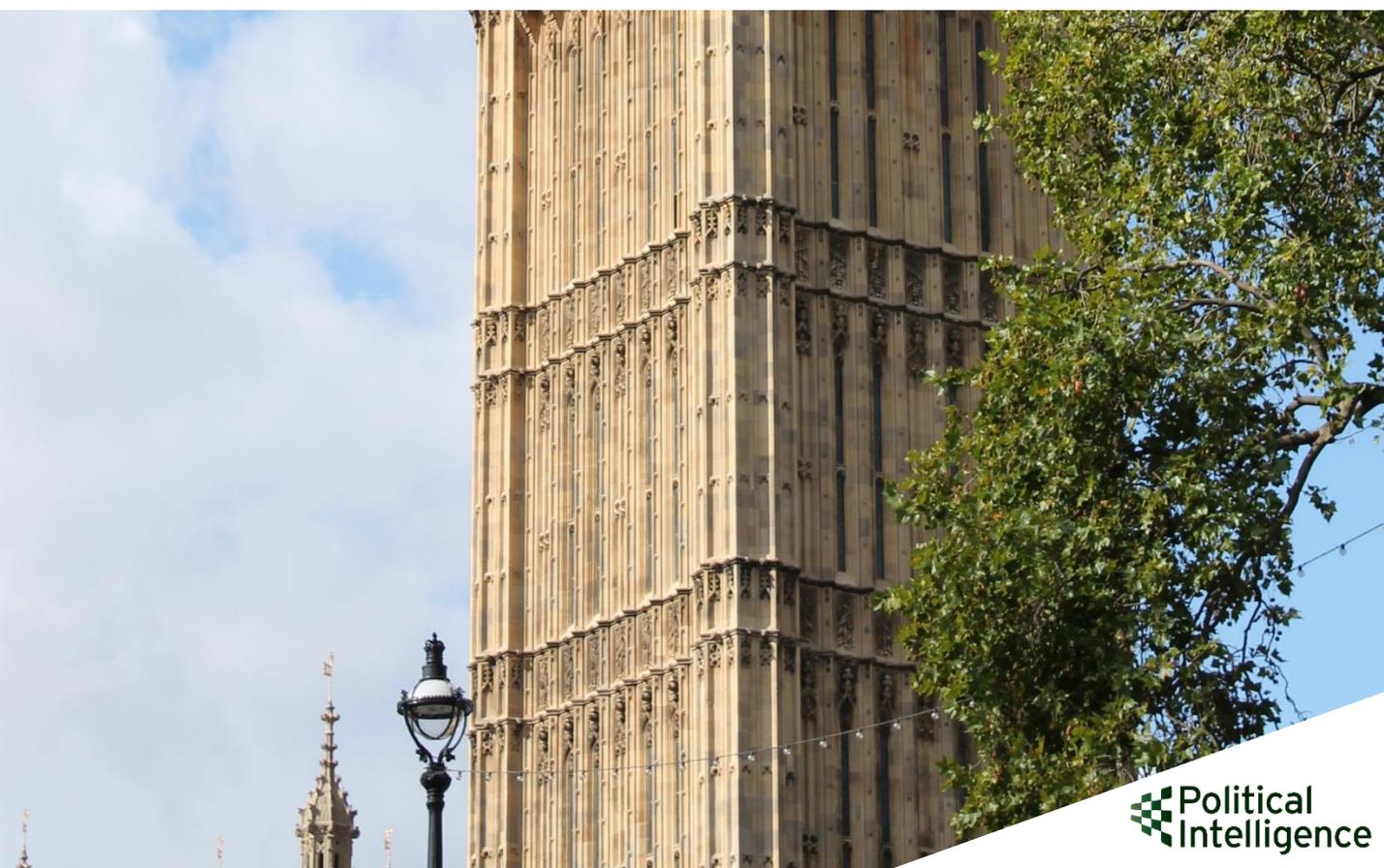




General Election 2017

The Election Results Guide





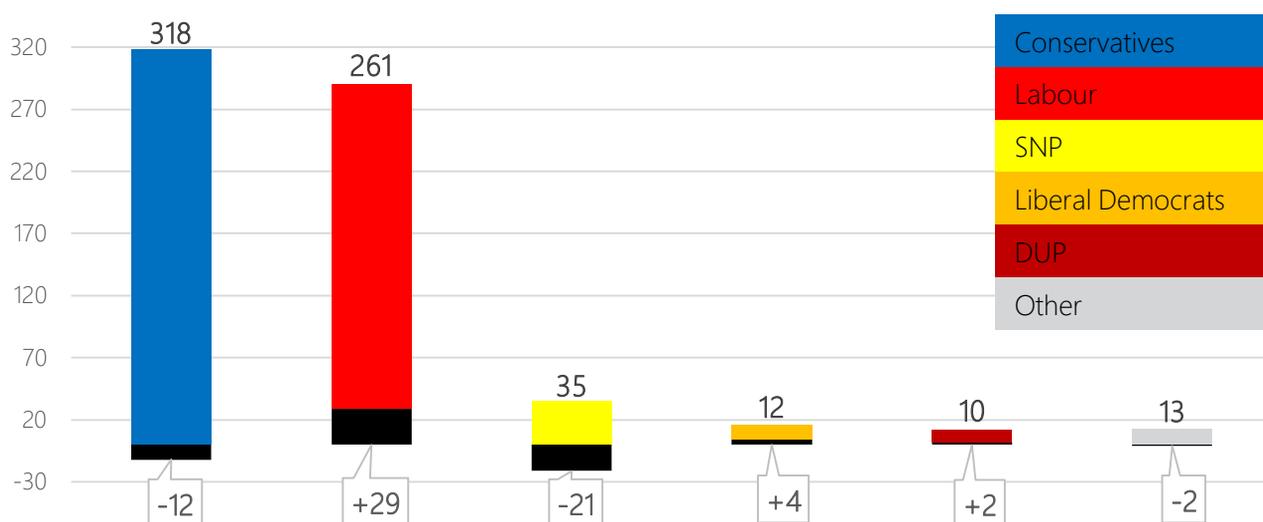
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## Overview



The result of a hung parliament is a surprise to many and caused the pound to plummet last night when the exit poll was released. Theresa May called this election to strengthen her mandate, but she has simply not succeeded in doing so. Despite this, she has defied many critics and will not be resigning, at least in the short-term. The results show that we have returned to a two-party system with the vote share for Conservative being 42%, and for Labour 40%, followed by 7% for the Lib Dem, 2% for UKIP and 2% for the Greens 2%.

Theresa May will now press ahead with forming a government alongside the DUP. This would provide May with a majority of 5-6 seats which would be a viable, but not necessarily stable or easily manageable Government.

It was the largest turnout for a general election since 1997 - 68.6%, and a substantial rise in the number of young voters - 72% amongst 18-25 year olds. The younger voters have impacted, and increased, the Labour share of the vote.



## Overview - continued

North of the border in Scotland, the Conservatives saw a rise in their vote with the SNP losing 21 seats – many citing the prospect of a second Independence Referendum as the reason. The result in Scotland is the best the Conservatives have seen since 1983. However, the Conservative surge in the North of England that was hoped for did not come to fruition – with Labour holding their ground.

Former UKIP voters who were predicted to turn to the Conservatives, however, they seem to have instead turned to Labour. UKIP had hoped to make a gain, having lost their only MP a few months ago, however this was not to be and resulted in Paul Nuttall, their leader, resigning.



## What it means

**Hung Parliament:** With the Conservative party losing its majority, Theresa May is now reliant on the DUP – a right of centre Northern Irish party who now hold 10 seats in Westminster. Rather than seek a formal coalition as David Cameron did with the Liberal Democrats following the 2010 election (which saw Lib Dems take Cabinet positions), May is expected to seek an informal arrangement with the DUP where the party would support the Conservatives on a vote-by-vote basis known as ‘confidence and supply’.

