5.1%	4.9%	8.8%	7.0%	Lab to PC
Perth and Kinross	-18.7%	10.5%	0.4%	4.4%	11.5%	Con to SNP
Littleborough & Saddleworth	-20.7%	13.9%	2.7%		11.7%	Con to LDem
Hemsworth	-9.8%	1.1%	-3.7%		5.4%	Con to Lab
South East Staffordshire	-22.2%	22.0%	-4.9%		22.1%	Con to Lab

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 1992 general election and the by-election.

Recent Library research papers have been:

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96/41	Towards the IGC: Approaching Turin	19.03.96
96/42	Family Law Bill [HL] [Bill 82 of 1995/96]	21.03.96
	Divorce Law Reform	
96/43	The Burden of Taxation	21.03.96
96/44	DNA Fingerprinting	27.03.96
96/45	Bathing Water Quality	29.03.96
96/46	Economic Indicators	01.04.96
96/47	Democracy after Communism	02.04.96
96/48	Broadcasting Bill [HL] [Bill 88 of 1995/96]	12.04.96
96/49	Conditional Access & Digital Television	12.04.96