Conservative Hereditary Peers' By-election, July 2011: Result

In the by-election following the death of the Earl of Onslow, a total of 45 valid votes were cast. There were no spoilt ballot papers. 47 Conservative hereditary peers were eligible to vote. Of the 21 candidates, 13 received one or more first-preference votes. After 8 transfers of votes, the voting for the final 5 candidates was as follows:

Lord Ashton of Hyde	23	Earl of Harrowby	4
Lord Borwick	7	Earl of Stockton	4
Lord De Ramsey	5		

The successful candidate was therefore **Lord Ashton of Hyde**.

Overleaf are details of the votes cast for each candidate at each stage of the count. The left-hand column lists all 21 candidates. The next column shows the number of first-preference votes for each candidate. Subsequent columns (which are numbered) show the number of votes for each candidate after each transfer of votes from excluded candidates. An **X** in a column shows that the candidate concerned was excluded at that stage. The penultimate row shows the total number of votes at each stage, i.e. after excluding any votes which could not be transferred because no further preference was marked. The last row shows the number of votes required at that stage for a candidate to be elected, i.e. half the total (rounded up).

A 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.
- 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 paper on which no further preference is marked is set aside as non-transferable.

The poll was supervised and the count was conducted by Electoral Reform Services. Lord Geddes and Lord Hylton acted as scrutineers.

20 July 2011

David Beamish
Clerk of the Parliaments

Candidate	1st preference votes	Votes after transfers							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Abergavenny, M.	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	**X**
Addison, V.	1	**X**							
Albemarle, E.	0**X**								
Alexander of Tunis, E.	0**X**								
Ashton of Hyde, L.	19	19	20	20	20	20	20	21	23
Biddulph, L.	0**X**								
Borwick, L.	5	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	7
Cadman, L.	0**X**								
De Ramsey, L.	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	5
Harrowby, E.	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Killearn, L.	0**X**								
Kinnoull, E. *(L. Hay)*	0**X**								
Limerick, E. *(L. Foxford)*	1	1	**X**						
Margadale, L.	1	1	1	**X**					
Massereene and Ferrard, V. (*L. Oriel*)	0**X**								
Onslow, E.	2	2	2	2	2	2	**X**		
Oxford and Asquith, E.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	**X**	
Rathcavan, L.	1	1	1	1	**X**				
Rowallan, L.	1	1	1	1	1	**X**			
Stockton, E.	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	4
Vivian, L.	0**X**								
VOTES EXCLUDED AT EACH STAGE		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL CONTINUING VOTES AT EACH STAGE	45	45	45	45	45	44	44	44	43
VOTES NEEDED IN ORDER TO BE ELECTED	23	23	23	23	23	22	22	22	22

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