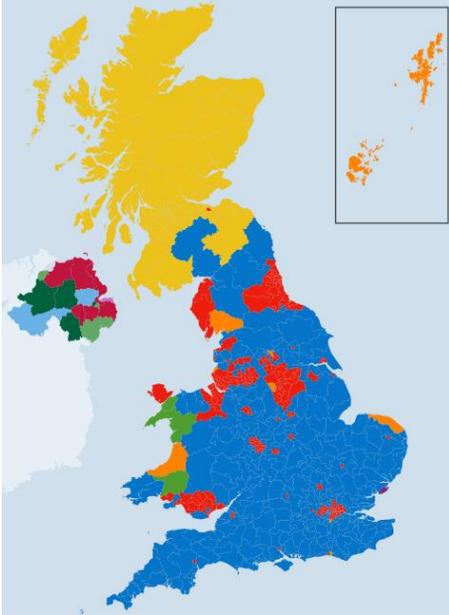
Whilst Labour has stated that it is ready to form a minority administration, the party would struggle to form a ‘progressive alliance’. Labour, the SNP, the Lib Dems, Green Party and Plaid Cymru combined only have 313 seats – fewer than the Conservative total of 318. However, despite not being able to form a government, Labour’s ability to disrupt the day-to-day workings of May’s administration is greatly enhanced.

**Brexit:** The election result has had the exact opposite effect of what Theresa May intended. Rather than strengthening her hand and reducing the potential disrupting effect of remain-backing Conservative MPs, May’s Government is even more vulnerable to opposition in the House of Commons. Formal Brexit negotiations were due to begin on 19<sup>th</sup> June. However, following the election result, senior European Union figures including chief negotiator Michael Barnier and President of the European Council Donald Tusk have given indications on social media that although the start of negotiations could be delayed, they remain keen to proceed with the Brexit process. Additionally, as Tusk has highlighted, the end date of Brexit negotiations remains the same. The UK’s negotiating position is therefore weaker than ever with May’s task of attempting to satisfy the hard and soft Brexiteers in her party more difficult than ever.

**A further General Election?:** Having called an election on Brexit with a plea to the nation of strengthening her hand in the negotiations through an increased majority, May now sees herself in an incredibly fragile position. Reliant on informal support from a North Irish party, if this fragile arrangement encounters any stumbling blocks, a further General Election is surely inevitable

# Electoral Map

## 2015 Electoral Map



The 2015 election saw vast swathes of England vote Conservative as the party won 331 seats and enough to secure a small majority, despite pollsters predicting the outcome would be too close to call. Labour lost 26 seats overall, the SNP won all but three Scottish constituencies and the Liberal Democrats were largely wiped out – reducing their MPs from 49 to just 8.

Photo credit: BBC

The 2017 election saw the Conservatives remain the largest party but without a Commons majority, resulting in a hung parliament.

- The Conservatives lost 12 seats (with one yet to declare) and Labour has gained 29 seats.
- Labour's national share of the vote rose by 10% with a strong showing in northern England, London, East Anglia and the south coast.
- The SNP lost 21 seats with the Conservatives benefitting most. However the SNP is still the largest party in Scotland.
- The Liberal Democrats saw a net gain of four seats.
- In Northern Ireland, there was wholesale change, with all 3 SDLP seats going either to Sinn Fein or the DUP.

