



## Hereditary peers' by-election

### Notice to hereditary peers on the register

Following the death of Viscount Simon on 15 August 2021 there is a vacancy among the excepted hereditary peers who sit in the House of Lords.

Under Standing Order 9, the vacancy will be filled by means of 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.

Viscount Simon was one of the 15 hereditary peers elected by the whole House in 1999 from among those ready to serve as Deputy Speakers or in any other office. Therefore, under Standing Order 9(3), his successor will be elected by the whole House. In 1999 the Procedure Committee recommended that any peer elected at a by-election in this category should not be expected to serve as a Deputy Speaker. Under the terms of an informal agreement between the parties and groups in the House of Lords, it is expected that the successful candidate will sit as a Labour member of the House.

**This notice is being sent to all those on the register of hereditary peers. Its purpose is to invite you to state whether you wish to be a candidate in the by-election.**

**Please indicate using the enclosed candidature form, which you can either fill in electronically or print out, fill in and then scan (or photograph) and send back to us, whether you wish to be a candidate. Completed candidature forms should reach [hlbyelections@parliament.uk](mailto:hlbyelections@parliament.uk) no later than 12 noon on 22 October.**

### Eligibility to stand

In order to stand, candidates must be eligible to receive a writ of summons. The principal considerations are:

- Nationality: candidates must be British or Commonwealth citizens or citizens of the Republic of Ireland.
- Bankruptcy: anyone who is subject to bankruptcy or debt relief restrictions orders or undertakings, or in Scotland whose estate is sequestered, may not stand.

You should also be aware that, should you be successful in a by-election, you would:

- be treated as resident and domiciled in the United Kingdom for the purposes of income tax, capital gains tax and inheritance tax (as required by section 41 of the Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010, as amended);



- be expected to sign an undertaking to abide by the House of Lords Code of Conduct (see <https://www.parliament.uk/hl-code>).

## Timetable and conduct for the by-election

Candidates are 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 annexed.

The timetable for the by-election is:

Friday 22 October, 12 noon	Deadline for candidate registration.
Friday 29 October	List of candidates and statements issued to electors. Postal ballot papers issued to those with accessibility issues.
Tuesday 9 – Wednesday 10 November	Voting to take place electronically from 10am on 9 November until 5pm on 10 November. 5pm is also the deadline for receipt of postal ballot papers.
Thursday 11 November	Result of the by-election reported to the House.

Voting will be conducted via a secret ballot. The Alternative Vote system will be used. Voters will place the name of the candidate they most strongly support at the top of the digital ballot paper, then place their next most favoured candidate below, 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.

Civica Election Services are assisting the Returning Officer with the organisation of this election.

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 Thursday 11 November.

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 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).



## **Additional information**

Please find enclosed:

- A candidature form. If you wish to be a candidate please return the completed form by email to [hlbyelections@parliament.uk](mailto:hlbyelections@parliament.uk), along with an accompanying candidature statement if desired, to arrive by 12 noon on Friday 22 October. If submitting a statement please ensure it does not exceed 75 words.
- A form for notifying a change of address or for providing an email address for correspondence. Please notify the Journal Office of any change, regardless of whether you wish to be a candidate in this by-election.

A peer who does not return the form will not be entered as a candidate.

## **Enquiries**

Enquiries may be addressed as follows:

- By e-mail: [hlbyelections@parliament.uk](mailto:hlbyelections@parliament.uk)
- By telephone: 0207 219 4808 / 2257

SIMON BURTON  
Clerk of the Parliaments



## **Annex I: Code of Conduct**

1. Voting instructions 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 election.
4. 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 Procedure and Privileges. 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.
5. In this code of conduct, “candidate” includes an agent or supporter acting on behalf of the candidate.

