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**No 22**

**GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS, 9 JUNE 1983**

Revised June 1984

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The Public Information Office is grateful to the Statistical Section of the House of Commons Library Research Division for their co-operation in allowing us to issue as a ***Factsheet*** this edition of a note prepared by them for the use of Members of Parliament. The Paper presents some analyses of voting in the General Election of June 1983. The figures on which it is based come from FWS Craig's compilation *Britain Votes 3*, (Chichester, Parliamentary Research Services, 1984) which can be regarded as more reliable than the sources used for previous editions of this ***Factsheet***. Many of the analyses presented below have not been published elsewhere.

In the past the concept of swing has been widely discussed after general elections. The existence in 1983 of three main party groups, and also the substantial changes in constituency boundaries since 1979, mean that the concept of swing is virtually meaningless. No figures on swing, therefore, are included in this paper.

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TABLE 1

## SUMMARY OF VOTING

Party	Votes	% share of votes	Candidates	MPs elected	Lost deposits
Conservatives	13,012,316	42.4	633	397	5
Labour	8,456,934	27.6	633	209	119
Liberal/SDP Alliance	7,780,949	25.4	633 (b)	23 (b)	11 (b)
Scottish National	331,975	1.1	72	2	53
Plaid Cymur	125,309	0.4	38	2	32
Ecology	54,299	0.2	109	0	109
National Front	27,065	0.1	60	0	60
British National	14,621	0.0	54	0	54
Communist	11,606	0.0	35	0	35
Workers' Revolutionary	3,798	0.0	21	0	21
Northern Ireland parties (a)	764,474	2.5	94	17	45
Other	87,791	0.3	196	0	195
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,671,137</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,578</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>739</b>

(a) All figures exclude the Ecology Party candidate in Antrim N who is included in the Ecology figures.

The figures break down as follows:

Party	Votes	% share of votes	Candidates	MPs elected	Lost deposits
Ulster unionist	259,952	34.0	16	11	1
Democratic Unionist	152,749	20.0	14	3	4
SOUP	137,012	17.9	17	1	7
Sinn Pain	102,701	13.4	14	1	7
Alliance	61,275	8.0	12	0	7
Workers Party	14,650	1.9	14	0	14
Others	36,135	4.7	7	1	5

(b) of which, Liberal candidates 322, MPs elected 17, lost deposits 5, SDP candidates 311, MR5 elected 6, lost deposits 6.

Additional Source: Political Parties.

TABLE 2

## VOTES CAST FOR MAIN PARTIES, BY STANDARD REGION

	CON	LAB	ALLIANCE	NAT (a)	OTHER	TOTAL
ENGLAND	11,711,519	6,862,422	6,714,957	-	183,748	25,472,646
North	589,128	684,120	424,987	-	2,507	1,700,742
Yorkshire & Humberside	1,013,311	925,084	669,377	-	13,516	2,621,288
East Midlands	1,013,384	600,624	517,098	-	17,266	2,148,372
East Anglia	539,418	216,906	298,624	-	2,934	1,057,882
South East (b)	4,593,712	1,924,854	2,490,105	-	92,773	9,101,444
south West	1,295,737	370,541	836,547	-	19,129	2,521,954
West Midlands	1,261,378	874,190	655,982	-	12,444	2,803,994
North West	1,405,451	1,266,103	822,237	-	23,179	3,516,970
WALES	499,310	603,858	373,358	125,309	7,151	1,608,986
SCOTLAND	801,487	990,654	692,634	331,975	7,830	2,824,580
NORTHERN IRELAND (c)	-	-	-	-	764,925	764,925
UNITED KINGDOM	13,012,316	8,456,934	7,780,949	437,284	963,654	30,671,137

(a) Plaid Cymru and SNP only

(b) of which, Greater London	CON	1,517,105
	LAB	1,031,539
	ALLIANCE	853,360
	OTHER	55,774
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>3,457,778</u>

(c) See Table 1 for breakdown (which excludes one Ecology Party candidate)

