



24 July 2023

## Crossbench hereditary peers' by-election

### Notice to hereditary peers on the register

Following the death of Lord Palmer on 10 July and the forthcoming retirement of Lord Hylton on 27 July, there will be two vacancies among the excepted hereditary peers who sit in the House of Lords.

Under Standing Order 9, the vacancies are 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.

Lord Palmer and Lord Hylton were two of the 28 hereditary peers elected by the Crossbench hereditary peers in 1999. Under Standing Order 9(2), the voters in this by-election will be the excepted hereditary peers belonging to the Crossbench group, of whom on 27 July there will be 32 eligible to vote.<sup>1</sup> A projected list is given in Annex 1.

**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 this 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 in any of these by-elections. Completed candidature forms should reach [hlbyelections@parliament.uk](mailto:hlbyelections@parliament.uk) no later than **Thursday 24 August, 12 noon**.

### ***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:

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<sup>1</sup> This figure comprises 28 hereditary peers elected by a party or group and sitting as Crossbench peers; three hereditary peers elected by the whole House and sitting as Crossbench peers; and the Earl Marshal, who sits as a Crossbencher.

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- 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);
- Be expected to sign an undertaking to abide by the House of Lords Code of Conduct (see [www.parliament.uk/hl-code](http://www.parliament.uk/hl-code)).

### ***Timetable and conduct of 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 in Annex 2. Civica Election Services are assisting the Clerk of the Parliaments with organising the by-election.

The timetable for the by-election is:

Thursday 24 August, 12 noon	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).
Monday 4 September	Ballot papers sent by Civica Election Services to those requesting a postal vote.
Monday 4 September	List of candidates and statements issued to electors.
Tuesday 12 September	Hustings (arranged by the Crossbench Convenors Office).
Tuesday 19 September	Voting to take place electronically from 10am until 5pm on Tuesday 19 September. 5pm on 19 September is also the deadline for receipt of postal ballot papers.
Wednesday 20 September	Result of the by-election reported to the House.

Voting will be conducted by secret ballot. One election, with one digital ‘ballot paper’, will be held to elect two hereditary peers. The Single Transferable 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, a successful candidate must achieve the number of votes required for election. The number of votes required for election at each stage is calculated by dividing the total number of valid votes by one more than the number to be elected.

Even though two candidates are being elected, the digital ballot paper should be marked with only one “1”, one “2”, etc.

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 20 September.

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](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 Thursday 24 August**. If submitting a statement, please ensure it does not exceed 75 words. Alternatively, you may return this form by post to the Journal Office, House of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW.
- 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 email: [hlbyelections@parliament.uk](mailto:hlbyelections@parliament.uk)
- By telephone: 0207 219 4808/2257

24 July 2023

SIMON BURTON  
*Clerk of the Parliaments*

## **Annex I: Excepted Crossbench hereditary peers projected for 27 July 2023**

*Elected by a party or group and sitting as Crossbench peers:*

Aberdare, L.	Mountevans, L.
Brookeborough, V.	Peel, E.
Carrington, L.	Ravensdale, L.
Clancarty, E.	Roslyn, E.
Cork and Orrery, E.	Russell of Liverpool, L.
Craigavon, V.	St John of Bletso, L.
Cromwell, L.	Sandwich, E.
Devon, E.	Somerset, D.
Erroll, E.	Stair, E.
Freyberg, L.	Thurlow, L.
Greenway, L.	Trevethin and Oaksey, L.
Hampton, L.	Vaux of Harrowden, L.
Kinnoull, E.	Waverley, V.
Lytton, E.	Wellington, D.

*Elected by the whole House and sitting as Crossbench peers:*

Colville of Culross, V.  
Londesborough, L.  
Oxford and Asquith, E.

*Other excepted Crossbench hereditary peer:*

Norfolk, D.

## **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.