



RESEARCH PAPER 05/34
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By-election results 2001-05

This Research Paper provides the results of the six by-elections held in the 2001-05 Parliament.

By-elections were held in the following constituencies:

- Ipswich (22 November 2001)
- Ogmore (14 February 2002)
- Brent East (18 September 2003)
- Birmingham Hodge Hill (15 July 2004)
- Leicester South (15 July 2004)
- Hartlepool (30 September 2004)

Labour held four seats (Ipswich, Ogmore, Birmingham Hodge Hill, and Hartlepool), but lost Brent East and Leicester South to the Liberal Democrats.

Ross Young

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Summary of main points

This Research Paper provides the results of the six by-elections held in the 2001-05 Parliament.

By-elections were held in the following constituencies:

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- Ogmores (14 February 2002)
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Labour held four seats (Ipswich, Ogmores, Birmingham Hodge Hill, and Hartlepool), but lost Brent East and Leicester South to the Liberal Democrats.

At the 2005 general election, Labour held Ipswich, Ogmores, Birmingham Hodge Hill, and Hartlepool, and regained Leicester South from the Liberal Democrats. The Liberal Democrats retained Brent East.

Results for by-elections held in the 1997-2001 Parliament are available in House of Commons Library [Research Paper 01/36](#)

Results for by-elections during the 1979-83, 1983-87, 1987-92, and 1992-97 Parliaments are available online in House of Commons Information Office factsheets:

http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_publications_and_archives/factsheets.cfm

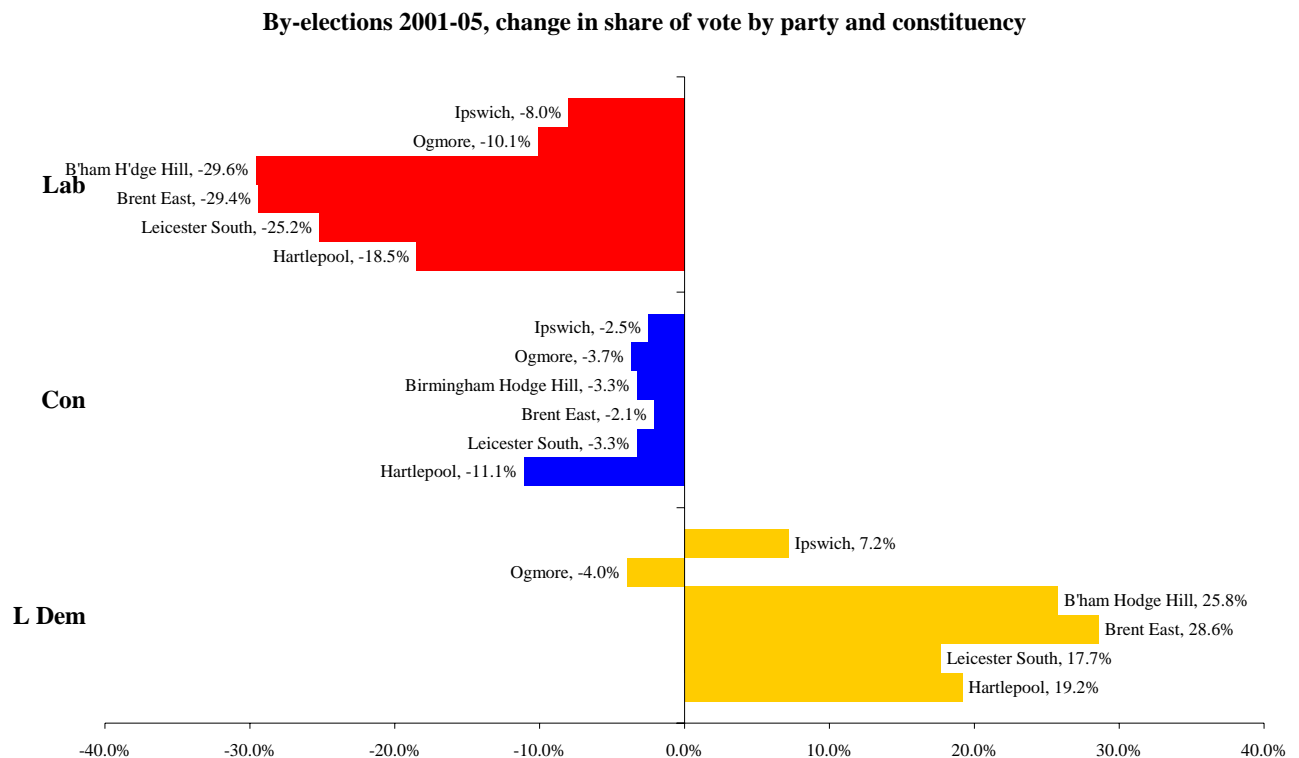
Results of post-war by-elections are summarised in [Research Paper 03/59](#)