TABLE 3

## SEATS WON BY PARTY AND STANDARD REGION

	CON	LAB	ALLIANCE (a)	NAT (b)	OTHER	TOTAL
ENGLAND	362	148	13	-	-	523
North	8	26	2	-	-	36
Yorks & Humberside	24	28	2	-	-	54
East Midlands	34	8	-	-	-	42
East Anglia	18	1	1	-	-	20
South East (c)	162	27	3	-	-	192
South West	44	1	3	-	-	48
West Midlands	36	22	-	-	-	58
North West	36	35	2	-	-	73
WALES	14	20	2	2	-	38
SCOTLAND	21	41	8	2	-	72
NORTHERN IRELAND (d)	-	-	-	-	17	17
UNITED KINGDOM	397	209	23	4	17	650

(a) The SDP seats are distributed as follows:

North	1
South East	1
South West	1
Scotland	3

The Other 17 seats are held by Liberals

(b) Plaid Cymru and SNP only

(c) of which, Greater London

CON	56
LAB	26
ALLIANCE	2 (1 Lib, 1 SDP)
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>84</u>

(d) See table 1 for breakdown

TABLE 4

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF VOTES CAST  
IN EACH REGION BY MAIN PARTY

	CON	LAB	ALLIANCE	NAT (a)	OTHER	TOTAL
ENGLAND	46.0	26.9	26.4	-	0.7	100.0
North	34.6	40.2	25.0	-	0.1	100.0
Yorks & Humberside	38.7	35.3	25.5	-	0.5	100.0
East Midlands	47.2	28.0	24.1	-	0.8	100.0
East Anglia	51.0	20.5	28.2	-	0.3	100.0
South East (b)	50.5	21.1	27.4	-	1.0	100.0
South West	51.4	14.7	33.2	-	0.8	100.0
West Midlands	45.0	31.2	23.4	-	0.4	100.0
North West	40.0	36.0	23.4	-	0.7	100.0
WALES	31.0	37.5	23.2	7.8	0.4	100.0
SCOTLAND	28.4	35.1	24.5	11.8	0.3	100.0
NORTHERN IRELAND (c)	-	-	-	-	-	100.0
UNITED KINGDOM	42.4	27.6	25.4	1.50	3.1	100.0

(a) Plaid Cymru and SNP only

(b) of which, Greater London

CON	43.9
LAB	29.8
ALLIANCE	24.7
OTHER	1.6
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>100.0</u>

(c) See Table 1 for breakdown (which excludes one Ecology Party candidate)

TABLE 5

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF SEATS WON IN EACH  
REGION BY MAIN PARTY

	CON	LAB ALLIANCE	OTHER	TOTAL	
ENGLAND	69.2	28.3	2.5	..	100.0
North	22.2	72.2	5.6	..	100.0
Yorks & Eumberside	44.4	51.9	3.7	..	100.0
East Midlands	81.0	19.0	..	..	100.0
East Anglia	90.0	5.0	5.0	..	100.0
South East (a)	84.4	14.1	1.6	..	100.0
South West	91.7	2.1	6.3	..	100.0
West Midlands	62.1	38.0	..	..	100.0
North West	49.3	47.9	2.7	..	100.0
WALES	36.8	52.6	5.3	5.3	100.0
SCOTLAND	29.2	56.9	11.1	2.8	100.0
NORTHERN IRELAND	..	..	..	100.0	100.0
UNITED KINGDOM	61.1	32.2	3.5	3.2	100.0

(a)	of which, Greater London	CON	67.7
		LAB	31.0
		ALLIANCE	2.4
		TOTAL	100.0

TABLE 6 shows changes since May 1979 in the main parties' shares of the vote by region. Before the recent boundary changes, some constituencies overlapped regional boundaries and it was therefore necessary to allocate constituencies to regions on a 'best-fit' basis. The new constituencies do not cross regional (or county) boundaries.

The figures show how the Conservative Party's relatively small loss of votes was concentrated in the industrial regions. These are the regions in which Labour's losses were least, with their largest losses coming in East Anglia, the East Midlands and the South East. The Alliance's gains were widespread, with the highest increases in Scotland (largely at the expense of the SNP) and Wales.

