

Appendix Q

REFERENDA IN HARROW

Parliamentary Voting System Referendum, Thursday 5 May 2011

The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill received its Royal Assent on 16 February 2011. The provisions of the Bill allowed a referendum to be held on Thursday 5 May 2011 in the form of a simple majority yes/no question as to whether to replace the current first-past-the-post (FPTP) electoral system used in General Elections with the Alternative Vote (AV) system. The holding of the referendum was part of the Conservative-Liberal Democrat agreement drawn up after the 2010 General Election.

All registered electors over 18 years of age (British, Irish and Commonwealth citizens living in the UK and enrolled British citizens living outside) – including Members of the House of Lords – were entitled to take part.

The text of the referendum question was:

At present, the UK uses the 'first past the post' system to elect MPs to the House of Commons. Should the 'alternative vote' system be used instead?

The counting of the votes commenced at 4 pm on Friday 6 May. Vote tallies were made available for each local authority area throughout England, for each constituency of the Scottish Parliament and each constituency of the National Assembly for Wales. Northern Ireland was a single voting and counting area. The figures for Harrow are given below and compared with the overall results for Greater London, England and the United Kingdom, respectively. [Note that the Harrow data show a discrepancy of 5 ballot papers between the verified papers issued figure (62,144) and the sum of the counted 'yes', 'no' and 'spoilt' votes (62,139).]

London Borough of Harrow

No	40,993	66.1%
Yes	<u>20,990</u>	<u>33.9%</u>
	20,003	32.2%

Rejected papers	156
Papers issued	62,144
Electors	163,792
Turnout	37.9%

England

No	10,774,735	69.1%
Yes	<u>4,824,357</u>	<u>30.9%</u>
	5,950,378	38.2%

Rejected papers	95,322
Papers issued	15,687,661
Electors	38,323,528
Turnout	40.9%

Greater London

No	1,123,480	60.5%
Yes	<u>734,427</u>	<u>39.5%</u>
	389,053	44.0%

Rejected papers	4,561
Papers issued	1,860,253
Electors	5,258,802
Turnout	35.4%

United Kingdom

No	13,013,123	67.9%
Yes	<u>6,152,607</u>	<u>32.1%</u>
	6,860,516	35.8%

Rejected papers	120,021
Papers issued	19,279,022
Electors	45,684,501
Turnout	42.2%

This referendum was held on the same day as council elections in many parts of England and elections to the Scotland Parliament and elections to the Wales and Northern Ireland assemblies. Voting was at polling stations in the usual manner. Grey coloured ballot papers were used to assist staff at the counts.

For a discussion of the Alternative Vote see: E. Lakeman and J.D. Lambert, *Voting in Democracies*, Faber and Faber, London, 1955, chapter 3.

Referendum on Continued Membership of the European Union, Thursday 23 June 2016

In 2016 the British Government negotiated a “new settlement for Britain in the EU” following a pledge made by the Conservative Party in their manifesto for the 2015 General Election. Following completion of the negotiations, a referendum was held on 23 June 2016. The European Union Referendum Act 2015 specified that only British, Irish and Commonwealth citizens, over 18 years of age, resident in the United Kingdom or Gibraltar would be able to vote, together with British citizens living abroad for less than 15 years.

The text of the referendum question was:

Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?

The counting of the votes commenced shortly after the close of poll. Vote tallies were made available for each local authority area throughout the United Kingdom (except for Northern Ireland which was a single counting area but with provisional results available for each of the 18 UK Parliamentary constituencies) and aggregated to provide the overall result. The figures for Harrow are given below and compared with the overall results for Greater London, England and the United Kingdom, respectively.

London Borough of Harrow

Remain	64,042	54.6%
Leave	<u>53,183</u>	<u>45.4%</u>
	10,859	9.2%

Rejected papers	127
Papers issued*	117,363
Papers verified	117,361
Papers counted	117,352
Electors	162,397
Turnout	72.3%

England†

Leave	15,188,406	53.4%
Remain	<u>13,266,996</u>	<u>46.6%</u>
	1,921,410	6.8%

Rejected papers	22,184
Papers issued*	28,479,465
Papers verified	28,478,260
Papers counted	28,477,586
Electors	38,981,662
Turnout	73.1%

Greater London

Remain	2,263,519	59.9%
Leave	<u>1,513,232</u>	<u>40.1%</u>
	750,287	19.8%

Rejected papers	4,453
Papers issued*	3,781,355
Papers verified	3,781,234
Papers counted	3,781,204
Electors	5,424,768
Turnout	69.7%

United Kingdom†

Leave	17,410,742	51.9%
Remain	<u>16,141,241</u>	<u>48.1%</u>
	1,269,501	3.8%

Rejected papers	25,359
Papers issued*	33,579,492
Papers verified	33,578,037
Papers counted	33,577,342
Electors	46,500,001
Turnout	72.2%

* Papers issued figure excludes unreturned postal votes

† Including Gibraltar