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I Summary

There were six by-elections during the 2001-05 Parliament. The results are summarised below with full results given in the following pages.



By-elections, 2001 to 2005, summary results

Constituency	Result	Winner	Swing since 2001		change in share of vote since 2001				Turnout percent
			percentage points	From/To	L Dem	Con	Lab	SNP/PC	
Hartlepool	Lab hold	Iain Wright	18.9%	Lab to L Dem	19.2%	-11.1%	-18.5%	...	45.8%
Leicester South	L Dem gain	Parmjit Singh Gill	21.5%	Lab to L Dem	17.7%	-3.3%	-25.2%	...	40.6%
Brent East	L Dem gain	Sarah Teather	29.0%	Lab to L Dem	28.6%	-2.1%	-29.4%	...	36.2%
Birmingham Hodge Hill	Lab hold	Liam Byrne	27.7%	Lab to L Dem	25.8%	-3.3%	-29.6%	...	37.9%
Ogmores	Lab hold	Huw Irranca-Davies	8.5%	Lab to PC	-4.0%	-3.7%	-10.1%	6.8%	35.2%
Ipswich	Lab hold	Chris Mole	7.6%	Lab to L Dem	7.2%	-2.5%	-8.0%	...	40.2%

* based on largest percentage point gain and largest percentage point loss

Labour won all six constituencies in 2001, retaining four constituencies in the by-elections that followed and losing two constituencies – Brent East and Leicester South – to the Liberal Democrats. The largest swing against Labour was in Brent East in September 2003 where Sarah Teather (Liberal Democrat), the only woman candidate to be elected in a by-election during the Parliament, overturned a 13,000 Labour majority on a 29% swing. The smallest swing against Labour (7.6%), again to the Liberal Democrats, was recorded in Ipswich where Labour held the seat despite its majority being reduced from 8,081 votes to 4,087.

Four of the six by-elections were caused by the death of the sitting Member of Parliament. The remaining two by-elections were due to resignations, both to allow the sitting Member to take up senior appointments in international organisations.

Average by-election turnout during the 2001-05 Parliament was 37.9%. This was 16.9 percentage points lower than the average turnout in the same constituencies in the 2001 general election. The lowest by-election turnout was in recorded Ogmore (35.2%) and the highest was in Hartlepool (45.8%).

Across all six by-elections, Labour's share of the total votes cast was 36.0%, six percentage points lower than in the 2001 general election. The Conservatives' vote share fell by almost one-half compared to 2001, from 32.7% to 17.6%. The Liberal Democrat vote share rose significantly, from 18.8% to 31.0%.