TABLE 6 CHANCES SINCE MAY 1979 IN MAJOR PARTIES  
SHARE OF VOTE BY REGION (PERCENTAGES)

	CON	LAB	ALLIANCE (a)	OTHER
ENGLAND	-1.2	-9.8	+11.5	-0.5
North	-1.9	-9.2	+12.4	-1.4
Yorks & Humberside	-0.8	-9.5	+10.7	-0.4
East Midlands	+0.5	-10.2	+9.9	-0.1
East Anglia	+0.2	-12.1	+12.2	-0.3
South East (a)	-0.9	-10.7	+12.1	-0.5
South West	-0.2	-9.9	+10.7	-0.5
West Midlands	-2.1	-8.9	+11.9	-0.9
North West	-3.6	-6.8	+10.5	
WALES	-1.2	-9.4	+12.6	-2.1 (c) (d)
SCOTLAND	-3.0	-6.5	+15.5	-6.0 (e)
NORTHERN IRELAND	..	..	..	..
UNITED KINGDOM	-1.5	-9.3	+11.6	-0.8
(a) Compared with Liberal vote in 1979				
(b) Of which, Greater London	CON	-2.1		
	LAB	-9.8		
	ALLIANCE	+12.8		
	OTHER	-0.8		

(c) The "other" vote in 1979 included the Speaker

(d) The Plaid Cymcru share fell by 0.2 per cent

(e) The SNP share fell by 5.5 per cent

Additional source: CSO Regional Statistics 15, 1980. Table 3.8

TABLE 7

THE LARGEST AND SMALLEST MAJORITIES, BY PARTY

LARGEST CONSERVATIVE MAJORITIES

1	Peter Hordern	Horsham	21,785
2	Michael Grylls	Surrey North West	21,018
3	Patrick McNair-Wilson	New Forest	20,895
4	Nicholas Winterton	Macclesfield	20,679
5	John Major	Huntingdon	20,348

LARGEST LABOUR MAJORITIES

1	Rt Man Michael Foot	Blaenau Gwent	23,625
2	Ted Rowlands	Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney	22,730
3	Allan Rogers	Rhondda	21,310
4	Robert Litherland	Manchester Central	18,485
5	James Hamilton	Motherwell North	17,894

SMALLEST CONSERVATIVE MAJORITIES

1	Derek Spencer	Leicester South	7
2	Ken Hargreaves	Hyndburn	21
3	Jeremy Hanley	Richmond & Barnes	74
4	Richard Ottaway	Nottingham North	362
5	Rt Hon Norman St John-Stevas	Chelmsford	378

SMALLEST LABOUR MAJORITIES

1	Ron Lewis	Carlisle	71
2	Thomas Torney	Bradford South	110
3	Mrs Renee Short	Wolverhampton NE	214
4	Robin Corbett	Birmingham Erdington	231
5	Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody	Crewe & Nantwich	290

SDP MAJORITIES

Largest	Robert Maclennan	Caithness & Sutherland	6,843
Smallest	Ian Wrigglesworth	Stockton South	103

LIBERAL MAJORITIES

Largest	David Penhaligon	Truro	10,480
Smallest;	Alex Carlile	Montgomery	668

ULSTER UNIONIST MAJORITIES

Largest	Jams Holyneaux	Logan Valley	17,216
Smallest	Roy Beggs	Antrim East	367



The overall turnout in the 1983 General Election was 72.7 per cent.  
 The turnouts in each country of the United Kingdom were as follows:

England	72.5%
Scotland	72.7%
Wales	76.1%
Northern Ireland	72.9%

TABLE 8 shows the highest and lowest turnouts in each of these countries.

TABLE 8

LARGEST AND SMALLEST TURNOUTS (PER CENT)

ENGLAND

1	Leicestershire North West	81.1	1	City of London and Westminster South	51.8
2	Cornwall North	80.4	2	Newham South	53.6
3	Devon North	80.1	3	Hackney South & Shoreditch	53.9
4	Isle of Wight	80.0	4	Peckham	54.5
5	Yeovil	79.8	5	Hackney N. & Stoke Newington	54.7
6	Pendle	79.7	6	Bow and Poplar	55.4
7	Richmond and Barnes	79.6	7	Bethnal Green and Stepney	55.6
8	Truro	79.6	8	Chelsea	56.1
9	Bury North	79.6	9	Newham North West	56.1
10	Gloucestershire West	79.6	10	Holborn and St Pancras	60.2

