



# HOUSE OF LORDS

## Crossbench hereditary peers' by-election, December 2014: result

In the by-election following the death of Viscount Allenby of Megiddo and the retirement of Lord Cobbold, a total of 25 valid votes were cast. All excepted hereditary peers belonging to the Crossbench group, a total of 27 peers, 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, 7 received one or more first-preference votes. After 4 transfers of votes, the voting for the final three candidates was as follows:

Lord Russell of Liverpool	13
The Duke of Somerset	5
Lord Thurlow	5

The first successful candidate was therefore **Lord Russell of Liverpool**.

On the second count, of the 17 remaining candidates, 6 received one or more first-preference votes. After 4 transfers of votes, the voting for the final two candidates was as follows:

The Duke of Somerset	12
Lord Thurlow	11

The second successful candidate was therefore **The Duke of Somerset**.

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 any 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).

### 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. Viscount Craigavon acted as scrutineer.

10 December 2014

David Beamish  
*Clerk of the Parliaments*

## Distribution of votes on first count

Candidate	1st preference votes	Votes after transfers				
		1	2	3	4	5
Albemarle, E.	0X					
Aldington, L.	0X					
Cadman, L.	0X					
Calverley, L.	0X					
Clanwilliam, E. ( <i>L. Clanwilliam</i> )	1	1X				
Darling, L.	0X					
Grantley, L.	0X					
Harlech, L.	0X					
Hood, V.	3	3	3X			
Kinnoull, E.	3	3	3	3X		
Lloyd-George of Dwyfor, E.	0X					
Massereene and Ferrard, V. ( <i>L. Oriel</i> )	0X					
Napier and Ettrick, L.	3	3	3	3	4X	
Russell of Liverpool, L.	7	7	8	10	10	13
Sempill, L.	0X					
Somerset, D.	4	4	4	4	5	5
Sudeley, L.	0X					
Thurlow, L.	4	4	4	4	5	5
VOTES EXCLUDED AT EACH STAGE				1		1
TOTAL CONTINUING VOTES AT EACH STAGE	25	25	25	24	24	23
VOTES NEEDED IN ORDER TO BE ELECTED	13	13	13	12	12	12

## Distribution of votes on second count

Candidate	1st preference votes	Votes after transfers				
		1	2	3	4	5
Albemarle, E.	0X					
Aldington, L.	0X					
Cadman, L.	0X					
Calverley, L.	0X					
Clanwilliam, E. ( <i>L. Clanwilliam</i> )	1	1X				
Darling, L.	0X					
Grantley, L.	0X					
Harlech, L.	0X					
Hood, V.	3	3	3X			
Kinnoull, E.	4	4	4	4	5X	
Lloyd-George of Dwyfor, E.	0X					
Massereene and Ferrard, V. ( <i>L. Oriel</i> )	0X					
Napier and Ettrick, L.	3	3	3	3X		
Sempill, L.	0X					
Somerset, D.	6	6	7	8	8	12
Sudeley, L.	0X					
Thurlow, L.	8	8	8	9	10	11
VOTES EXCLUDED AT EACH STAGE				1	1	
TOTAL CONTINUING VOTES AT EACH STAGE	25	25	25	24	23	23
VOTES NEEDED IN ORDER TO BE ELECTED	13	13	13	12	12	12