By-elections 2001-05, share of the vote by party

	Con		Lab		L Dem		PC		Other	
	%	votes	%	votes	%	votes	%	votes	%	votes
Ipswich	28.4%	7,794	43.4%	11,881	22.4%	6,146	...	...	5.8%	1,584
Ogmore	7.5%	1,377	52.0%	9,548	8.8%	1,608	20.8%	3,827	11.0%	2,016
Brent East	16.2%	3,368	33.8%	704	39.1%	8,158	...	...	11.0%	2,286
Birmingham Hodge Hill	17.3%	3,543	36.5%	7,451	34.2%	6,991	...	...	12.0%	2,454
Leicester South	19.7%	5,796	29.3%	8,620	34.9%	10,274	...	...	16.1%	4,718
Hartlepool	9.7%	3,044	40.7%	12,752	34.2%	10,719	...	...	15.5%	4,847
<i>Total</i>	<i>17.6%</i>	<i>24,922</i>	<i>36.0%</i>	<i>50,956</i>	<i>31.0%</i>	<i>43,896</i>	<i>2.7%</i>	<i>3,827</i>	<i>12.7%</i>	<i>17,905</i>

The number of by-elections held in the 2001-05 Parliament was the lowest ever, with the exception of the short February – October 1974 Parliament in which a single by-election was held, in Newham South.

At the 2005 general election, held on 5 May 2005, Labour held Birmingham Hodge Hill, Hartlepool, Ipswich, and Ogmore, and regained Leicester South from the Liberal Democrats. The Liberal Democrats retained Brent East.

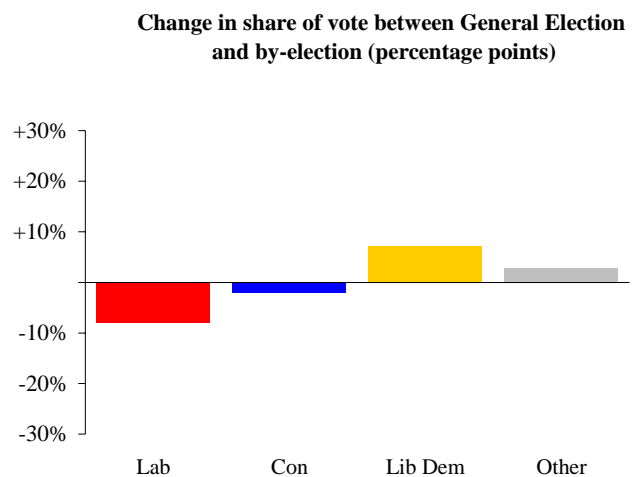
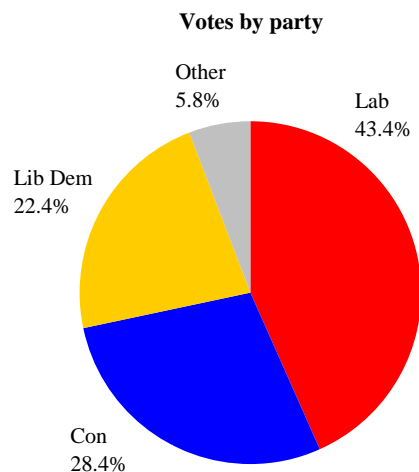
II Results by constituency

1. Ipswich - 22 November 2001

(death of Jamie Cann on 15 October 2001)

Labour hold

By-election candidate	Party	Votes at by-election		Votes at General Election		Change in share of vote (percentage points)
		Number	%	Number	%	
Main parties and candidates retaining deposit						
Chris Mole	Labour	11,881	43.4%	19,952	51.3%	-8.0%
Paul West	Conservative	7,794	28.4%	11,871	30.5%	-2.1%
Teresa Munt +	Liberal Democrat	6,146	22.4%	5,904	15.2%	+7.2%
Other (6 candidates - see below)		1,584	5.8%	1,146	2.9%	+2.8%
Majority of winning candidate		4,087	14.9%	8,081	20.8%	
Total poll		27,405		38,873		
Electorate		68,244		68,198		
Turnout		40.2%		57.0%		
Other candidates						
David Cooper	Christian Peoples Alliance	581 *	2.1%			
Jonathan Wright	UK Independence Party	276 *	1.0%			
Tony Slade	Green Party	255 *	0.9%			
John Ramirez	Legalise Cannabis Alliance	236 *	0.9%			
Peter Leech	Socialist Alliance	152 *	0.6%			
Nicholas Winskill	English Independence Party	84 *	0.3%			