SCOTLAND

1	Strathkelvin & Bearsden	79.4	1	Glasgow Central	62.8
2	Renfrew W & Inverclyde	78.1	2	Edinburgh Central	64.9
3	Tweeddale, Etrick and Lauderdale	77.8	3	Aberdeen North	65.0
4	East Kilbride	77.0	4	Glasgow Springburn	65.1
5	Ayr	76.7	5	Glasgow Provan	65.2

WALES

1	Carmarthen	82.1	1	Cardiff West	69.6
2	Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	81.3	2	Cardiff South & Penarth	71.0
3	Brecon and Radnor	80.1	3	Swansea East	71.5
4	Ynys Mon	79.6	4	Cardiff Central	72.1
5	Montgomery	79.2	5	Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney	72.5

NORTHERN IRELAND

1	Fermanagh & S. Tyrone	88.7	1	Strangford	65.0
2	Mid Ulster	84.4	2	Antrim East	65.1
3	Foyle	78.1	3	Antrim South	65.6
4	Down South	76.7	4	Down North	66.3
5	Londonderry East	76.3	5	Lagan Valley	67.6

The low numbers of women Members of Parliament relative to their numbers in the population have given rise to considerable comment in recent years. TABLE 9 shows figures on women candidates and elected Members at the 1983 election. The Labour Party put up the highest number of women candidates, although the highest proportion was fielded by the Ecology Party. The proportions of candidates who were female are, however, much higher than the proportions of those elected, with only 3.5 per cent of the membership of the new House of Commons being female. For historical details of women MPs see Factsheet No 5.

TABLE 9

	WOMEN CANDIDATES		WOMEN MEMBERS ELECTED	
	Number	as % all candidates	Number	as % all Members
Conservative	40	6.3	13	3.3
Labour	78	12.3	10	4.8
Liberal	32	9.9	0	..
SDP	43	13.8	0	..
Scottish National	9	12.5	0	..
Plaid Cymru	6	15.8	0	..
Ecology	27	24.8	0	..
Other	45	9.8	0	..
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3.5</b>

Additional source: Political Parties

## THE SIZE OF CONSTITUENCIES

Despite the re-organisation of parliamentary boundaries resulting from the third reports of the Boundary Commissioners there is still considerable variation in the size of constituencies as TABLE 10 shows. The largest constituency in the United Kingdom is the Isle of Wight which has a total electorate of 95,357. This is over four times the size of the smallest - Western Isles - which has a total electorate of 23,020. TABLE 10 contains details of the largest and smallest constituencies within the four countries of the United Kingdom. The figures in brackets are the percentage differences between the electorate and the electoral quota. The electoral quotas for 1983/84 are derived as follows:

	Total electors (a)	Total seats	Electors per constituency/ electoral quota
England	35,569,230	523	68,010
Wales	2,138,384	38	56,273
Scotland	3,934,220	72	54,642
Northern Ireland	1,061,185	17	62,423

Note:

- (a) Including attainers - those on the Register aged under 18 on 17 February 1983 but becoming 18 during the currency of the register - and service voters.

Some of the constituencies with the smallest electorates do, however, cover the largest areas as can be seen from, TABLE 11 which lists the largest and smallest constituencies in Great Britain by land area.

