



HOUSE OF LORDS

Conservative hereditary peers' by-election

Notice to electors

Following the retirement of Viscount Ridley on 17 December 2021 there is a vacancy among the excepted hereditary peers who sit in the House of Lords.

Under Standing Order 9, the vacancy is to 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. All those on this register are asked to indicate by 5pm on Monday 24 January whether they wish to be a candidate in this by-election. A notice of candidates and statements will be sent out on Friday 28 January.

Viscount Ridley was one of 42 hereditary peers elected by the Conservative hereditary peers. Under Standing Order 9 (2), the voters in this by-election will be the excepted hereditary peers belonging to the Conservative group¹, of whom there are currently 46 eligible to vote.² A list is in Annex 1.

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. Civica Election Services are assisting the Clerk of the Parliaments with organising the by-election.

¹ All peers in this group who have taken the oath on or before 3 February are eligible to vote, except those who are: subject to statutory disqualification; suspended from the service of the House; or on leave of absence.

² This figure comprises 37 hereditary peers elected by Conservative hereditary peers who currently are in the Conservative group; and nine hereditary peers elected by the whole House who currently are in the Conservative group.

The timetable for the by-election is:

Monday 24 January, 5pm	Deadline for candidate registration and deadline for members to register for a postal vote (only members with accessibility requirements or members without a parliamentary email address may request a postal vote).
Friday 28 January	Ballot papers sent by Civica Election Services to those requesting a postal vote
Friday 28 January	List of candidates and statements issued to electors.
Tuesday 8 February	Voting to take place electronically from 10am until 5pm on Tuesday 8 February. 5pm on 8 February is also the deadline for receipt of postal ballot papers.
Wednesday 9 February	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 first 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.

The results of the by-election 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 Wednesday 9 February.

The full result, 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 result will also be published online at www.parliament.uk.

Postal ballots

Members who have accessibility needs which mean they cannot use the online voting system or who do not have a parliamentary email address may request a postal vote. Such requests for postal votes must be received by 5pm on Monday 24 January by returning the form below. Members should specify the address to which the ballot paper should be posted. Ballot papers will be posted on Friday 28 January. The ballot papers for postal votes will be sent by Civica Election Services. The ballot papers must be returned by post to Civica

Election Services (a prepaid addressed envelope will be provided). Postal votes must be returned to Civica Election Services by 5pm on Tuesday 8 February. Postal ballot papers arriving after the deadline will not be counted.

Data sharing

Electors should note that their name, parliamentary email address and, if they wish to request a postal ballot, their postal address will be shared with Civica Election Services for the purposes of the administration of the by-election. The lawful basis for processing this information is Article 6(1)(e) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation, as supplemented by the Data Protection Act 2018.

Enquiries

Enquiries may be addressed as follows:

- By e-mail: hlbyelections@parliament.uk
- By telephone: 0207 219 4808/2257

SIMON BURTON
Clerk of the Parliaments

Annex I: Excepted Conservative hereditary peers as at 14 January 2022

Elected by a party or group and sitting as Conservative peers

Altrincham, L.	Mancroft, L.
Arran, E.	Montrose, D.
Ashton of Hyde, L.	Moynihan, L.
Astor of Hever, L.	Northbrook, L.
Astor, V.	Rotherwick, L.
Attlee, E.	Sandhurst, L.
Bethell, L.	Shrewsbury, E.
Brabazon of Tara, L.	Strathclyde, L.
Bridgeman, V.	Swinfen, L.
Caithness, E.	Trefgarne, L.
Cathcart, E.	Trenchard, V.
Courtown, E.	Younger of Leckie, V.
Crathorne, L.	
De Mauley, L.	
Dundee, E.	
Fairfax of Cameron, L.	
Glenarthur, L.	
Goschen, V.	
Henley, L.	
Home, E.	
Howe, E.	
Leicester, E.	
Lindsay, E.	
Liverpool, E.	
Lucas, L.	

Elected by the whole House and sitting as Conservative peers

Borwick, L.
Brougham and Vaux, L.
Colgrain, L.
Colwyn, L.
Eccles, V.
Geddes, L.
Harlech, L.
Reay, L.
Ullswater, V.

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.

Hereditary peers' by-election

APPLICATION FOR POSTAL VOTE

I wish to apply for a postal vote in this election. I have accessibility needs which mean I cannot use the online voting system or I do not have a parliamentary email address.

I understand that the ballot paper will be posted on Friday 28 January to the address I have provided in the box below.

Electors should note that their name, parliamentary email address and the postal address provided below will be shared with Civica Election Services for the purposes of the administration of the by-election. The lawful basis for processing this information is Article 6(1)(e) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation, as supplemented by the Data Protection Act 2018.

I would like the ballot paper to be sent to me at the following address:

Signature: _____

Title (please print): _____

Please return this form to arrive by 5pm on Monday 24 January to:

Journal Office
House of Lords
London SW1A 0PW

Or scan and email it to: hlbyelections@parliament.uk