+ indicates a woman candidate

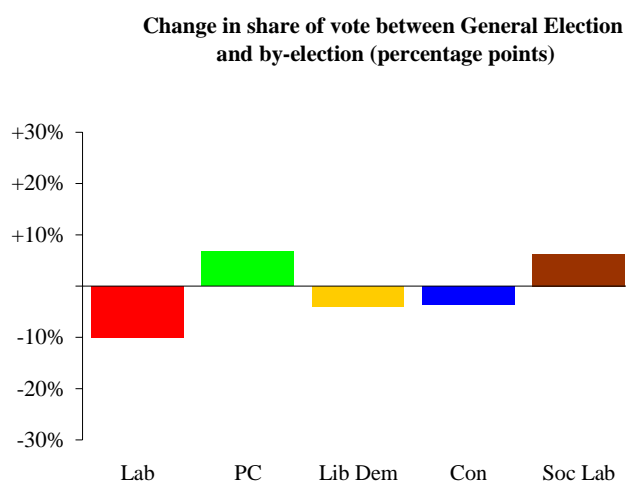
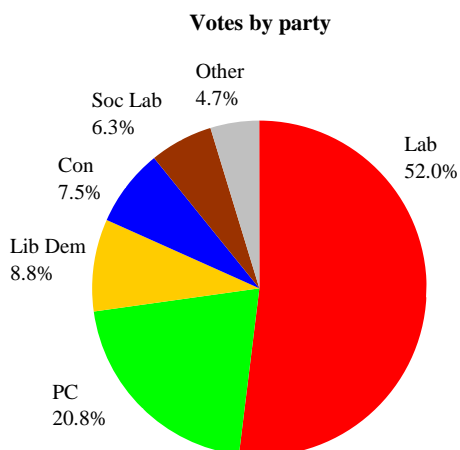
* indicates a lost deposit

2. Ogmore - 14 February 2002

(death of Ray Powell on 7 December 2001)

Labour hold

By-election candidate	Party	Votes at by-election		Votes at General Election		Change in share of vote (percentage points)
		Number	%	Number	%	
Main parties and candidates retaining deposit						
Huw Irranca-Davies	Labour	9,548	52.0%	18,833	62.0%	-10.1%
Bleddyn Hancock	Plaid Cymru	3,827	20.8%	4,259	14.0%	+6.8%
Veronica Watkins +	Liberal Democrat	1,608	8.8%	3,878	12.8%	-4.0%
Guto Bebb	Conservative	1,377	7.5%	3,383	11.1%	-3.7%
Christopher Herriot	Socialist Labour	1,152	6.3%	-	-	+6.3%
Other (5 candidates - see below)		864	4.7%	-	-	+4.7%
Majority of winning candidate		5,721	31.1%	14,574	48.0%	
Total poll		18,376		30,353		
Electorate		52,209		52,185		
Turnout		35.2%		58.2%		
Other candidates						
Jonathan Spink	Green	250 *	1.4%			
Jeffrey Hurford	Welsh Socialist Alliance	205 *	1.1%			
Leslie Edwards	Official Monster Raving Loony	187 *	1.0%			
Captain Beany	New Millennium Bean Party	122 *	0.7%			
Rev David Braid	Independent	100 *	0.5%			



+ indicates a woman candidate

* indicates a lost deposit

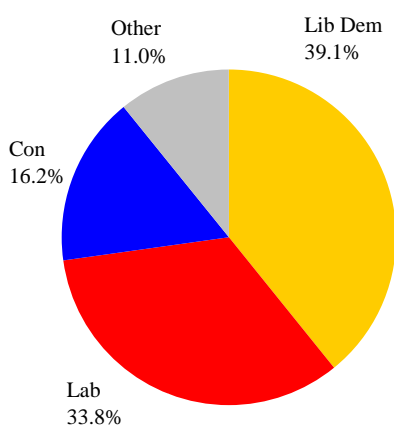
3. Brent East - 18 September 2003

(death of Paul Daisley on 18 June 2003)

