



## Conservative Hereditary Peers' By-election

This notice sets out the arrangements for the by-election following the death of the Earl of Onslow.

Votes in this by-election will be cast by post. **Ballot papers will be sent to voters on Tuesday 5 July 2011. 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 5pm on Monday 4 July 2011.** A form for notifying the Journal Office of an alternative address is enclosed with this notice.

### Background

The death of the Earl of Onslow on 14 May 2011 has created a vacancy among the excepted hereditary peers, which under Standing Order 10 is to be filled by means of a by-election.

The Earl of Onslow was elected under Standing Order 9(2)(i)(b), among the “42 peers elected by the Conservative hereditary peers”. Therefore, under Standing Order 10(2), the electorate will be the excepted hereditary peers belonging to the Conservative party, of whom there are 47, listed in Annex 1.

The Clerk of the Parliaments is required, under Standing Order 10, to maintain and publish a Register of Hereditary Peers who wish to stand for election as members of the House of Lords. All those on this register are being asked to indicate by Thursday 30 June whether they wish to be a candidate in this by-election. The list of candidates will be available on Monday 4 July.

Ballot papers will then be prepared by Electoral Reform Services, and sent directly to the 47 voters on Tuesday 5 July. All ballot papers will be sent to the “House of Lords”, unless the Journal Office has received notification by 5pm on 4 July from the Peer concerned of an alternative address. A change of address form is enclosed for this purpose.

Ballot papers are to be returned to the Clerk of the Parliaments, either by post or in person, by 5pm on Tuesday 19 July. **Ballot papers received after this time will not be counted.**

The Code of Conduct for the by-election, based on that adopted for the elections in 1999, is set out in Annex 2.

The House authorities will make no arrangements for circulating statements in support of candidatures for this by-election.

## Timetable

Thursday 30 June	Candidature to be registered.
Monday 4 July	List of candidates available.
Tuesday 5 July	Ballot papers issued.
Tuesday 19 July	Ballot papers to be returned no later than 5pm.
Wednesday 20 July	Count takes place. The Clerk of the Parliaments will report the result of the by-election to the House later that day. The full election results (first preference votes cast for each candidate, and the position after each transfer of votes) will subsequently be made available.

## Voting method

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 vote.

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.

Electoral Reform Services are assisting the Returning Officer with the organisation and running of this by-election.

## Concurrent whole House by-election following the death of Lord Ampthill

The death of Lord Ampthill on 23 April 2011 has created another vacancy among the excepted hereditary peers who sit in the House of Lords under the terms of section 2 of the House of Lords Act 1999, so two by-elections are being held. Lord Ampthill 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 10(3), his successor will be elected by the whole House. Voting in this by-election will take place on Tuesday 19 July.

Votes will be counted in the order in which the vacancies arose. Thus votes cast in the whole House by-election will be counted before votes in the Conservative by-election. If the successful candidate in the whole House by-election also stands as a candidate in the Conservative by-election, any votes cast for him in the Conservative by-election will be discounted and automatically reallocated to second and subsequent preferences.

## **Enquiries**

Enquiries may be addressed as follows:

- By post: Susannah Street, Journal Office, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW
- By telephone: Susannah Street (020 7219 5307)
- By fax: 020 7219 0620
- By e-mail: [streets@parliament.uk](mailto:streets@parliament.uk)

*8 June 2011*

DAVID BEAMISH  
*Clerk of the Parliaments*

## **Annex 1: List of excepted Conservative hereditary peers as at 6 June 2011**

### *Elected by the Conservative hereditary peers*

Arran, E.	Inglewood, L.
Astor, V.	Lindsay, E.
Astor of Hever, L.	Liverpool, E.
Attlee, E.	Lucas, L.
Bridgeman, V.	Luke, L.
Caithness, E.	Mancroft, L.
Cathcart, E.	Montagu of Beaulieu, L.
Courtown, E.	Montrose, D.
Crathorne, L.	Moynihan, L.
De Mauley, L.	Northbrook, L.
Denham, L.	Rotherwick, L.
Dundee, E.	Selborne, E.
Ferrers, E.	Selsdon, L.
Glenarthur, L.	Shrewsbury, E.
Glentoran, L.	Strathclyde, L.
Goschen, V.	Swinfen, L.
Henley, L.	Trefgarne, L.
Home, E.	Trenchard, V.
Howe, E.	Younger of Leckie, V.

### *Elected by the whole House and sitting as Conservatives*

Brougham and Vaux, L.	Lyell, L.
Colwyn, L.	Reay, L.
Eccles, V.	Skelmersdale, L.
Elton, L.	Ullswater, V.
Geddes, L.	

## **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. 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.
5. In this code of conduct, “candidate” includes an agent or supporter acting on behalf of the candidate.