General Briefing Note for Media

1. Introduction

A copy of the statistics and background information for each constituency are attached. There has been a very minor alteration to the boundaries of the two constituencies as the Parishes of liton and Stocklinch have transferred from the Yeovil Constituency to the Somerton & Frome one since the 1992 Elections. The poll will be taking place simultaneously with the Polls for the Somerset County Council Elections. Polling hours are 7.00 am to 10.00 pm.

2. Polling Arrangements

100 polling stations are being used in the Yeovil constituency with the largest one being at Merriott, where 1593 electors are entitled to vote with the smallest one at Chillington where there are only 103 electors. 239 staff will be working as Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks.

107 polling stations are being used in the Somerton & Frome constituency with the largest one being at Wesley Church Room, Frome, where 1898 electors are entitled to vote and the smallest one being at Farleigh Hungerford where there are only 70. 245 staff will be working as Presiding Officers and Poll Clerks.

3. Counts

The Counts for both constituencies will be held in the main hall of the Westland Sports and Social Club by courtesy of GKN Westland PLC. A separate briefing note is being issued for media representatives who wish to attend the count. Admission to the count is strictly controlled and any media representatives must be accredited. Representatives should supply their names to the Acting Returning Officer on the headed paper of the organisation which they are representing. This is a security requirement and will not be relaxed. These applications should go to the Acting Returning Officer, South Somerset District Council, but at the Churchfield, Wincanton, BA9 9AG office - not the Brympton Way, Yeovil Office. The staff dealing with the matter there are Claire Burt, Glenda Giles and Jude Groves. [Direct lines: (01963) 435015/435003/435017] (Fax: 01963 34182/435066)1]
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION 1997
STATISTICS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

YEovies CONSTITUENCY

Electorate 74,992

Number of electors eligible to vote 74,383

Number of Polling Stations being used 100

Place of Count
Westlands Sports & Social Club, (Main Hall), Westbourne Grove, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 2DD.
(01935 703810).

Number of staff employed on Count
Chief Counting Assistants - 22
Counting Assistants - 69
Total - 91

Estimated time of declaration 1.20 am

The Poll is being taken jointly with the Poll for the Somerset County Council Elections.

Previous results:

9th June, 1983
Jeremy John Durham ASHDOWN - Liberal Alliance Candidate 26,608
Peter John BRUSHETT - Labour Party Candidate 2,928
David John Pattison MARTIN - Conservative Party Candidate 23,202
Majority 3,406
Electorate eligible to vote 66,105 Turnout 79%

11th June, 1987
Jeremy John Durham ASHDOWN Liberal/SDP Candidate 28,841
John Francis Fitzmaurice Labour Party Candidate 4,099
George Dugald Stewart SANDEMAN Conservative Party Candidate 23,141
Majority 5,700
Electorate eligible to vote 70,284 Turnout 80%

9th April, 1992
Jeremy John Durham ASHDOWN - Official Liberal Democrat 30,958
Julian Turner DAVIDSON - Official Conservative Candidate 22,125
Vivien ELSON - Labour Party Candidate 5,765
Jay Oliver RISBRIDGER - The Green Party Candidate 639
Reginald Ernest Garrick Anti-Paddy Ashdown Keep Britain 70
Simmelerson Independent
Lord David SUTCH Official Monster Raving Looney 338
Alliance Party
Majority 
Electorate eligible to vote 73060 Turnout 82%

 Council Offices, Brympton Way
Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 2HT

G R Smith
Acting Returning Officer