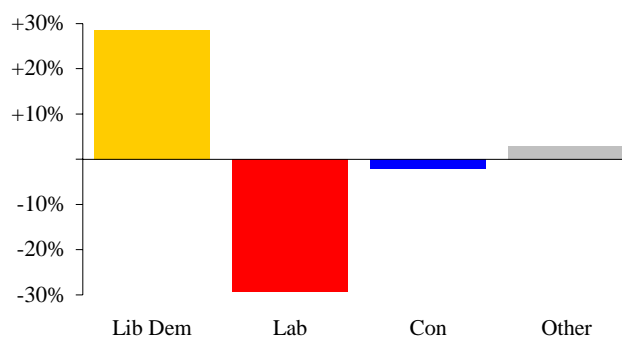
Liberal Democrat gain

By-election candidate	Party	Votes at by-election		Votes at General Election		Change in share of vote (percentage points)
		Number	%	Number	%	
Main parties and candidates retaining deposit						
Sarah Teather +	Liberal Democrat	8,158	39.1%	3,065	10.6%	+28.6%
Robert Evans	Labour	7,040	33.8%	18,325	63.2%	-29.4%
Uma Fernandes +	Conservative	3,368	16.2%	5,278	18.2%	-2.1%
Other (10 candidates - see below)		2,286	11.0%	2,324	8.0%	+2.9%
Majority of winning candidate		1,118	5.4%	13,047	45.0%	
Total poll		20,852		28,992		
Electorate		57,558		55,891		
Turnout		36.2%		51.9%		
Other candidates						
Noel Lynch	Green	638 *	3.1%			
Brian Butterworth	Socialist Alliance	361 *	1.7%			
Khidori Fawzi Ibrahim	Public Services Not War	219 *	1.1%			
Winston McKenzie	Independent	197 *	0.9%			
Kelly McBride +	Independent	189 *	0.9%			
Harold Immanuel	Independent Labour	188 *	0.9%			
Brian Hall	UK Independence Party	140 *	0.7%			
Iris Cremer +	Socialist Labour	111 *	0.5%			
Neil Walsh	Independent	101 *	0.5%			
Alan Howling aka. Lord	Monster Raving Loony	59 *	0.3%			
Aaron Barshack	No description	37 *	0.2%			
Jiten Bardwaj	No description	35 *	0.2%			
'Rainbow' George Weiss	www.xat.org	11 *	0.1%			

Votes by party



Change in share of vote between General Election and by-election (percentage points)



+ indicates a woman candidate

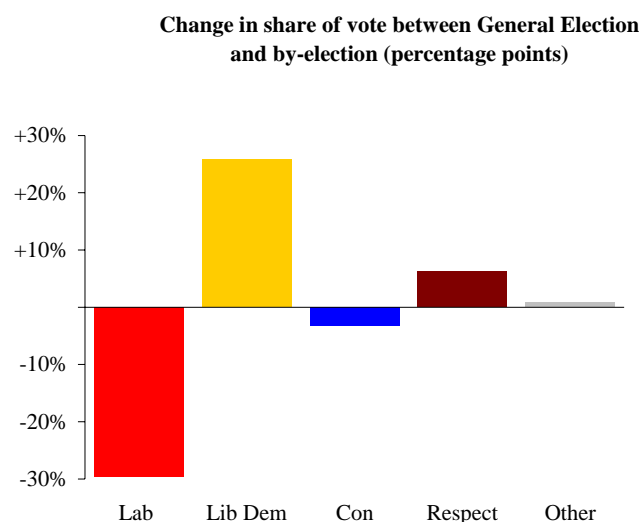
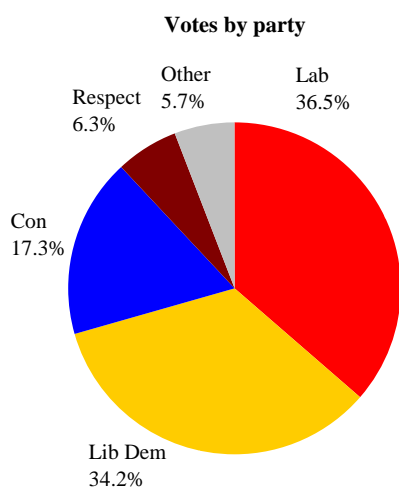
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4. Birmingham Hodge Hill - 15 July 2004