TABLE 10

## LARGEST AND SMALLEST ELECTORATES BY COUNTRY 1983 REGISTER (a)

LARGEST			SMALLEST		
Electorate (% difference from quota (b))			Electorate (% difference from quota (b))		
<b>ENGLAND</b>					
1	Isle of Wight	95,357 (+40.2)	1	Hammersmith	46,507 (-31.6)
2	Crosby	84,550 (+24.3)	2	Surbiton	47,425 (-30.3)
3	Devizes	84,409 (+24.1)	3	Walthamstow	48,842 (-28.2)
4	Eastleigh	83,523 (+22.8)	4	Kensington	50,123 (-26.3)
5	East Berkshire	82,502 (+21.3)	5	Newham NW	50,295 (-26.0)
6	Horsham	81,473 (+19.8)	6	Newham South	50,862 (-25.2)
7	Westbury	81,324 (+19.6)	7	Old Bexley & Sidcup	50,942 (-25.1)
8	Cirencester and Tewkesbury	81,078 (+19.2)	8	Greenwich	52,091 (-23.4)
9	Harrow East	80,837 (+18.9)	9	Fulham	52,224 (-23.2)
10	South Colchester and Maldon	80,553 (+18.4)	10	Coventry NW	52,541 (-22.7)
<b>WALES</b>					
1	Pembroke	68,741 (+22.2)	1	Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	30,798 (-45.3)
2	Llanelli	64,548 (+14.7)	2	Montgomery	37,913 (-32.6)
3	Carmarthen	64,211 (+14.1)	3	Caernarfon	44,663 (-20.6)
4	Caerphilly	64,153 (+14.0)	4	Brecon and Radnor	47,817 (-15.0)
5	Vale of Glamorgan	63,698 (+13.2)	5	Islwyn	50,806 (-9.7)
<b>SCOTLAND</b>					
1	Gordon	66,244 (+21.2)	1	Western Isles	23020 (-57.9)
2	Ayr	65,822 (+20.5)	2	Orkney and Shetland	30399 (-44.4)
3	Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber	64,266 (+17.6)	3	Caithness and Sutherland	31201 (-42.9)
4	Aberdeen North	63,810 (+16.8)	4	Tweeddale, Ettrick and Lauderdale	37518 (-31.3)
5	Dundee East	63,469 (+16.7)	5	Roxburgh & Berwickshire	42157 (-22.8)
<b>NORTHERN IRELAND</b>					
1	Fermanagh & South Tyrone	68,913 (+20.4)	1	Belfast South	54115 (-13.3)
2	East Londonderry	68,215 (+9.3)	2	Belfast East	56065 (-10.2)
3	Foyle	67,918 (+8.8)	3	East Antrim	59372 (-4.9)
4	South Down	67,723 (+8.5)	4	South Antrim	59931 (-4.0)
5	Mid Ulster	64,840 (+3.9)	5	Belfast West	60404 (-3.2)

## Notes:

(a) Based on the total electorate, ie including attainers and service voters

(b) The electorate quota is the number of electors per constituency in each country

Source: OPCS Monitor 83/2

TABLE 11

LARGEST AND SMALLEST CONSTITUENCIES  
BY AREA AND BY COUNTRY

<u>LARGEST</u>	Area (hectares)	<u>SMALLEST</u>	Area (hectares)
<u>ENGLAND</u>			
1. Penrith and the Border	327,964	1. Chelsea	572
2. Hexham	250,992	2. Peckham	609
3. Richmond (Yorks)	233,012	3. Kensington	623
4. Berwick Upon, Tweed	231,456	4. Fulham	693
5. Skipton and Ripon	218,136	5. Bethnal Green & Stepney	719
6. Torrridge & West Devon	214,465	6. Islington North	741
7. Ryedale	196,506	7. Islington South & Finsbury	748
8. Westmorland & Lonsdale	193,091	8. Westminster North	833
9. Leominster	171,421	9. Hackney North and Stoke Newington	845
10. Ludlow,	166,123	10. Vauxhall	872
<u>WALES</u>			
1. Brecon and Radnor	301,269	1. Cardiff Central	1,684
2. Ceredigion & Pembroke North	227,038	2. Cardiff West	3,143
3. Carmarthen	212,537	3. Swansea West	3,357
4. Montgomery	206,429	4. Cardiff South & Penarth	3,905
5. Meirionnydd Nant Conwy	193,514	5. Cardiff North	4,189
<u>SCOTLAND</u>			
1. Bass, Cromarty & Skye	954,680	1. Glasgow, Garscadden	1,270
2. Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber	870,708	2. Glasgow, Central	1,380
3. Caithness & Sutherland	788,297	3. Edinburgh, Central	1,426
4. Argyll and Bute	661,362	4. Glasgow, Hillhead	1,461
5. North Tayside	485,104	5. Edinburgh, Leith	1,506

NORTHERN IRELAND

No figures for constituency areas in Northern Ireland are readily available

Note: Area figures for Scotland relate to land and inland water

Sources: Table A OPCS Parliamentary Constituency  
Monitors CEN 81 PCM 14-25.