## 2017 Electoral Map

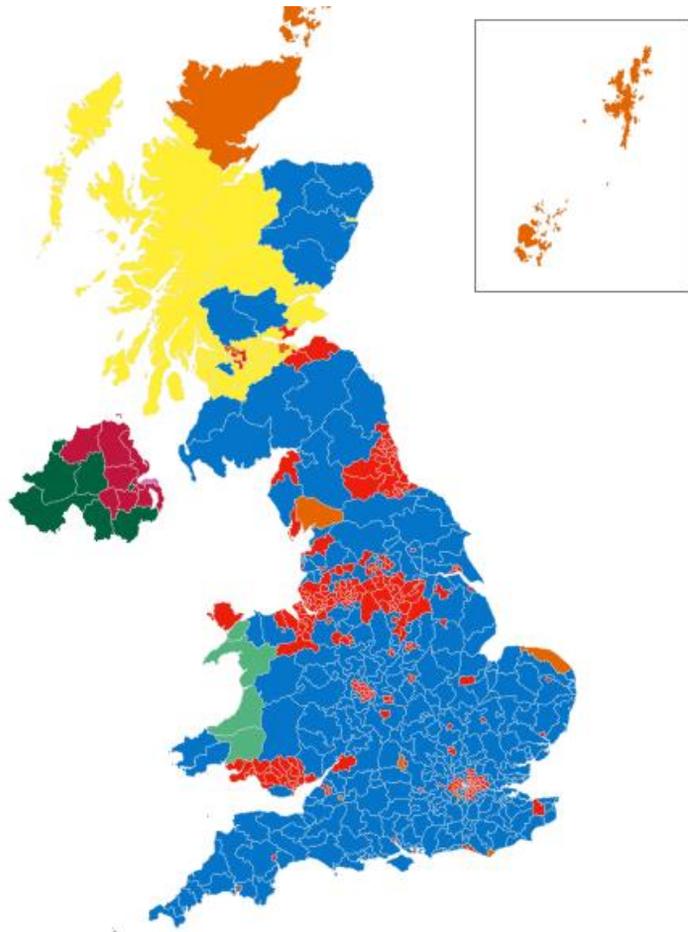


Photo credit: BBC

# Big Beasts Lose their Seats

## Changed seats

The map on the left displays the 39 seats that changed hands:

- 20 Labour gains in England including Sheffield Hallam - of former Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg.
- The Conservatives took 12 SNP seats.
- In Northern Ireland, the SDLP and UUP lost all of their MPs.

Photo credit: BBC

## High-profile scalps

As with any election, there were a number of high-profile scalps:

- Former First Minister Alex Salmond (Gordon);
- SNP's Westminster leader, Angus Robertson (Moray);
- Former Deputy PM Nick Clegg (Sheffield Hallam);
- Several Ministers: Ben Gummer (Tory manifesto author), Gavin Barwell, Rob Wilson, Nicola Blackwood, David Mowat, Jane Ellison, Simon Kirby and James Wharton.



Alex Salmond



Nick Clegg



Jane Ellison



Ben Gummer



Nicola Blackwood



## Meet the New MPs

### A new team, and new opportunities

Every new Parliament brings new opportunities. We've looked into the new MPs with backgrounds in energy and transport. Find our mini-profiles below.



#### Ed Davey, Liberal Democrat, Kingston and Surbiton

Ed served as MP for this seat previously, from 1997 – 2015. He was Secretary of State from 2012 – 2015, and worked closely on the Energy Act of 2013. Since 2015 Ed has worked in an advisory role regarding energy with MHP Communications, Herbert Smith Freehills, and Mongoose Energy, amongst others.



#### Alex Sobel, Labour, Leeds North West

In his role as a councillor in North Leeds Alex lead on sustainability and climate change. He set up the UK's first city-based climate change committee, and stressed the importance of renewable energy and tackling climate change upon his selection.



#### Lee Rowley, Conservative, North East Derbyshire

Lee is one of an increasing number of Conservative MPs who oppose fracking in their constituencies – he has previously said that he will oppose an Ineos proposal for exploratory drilling in parliament. He began his career working as an energy analyst at Clarkson.



## Neil O'Brien, Conservative, Harborough

Neil comes from a policy background: he worked as a director at both Open Europe and Policy Exchange, before going on to serve as a special adviser in both Cameron and May's governments. He has been a driving force behind the Northern Powerhouse project, and has worked on infrastructure and industrial devolution matters.



## Zac Goldsmith, Conservative, Richmond Park

Zac has held this seat previously – from 2010 – 2015. He is widely known for his strong views on environmental protection. He vocally opposed the expansion of Heathrow airport, and has consistently voted for higher taxes on plane tickets and against slowing the rise in rail fares.



## Sarah Jones, Labour, Croydon

Prior to election Sarah worked on a number of communications campaigns – notably for Gatwick airport. Croydon is a commuter-heavy area, so it seems fair to say that Jones will be tackling transport issues during her time as an MP.



## Luke Pollard, Labour, Plymouth Sutton and Devonport

Luke worked previously as head of public affairs at the Association of British Travel Agents, and campaigned locally for better transport connections. In his role at ABTA he promoted tourism in the south west of England.

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## What happens next?

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Over the next week we expect to see greater clarification regarding the relationship of the Conservatives and the Democratic Unionist Party. We can expect to see the formation of a Cabinet and the appointment of Ministers thereafter. This is on the proviso that Theresa May remains party leader and Prime Minister.

Timetable (subject to change):

- 13<sup>th</sup> June - Parliament returns; MPs will begin to be sworn in.
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Queen Speech and State Opening of Parliament.
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Target date for the start of Brexit negotiations.
- 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> - EU Council Leaders' summit: EC's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier reportedly hopes to be able to brief leaders on his first round of negotiations with the UK at this meeting.