



# HOUSE OF LORDS

## Hereditary peers' by-election, January 2019: result

In the by-election following the death of Lord Skelmersdale, 259 valid votes were cast. All current members of the House who have taken the oath, 785 in total, were eligible to vote.

On the first count, of the 16 candidates, 13 received one or more first-preference votes. After 11 transfers of votes, the votes for the final two candidates were:

The Earl of Leicester	93
Lord Reay	110

The successful candidate was therefore **Lord Reay**.

Overleaf are details of the votes cast for each candidate at each count. The left-hand column lists all candidates and their party or group affiliation. 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.

The poll was supervised and the count was conducted by Electoral Reform Services. Lord Geddes and Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield acted as scrutineers.

23 January 2019

Ed Ollard  
*Clerk of the Parliaments*

### Distribution of votes

	First-preference votes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Ashcombe, L. (Conservative)	13	13	13	13	13	15X						
Biddulph, L. (Conservative)	0X											
Cadman, L. (No affiliation declared)	0X											
Carnarvon, E. (Conservative)	20	20	20	20	22	23	24	24	25X			
Effingham, E. (Crossbench)	5	5	5	5X								
Hampton, L. (Crossbench)	10	10	11	15	16	17	17X					
Leicester, E. (Conservative)	46	46	46	46	46	47	52	53	58	62	74	93X
Mountgarret, V. (Mountgarret, L.) (Conservative)	1	1X										
Napier and Ettrick, L. (Conservative)	24	24	24	24	24	25	28	32	36	39X		
Oranmore and Browne, L. (Meresworth, L.) (Crossbench)	1	1X										
Powerscourt, V. (Powerscourt, L.) (Crossbench)	4	4	5X									
Reay, L. (Conservative)	73	73	73	73	73	74	78	78	81	87	94	110
Southampton, L. (Crossbench)	0X											
Stockton, E. (Conservative)	18	18	18	18	18	19	19	21X				
Strathcarron, L. (Conservative)	32	32	32	32	33	37	39	39	41	44	49X	
Windlesham, L. (Conservative)	12	12	12	12	12X							
VOTES EXCLUDED AT EACH STAGE	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	10	6	9	15	14
TOTAL CONTINUING VOTES AT EACH STAGE	259	259	259	258	257	257	257	247	241	232	217	203
VOTES NEEDED IN ORDER TO BE ELECTED	130	130	130	129	129	129	129	124	121	116	109	102