

Press Statement for immediate release copied to you for your information: Richmond's election results are a disgrace.

As our Victorian voting system gifts every single Council seat in Richmond-upon-Thames to the local LibDems for just 51.5% of the vote:

Richmond's LibDems win but nearly half of Richmond voters lose!

The undemocratic First-past-the-post voting system effectively disenfranchised 48.5% of those who voted in Richmond upon Thames yesterday, leaving nearly half of Richmond voters with no representation on the Council and leaving the Council with no opposition to hold the LibDems to account.

These results are a disgrace. This was **not** what the voters of Richmond-upon-Thames had voted for.

The Liberal Democrats won a slim majority of votes so should rightfully have a slim majority of the seats on the Council, but those of other political persuasions should have had a voice as well.

According to the Council's own figures on their website, these were the voting figures:

	Con	Green	Labour	LibDem	Reform	Ind
Votes %	17.9%	16.1%	4.5%	51.5%	9.9%	<1%
Seats	0	0	0	54	0	0

Seats %	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%

As the results of May 7th's elections across England emerge, it is clear that, while Richmond's results are the most undemocratic to be published to date, other councils' results show that our First-past-the-post voting system is not fit for purpose. It is high time we reformed our voting system so that seats won by the parties reflect the votes cast for them.

If Richmond residents had voted using the Single Transferable Voting system of proportional representation (the same voting system that is used in Northern Ireland and Scotland), it is calculated that the LibDems would have won 28 seats, the Conservatives would have won 10 seats, the Greens would have won 10 seats and Reform UK would have won 2 seats, with the 4 remaining seats being too close to call.

The Liberal Democrats are long-standing supporters of voting reform so should use what has happened in Richmond to highlight the fact that they have won far more seats than their support warranted and demand that the Government takes action. They could perhaps even offer up Richmond-upon-Thames for use in a pilot exercise for a fairer voting system before it is rolled out across the rest of England.

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This press statement is published by David Green, a Merseyside resident who runs the Supervote Project, a small campaign which, in the company of others, seeks to reform the voting system in the UK. While colleagues tend to concentrate on elections to Westminster, the Supervote Project focuses on council elections in the belief that far more damage is being done to the fabric of our democracy at the grassroots by the continued use of the First-past-the-post voting system in local government elections. Please note that, while best endeavours have been used to ensure that the above information and statistics are correct, this is an amateur publication.