

## Hereditary peers' by-election, June 2023: result

In the by-election following the retirement of Viscount Falkland, 212 valid votes were cast. All members of the House of Lords, who had taken the oath or made the solemn affirmation and were not on leave of absence, disqualified or suspended from the service of the House, were eligible to vote.

At the first count, all three candidates received one or more first-preference votes and Earl Russell received over 50% of the total vote:

### **Earl Russell, 123 votes**

The successful candidate was therefore Earl Russell.

Overleaf are details of the votes cast for each candidate. The left-hand column lists all candidates. The penultimate row shows the total number of votes. The last row shows the number of votes required 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, as was the case in this election.
- 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 ballot on which no further preference is marked is non-transferable.

The poll was conducted using electronic means and the count was conducted by Civica Election Services (formerly Electoral Reform Services).

14 June 2023

Simon Burton  
*Clerk of the Parliaments*

### Distribution of votes

	<b>First-preference votes</b>
Belhaven and Stenton, L. (Liberal Democrat)	34
Lloyd-George of Dwyfor, E. (Liberal Democrat)	55
Russell, E. (Liberal Democrat)	123
VOTES EXCLUDED AT EACH STAGE	0
TOTAL CONTINUING VOTES AT EACH STAGE	212
VOTES NEEDED IN ORDER TO BE ELECTED	106