**BES 2015 General Election results file change log - Version 2.2**

**Version 2.2**

Added candidate spending data from Electoral Commission.

Corrected typos in Lab and Lib Dem ‘PCC’ variables to ‘PPC’.

Corrected typo in ‘c11IndustryAccommadation**’** to ‘c11IndustryAccommodation’

**Version 2.1**

Added missing household deprivation data for Scottish constituencies.

**Version 2.0**

Version 2.0 of the BES 2015 General Election results file is a major update based on a new data source. A small number of additional changes from version 1.1 are also made. These changes are listed below.

**Data source changes from version 1.0/1.1**

All results and size of electorate data is now taken from the Electoral Commission’s results file: <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/our-work/our-research/electoral-data>.

This results in changes in the number of votes for parties in the following constituencies (compared to version 1.1 of the results file):

Barking (Green +18), Burton (Conservative -360), Chesham and Amersham (Green -1), Huntingdon (Labour +1), Leyton and Wanstead (Labour -2), Newton Abbot (Liberal Democrats +54), Tiverton and Honiton (UKIP +20), (Conservative +30).

The change to the Electoral Commission data has a greater impact on the size of the electorate (which was originally based on pre-election reporting and estimates by the BBC). The size of the electorate (and consequently the percentage turning out to vote) is different in 406 constituencies.

In general these differences are small (on average the difference between the old and new electorate sizes are within 1% of the earlier data) but there are a small number of cases (16) where the difference is larger than 5%:

South Staffordshire (13.6%), Newcastle upon Tyne East (13.1%), Manchester Central (12.6%), Rossendale and Darwen (12.2%), Halesowen and Rowley Regis (11%), Lichfield (10.9%), Rugby (9.9%), Lewisham East (8.9%), Manchester Withington (8.1%), Hitchin and Harpenden (7.3%), Mid Dorset and North Poole (6.7%), Hackney South and Shoreditch (6.3%), Sheffield Central (6.1%), Hackney North and Stoke Newington (6%), Monmouth (5.3%), Richmond (Yorks) (5.3%).

In general we recommend that any analysis of turnout based on the earlier results files is rerun to ensure the results are robust.

**Other data changes**

A variable ‘TotalVote10’ is added which records the total number of votes cast in each constituency in 2010 (missing from the original 2010 dataset).

In Buckingham the Speaker is now listed as ‘Other’, removing an erroneous Conservative gain from Other. As in the 2010 results file votes for the Speaker are still listed under the Conservative party.

The 2010 data for Thirsk and Malton, where the election was delayed by the death of the UKIP candidate was missing from the original 2010 dataset. These results have now been added to the dataset which corrects an invalid Conservative gain from no party and increases in vote shares for all parties in Thirsk and Malton.

A new variable ‘RejectedVote15’ records the number of rejected ballot papers in each constituency (note that ‘TotalVote15’ records the total number of *valid* votes cast in the election), taken from the House of Commons library 2015 General Election dataset <http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-7186#fullreport>.

A new variable ‘ConstituencyType’ records whether the constituency was a Country or Borough constituency.

**Variable name changes**

The spelling of the ‘elecorate10’ variable is corrected to ‘Electorate10’

The capitalization of the vote10 variable names is updated to match the vote15 variables (i.e. Convote10 is now ConVote10 etc)