Labour hold

(resignation of Rt Hon Terry Davis on 23 June 2004 to take up post of Secretary General of the Council of Europe)

By-election candidate	Party	Votes at by-election		Votes at General Election		Change in share of vote (percentage points)
		Number	%	Number	%	
Main parties and candidates retaining deposit						
Liam Byrne	Labour	7,451	36.5%	16,901	66.1%	-29.6%
Nicola Davies +	Liberal Democrat	6,991	34.2%	2,147	8.4%	+25.8%
Stephen Eyre	Conservative	3,543	17.3%	5,283	20.7%	-3.3%
John Rees	Respect	1,282	6.3%	-	-	+6.3%
Other (3 candidates - see below)		1,172	5.7%	1,245	4.9%	+0.9%
Majority of winning candidate		460	2.3%	11,618	45.4%	
Total poll		20,439		25,576		
Electorate		53,940		55,254		
Turnout		37.9%		47.9%		
Other candidates						
James Starkey	National Front	805 *	3.9%			
Mark Wheatley	English Democrats	277 *	1.4%			
James Hargreaves	Operation Christian Vote	90 *	0.4%			



+ indicates a woman candidate

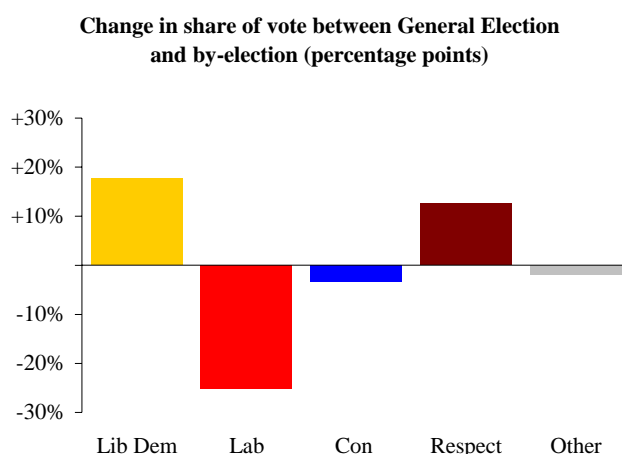
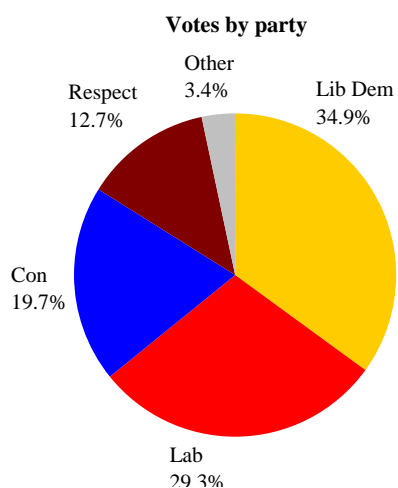
* indicates a lost deposit

5. Leicester South - 15 July 2004

(death of Jim Marshall on 27 May 2004)

