

Hereditary peers' by-election

This notice confirms the arrangements for the by-election following the death of Viscount Simon on 15 August 2021.

Electors

Viscount Simon was one of 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 (7), his successor will be elected by the whole House. In 1999 the House agreed that a 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 amongst the parties and groups in the House of Lords, it is expected that this vacancy will be filled by an hereditary peer who will sit as a Labour member of the House.

All members of the House who have taken the oath on or before 8 November 2021 are eligible to vote, except those who are: subject to statutory disqualification; suspended from the service of the House; or on leave of absence.

Candidates

Those eligible to be candidates are hereditary peers on the register maintained by the Clerk of the Parliaments.

The deadline for registration of candidature was 12 noon on 22 October 2021. Three candidates registered to stand in this by-election; a list is on page 3. Candidates were invited but not required to submit a written statement of up to 75 words; those statements are also on page 3.

Voting timetable

This by-election will be conducted using electronic means.

An email containing full voting instructions and link to the online voting website will be sent to the parliamentary email address of each member eligible to vote around 8am on Tuesday 9 November 2021 from takepart@cesvotes.com. The subject line will be: "Simon by-election – voting link." The email will contain instructions on how votes can be cast online in this election. Members will be instructed to click on a link in the email which will direct them to a login page for the secure website. Members can then click through to the voting page where details of the candidates standing in the election are available. Once the member has made their selection, they will be asked to confirm their votes before submission.

Voting will take place online from 10am on Tuesday 9 November 2021 until 5pm on Wednesday 10 November 2021. It is expected that the result will be announced in the chamber on Monday 15 November 2021.

No electors registered for postal votes so no ballot papers will be sent by post for this by-election.

Voting system

The by-election 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.

Results

The electronic count will be overseen by Civica Election 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 Monday 15 November 2021.

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

29 October 2021

SIMON BURTON
Clerk of the Parliaments

List of candidates

Biddulph, L. (Conservative)
Hacking, L. (Labour)
Kennet, L. (Labour)

Candidature statements

Biddulph, L. (Conservative)

Always happy to serve if requested. I have many happy memories of the House.

Hacking, L. (Labour)

I stand in this election as a Member of the Labour Party in place of my former Labour colleague Jan Simon. The Labour Party, in its own interests and in the interests of the nation, should be a Government-in-Waiting adopting social democratic policies which have general public support. The 2019 General Election was a disaster. If come back again to Parliament I will do all I can to focus the Party on this essential need.

Kennet, L. (Labour)

My voice in Parliament will join those dedicated quickly to achieving climate change objectives.

- Carbon neutralised
- Nature restored
- Oceans revived
- Air detoxified
- Waste eliminated

My diverse experience/expertise (listed) equip me to advocate new thinking and effectively to promote existing decarbonisation measures.

- Construction
- Bio-composites
- Manufacturing
- Transport
- Agriculture
- Fisheries
- Heritage
- Planning
- IT
- Journalism

I first joined the Labour Party in 1979 and should be proud and humbled to be elected, as a Labour working peer.