



HOUSE OF LORDS

Crossbench hereditary peers' by-election, February 2015: result

In the by-election following the retirements of Lord Chorley and Lady Saltoun of Abernethy, 26 valid votes were cast. All excepted hereditary peers belonging to the Crossbench group, 28 in total, were eligible to vote. Two candidates were elected, with ballot papers being counted twice. On the second count, votes for the already-elected candidate were discounted.

On the first count, of the 18 candidates, 10 received one or more first-preference votes. After five transfers of votes, the votes for the final five candidates were:

Lord Thurlow	13
Viscount Hood	4
The Earl of Cork and Orrery	3
Lord Napier and Ettrick	3
Lord Sempill	3

The first successful candidate was therefore **Lord Thurlow**.

On the second count, of the 17 remaining candidates, nine received one or more first-preference votes. After five transfers of votes, the votes for the final four candidates were:

The Earl of Kinnoull	12
Viscount Hood	5
Lord Sempill	4
Lord Napier and Ettrick	3

The second successful candidate was therefore **The Earl of Kinnoull**.

Overleaf are details of the votes cast for each candidate at each count. The left-hand column lists all candidates. The next column shows the number of first-preference votes for each candidate. Subsequent columns (which are numbered) show the number of votes for each candidate after each transfer of votes from excluded candidates. An **X** in a column shows that the candidate concerned was excluded at that stage. The penultimate row shows the total number of votes at each stage—i.e. after excluding votes which could not be transferred because no further preference was marked. The last row shows the number of votes required at that stage for a candidate to be elected—i.e. half the total (rounded up if necessary).

Note on the voting system

- The election was conducted using the alternative vote system (also known as preferential voting).
- Under this system, voters rank in order as many candidates as they wish.
- Initially only first-preference votes are counted.
- If the vote for any one candidate equals or exceeds the votes for all the other candidates combined, that candidate is elected.
- Otherwise the votes for the candidate or candidates with fewest votes (or, in the event of a tie, fewest first-preference votes) are transferred to whichever of the

continuing candidates is marked by that voter as their next available preference, and the votes thus transferred are added to the first preference votes of those candidates. The process is repeated until one candidate has as many votes as all the other remaining candidates combined.

- Any paper on which no further preference is marked is set aside as non-transferable.
- One ballot paper was used to elect two peers. Once the first candidate was elected all ballot papers were re-counted to elect the second candidate. In this second count all preferences for the already-elected candidate were transferred to the next preference on the ballot paper. The process was then repeated as per the explanation above.

The poll was supervised and the count was conducted by Electoral Reform Services. Lord Laming acted as scrutineer.

3 February 2015

David Beamish
Clerk of the Parliaments

Distribution of votes on first count

Candidate	1st preference votes	Votes after transfers					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Albemarle, E.	0X						
Aldington, L.	2	2	2	2	2	3X	
Cadman, L.	0X						
Clanwilliam, E. (<i>L. Clanwilliam</i>)	1	1	1X				
Cork and Orrery, E. (<i>L. Boyle</i>)	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
Darling, L.	0X						
Hampton, L.	0X						
Hemphill, L.	1	1	1	1X			
Hood, V.	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Kinnoull, E.	2	2	2	2	2X		
Lloyd-George of Dwyfor, E.	1	1X					
Marlborough, D.	0X						
Mountgarret, V. (<i>L. Mountgarret</i>)	0X						
Napier and Ettrick, L.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Sempill, L.	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
Sudeley, L.	0X						
Thurlow, L.	8	8	9	9	9	10	13
Tryon, L.	0X						
VOTES EXCLUDED AT EACH STAGE							
TOTAL CONTINUING VOTES AT EACH STAGE	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
VOTES NEEDED IN ORDER TO BE ELECTED	13	13	13	13	13	13	13

Distribution of votes on second count

Candidate	1st preference votes	Votes after transfers					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Albemarle, E.	0X						
Aldington, L.	2	2	2	2	2X		
Cadman, L.	0X						
Clanwilliam, E. (<i>L. Clanwilliam</i>)	1	1	1	1X			
Cork and Orrery, E. (<i>L. Boyle</i>)	2	2	2	2	3	3X	
Darling, L.	0X						
Hampton, L.	0X						
Hemphill, L.	1	1X					
Hood, V.	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
Kinnoull, E.	9	9	9	10	10	11	12
Lloyd-George of Dwyfor, E.	1	1	1X				
Marlborough, D.	0X						
Mountgarret, V. (<i>L. Mountgarret</i>)	0X						
Napier and Ettrick, L.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Sempill, L.	2	2	3	3	3	4	4
Sudeley, L.	0X						
Tryon, L.	0X						
VOTES EXCLUDED AT EACH STAGE	1						1
TOTAL CONTINUING VOTES AT EACH STAGE	25	25	25	25	25	25	24
VOTES NEEDED IN ORDER TO BE ELECTED	13	13	13	13	13	13	12