



# HOUSE OF LORDS

## Crossbench hereditary peers' by-election

### Notice to electors

A vacancy has been created among the excepted hereditary peers who sit in the House of Lords. It arises from Lord Bridges ceasing to be a member of the House on 18 May 2016 by virtue of non-attendance in session 2015–16, in accordance with section 2 of the House of Lords Reform Act 2014.

Under Standing Order 10, the vacancy is to be filled by a by-election. Those eligible to stand are all hereditary peers whose names are on the register of hereditary peers wishing to stand for election as members of the House of Lords, maintained by the Clerk of the Parliaments. Those on this register are asked to indicate by 5 pm on Wednesday 8 June 2016 whether they wish to be a candidate in this by-election. The list of candidates will be published on Friday 10 June 2016.

Lord Bridges was one of 28 hereditary peers elected by the Crossbench hereditary peers. Therefore, under Standing Order 10(2), the voters in this by-election will be the excepted hereditary peers belonging to the Crossbench group, of whom there are currently 31 eligible to vote. A list is in Annex 1.

Votes in this by-election will be cast by post. **Ballot papers will be sent to electors on Friday 10 June 2016. They will be sent to electors at the House of Lords, unless the House of Lords Journal Office is notified of an alternative address by 5 pm on Wednesday 8 June 2016.** A form for notifying the Journal Office of an alternative address is enclosed with this notice.

**Ballot papers should be returned to the Clerk of the Parliaments' Office, either by post or in person, by 5 pm on Monday 11 July 2016. Ballot papers received after this time will not be counted.**

### *Timetable and conduct of the by-election*

Candidates will be invited, but not required, to submit statements in support of their candidature. Such statements will be circulated by the House administration to all electors. Statements must not exceed 75 words.

The Code of Conduct for the by-election is in Annex 2. Electoral Reform Services are assisting the Clerk of the Parliaments with organising the by-election.

The timetable for the by-election is:

5 pm, Wednesday 8 June

Deadline for candidate registration and receipt of alternative ballot address from electors.

Friday 10 June

List of candidates and statements published, and ballot papers sent to electors.

5 pm, Monday 11 July

Deadline for receipt of ballot papers.

Tuesday 12 July

Count and then result of the by-election reported to the House.

The Alternative Vote system will be used. Voters place the figure 1 in the box next to the name of the candidate they most strongly support, the figure 2 against the next most favoured candidate, and so on. Voters may cast as many or as few votes as they wish. In order to be elected, the successful candidate must receive at least as many votes as all the other candidates put together. In the event of this not happening after first-preference votes have been allocated, the votes of the candidates receiving the lowest number of first-preference votes will be shared out according to the second preference marked on them. This will be repeated until one candidate has at least half of the total valid votes.

Ballot papers will be invalidated if:

- any number is used more than once, or
- in the opinion of the Returning Officer (the Clerk of the Parliaments) the ballot paper is illegible or ambiguous.

The count will be conducted by Electoral Reform Services.

The result will be announced in the House of Lords chamber by the Clerk of the Parliaments at a convenient moment (likely to be after oral questions) on Tuesday 12 July 2016.

The full results, including the number of first-preference votes cast for each candidate and the position after each transfer of votes, will be available in the Printed Paper Office and the Library soon after the announcement by the Clerk of the Parliaments. The results will also be published online at [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

### ***Change of address for ballot paper***

Please find enclosed a form for notifying the Journal Office that you wish your ballot paper to be sent to an address other than the House of Lords.

### ***Enquiries***

Enquiries may be addressed as follows:

- By post: The Registry, Journal Office, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW
- By telephone: 0207 219 5307
- By email: [holjournaloffice@parliament.uk](mailto:holjournaloffice@parliament.uk)

24 May 2016

DAVID BEAMISH  
Clerk of the Parliaments

## **Annex I: Excepted Crossbench hereditary peers as at 24 May 2016**

*Elected by a party or group and sitting as Crossbench peers*

Aberdare, L.	Northbourne, L.
Baldwin of Bewdley, E.	Palmer, L.
Brookeborough, V.	Peel, E.
Clancarty, E.	Rosslyn, E.
Craigavon, V.	Russell of Liverpool, L.
Cromwell, L.	St John of Bletso, L.
Erroll, E.	Sandwich, E.
Freyberg, L.	Slim, V.
Greenway, L.	Somerset, D.
Hylton, L.	Stair, E.
Kinnoull, E.	Thurlow, L.
Listowel, E.	Trevethin and Oaksey, L.
Lytton, E.	Walpole, L.
Mountevans, L.	Waverley, V.

*Elected by the whole House and sitting as Crossbench peers*

Colville of Culross, V.  
Falkland, V.  
Mar, C.

## **Annex 2: Code of Conduct**

1. Ballot papers will not indicate any qualification or reason why a candidate should be elected.
2. Candidates may not offer hospitality, entertainment or financial inducements to electors intended to influence their votes or likely to have that effect.
3. Candidates may not engage in any activity intended or likely to discredit other candidates in the by-election.
4. Candidates may not solicit votes near the room where the by-election is taking place.
5. If the Clerk of the Parliaments suspects, on reasonable grounds, that some material irregularity or improper conduct may have occurred in the electoral process, he may refer the matter to the Committee for Privileges and Conduct. The committee may, if it thinks fit, recommend the disqualification of a successful candidate if their election appears to have been influenced by material irregularity or improper conduct.
6. In this code of conduct, “candidate” includes an agent or supporter acting on behalf of the candidate.