



Whole-House Hereditary Peers' By-election, October 2014: Result

In the by-election following the death of the Lord Methuen, a total of 283 valid votes were cast. There were no spoilt ballot papers. All current members of the House, a total of 776, were eligible to vote. Of the 15 candidates, 12 received one or more first-preference votes. At the first count, the Earl of Oxford and Asquith received over 50% of the total vote.

The Earl of Oxford and Asquith	155
--------------------------------	-----

The successful candidate was therefore **The Earl of Oxford and Asquith**.

Overleaf are details of the votes cast for each candidate. The left-hand column lists all 15 candidates. The next column shows the number of first-preference votes for each candidate.

A 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.

The poll was supervised and the count was conducted by Electoral Reform Services. Viscount Craigavon, Lord Geddes, Lord Shutt of Greetland and Lord Tunnicliffe acted as scrutineers.

22 October 2014

David Beamish
Clerk of the Parliaments

Candidate	1st preference votes
Biddulph, L. (Conservative)	0
Cadman, L. (Conservative)	0
Calverley, L. (Crossbench)	1
Harlech, L. (Conservative)	4
Kennet, L. (Liberal Democrat)	29
Layton, L. (Conservative)	1
Margadale, L. (Conservative)	13
Massereene and Ferrard, V. (<i>L. Oriel</i>) (Crossbench)	6
Middleton, L. (Conservative)	1
Napier and Ettrick, L. (Crossbench)	35
Oxford and Asquith, E. (Liberal Democrat)	155
Rowallan, L. (Conservative)	0
Somerleyton, L. (Crossbench)	6
Stockton, E. (Conservative)	31
Sudeley, L. (Conservative)	1
VOTES EXCLUDED AT EACH STAGE	0
TOTAL CONTINUING VOTES AT EACH STAGE	283
VOTES NEEDED IN ORDER TO BE ELECTED	142