Liberal Democrat gain

By-election candidate	Party	Votes at by-election		Votes at General Election		Change in share of vote (percentage points)
		Number	%	Number	%	
Main parties and candidates retaining deposit						
Parmjit Singh Gill	Liberal Democrat	10,274	34.9%	7,243	17.2%	+17.7%
Sir Peter Soulsby	Labour	8,620	29.3%	22,958	54.5%	-25.2%
Chris Heaton-Harris	Conservative	5,796	19.7%	9,715	23.1%	-3.3%
Yvonne Ridley +	Respect	3,724	12.7%	-	-	+12.7%
Other (7 candidates - see below)		994	3.4%	2,223	5.3%	-1.9%
Majority of winning candidate		1,654	5.6%	13,243	31.4%	
Total poll		29,408		42,139		
Electorate		72,514		72,674		
Turnout		40.6%		58.0%		
Other candidates						
David Roberts	Socialist Labour Movement	263 *	0.9%			
RU Seerius	Monster Raving Loony	225 *	0.8%			
Pat Kennedy	Independent	204 *	0.7%			
Paul Lord	Independent	186 *	0.6%			
Mark Benson	Independent	55 *	0.2%			
Jiten Bardwaj	Independent	36 *	0.1%			
Alan Barrett	Independent	25 *	0.1%			



+ indicates a woman candidate

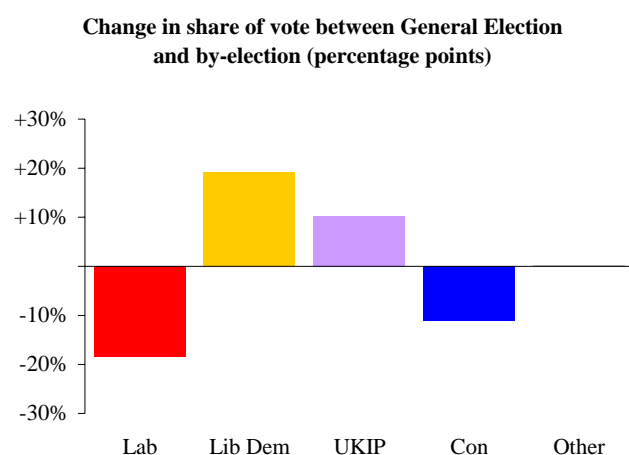
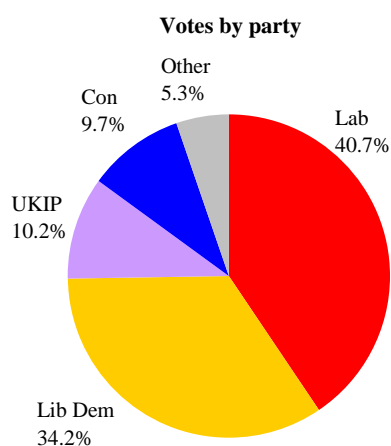
* indicates a lost deposit

6. Hartlepool - 30 September 2004

Labour hold

(resignation of Rt Hon Peter Mandelson on 8 September 2004 to take up post of European Commissioner)

By-election candidate	Party	Votes at by-election		Votes at General Election		Change in share of vote (percentage points)
		Number	%	Number	%	
Main parties and candidates retaining deposit						
Iain Wright	Labour	12,752	40.7%	22,506	59.1%	-18.5%
Jody Dunn +	Liberal Democrat	10,719	34.2%	5,717	15.0%	+19.2%
Stephen Allison	UKIP	3,193	10.2%	-	-	-
Jeremy Middleton	Conservative	3,044	9.7%	7,935	20.9%	-11.1%
Other (10 candidates - see below)		1,654	5.3%	1,893	5.0%	+0.3%
Majority of winning candidate		2,033	6.5%	14,571	38.3%	
Total poll		31,362		38,051		
Electorate		68,517		68,164		
Turnout		45.8%		55.8%		
Other candidates						
John Bloom	Respect	572 *	1.8%			
Iris Ryder +	Green Party	255 *	0.8%			
James Starkey	National Front	246 *	0.8%			
Paul Watson	Fathers-4-Justice	139 *	0.4%			
Christopher Herriot	Socialist Labour	95 *	0.3%			
Richard Rodgers	The Common Good	91 *	0.3%			
Philip Berriman	Independent	90 *	0.3%			
Alan Hope	Monster Raving Loony	80 *	0.3%			
Ronnie Carroll	Independent	45 *	0.1%			
Edward Abrams	English Democrat	41 *	0.1%			



+ indicates a woman candidate

* indicates a lost deposit