

CHRISTOPHER MONCKTON

GENERAL ELECTION FORECASTS

1. Thank you very much for your most interesting Memorandum dated 7th December.
2. So far as the frequency of the forecasts is concerned, may I please have them fortnightly (rather than weekly), whenever a major opinion poll is published, and after by-elections?
3. Thank you very much for all the trouble which you have taken in presenting this specially interesting information.

30th December, 1982

IAN GOW

FROM : CHRISTOPHER MONCKTON, POLICY UNIT, 10 DOWNING STREET
TO : IAN GOW, ESQ., MP, PPS TO THE PRIME MINISTER.
RE : GENERAL ELECTION FORECASTS
DATE : 7 DECEMBER, 1982

COMPUTER FORECASTS of General Election results are now available at short notice. The forecasts are made by taking the estimated national percentages of the total vote yielded by opinion polls and comparing them with the national average percentages in the 1979 General Election and with the actual percentages in each constituency in that Election.

Forecasts can be provided in three categories:

1. A full printout of the estimated percentage of the total vote which each party would gain in each constituency, together with a summary of results showing the number of seats gained or lost, the total seats held by each party and the overall majority, if any.
2. A printout only of those seats which would change hands on the given estimates of national percentage, together with the summary of results as above. An example of this type of forecast is attached.
3. A summary of results, as above.

Unless you notify me to the contrary, you will receive forecasts as under 2 above a) every week, based on the Gallup weekly tracking survey; b) whenever a major opinion poll is published; c) after by-elections.

In addition, forecasts will be provided at any time upon request, for any desired set of percentages and for any seat or seats. Summaries of results as under 3 above can be provided at five minutes' notice.

LIMITATIONS ON THE ACCURACY OF THE FORECASTS

1. At present, the boundary changes proposed by the Boundaries Commission are being challenged in the Courts. Therefore all calculations are based on the old boundaries. Estimates of the impact of the boundary changes vary from 10 seats to 30 seats in the Conservatives' favour: the best estimate is 15 seats. Forecasts based on an estimate of how the votes would have been cast in 1979 under the new boundaries should become available early in the New Year.
2. Northern Ireland is altogether excluded. So are the two seats held by Y Blaid Cymru and the two held by the Scottish National Party. The forecast therefore relates only to 619 seats, though the overall majority figure is based on the full 635 seats. Furthermore, the percentages of the total vote obtained by parties other than the Conservative Party, the Labour Party and the SDP/Liberal Alliance are ignored. No distinction is made between the SDP and the Liberals.
3. No account is taken of regional variations in the movement of opinion. However, when the estimates become available for the 1979 voting-pattern under the new boundaries, it may be possible to provide separate forecasts for the following five regions: the South of England; the Midlands; the North of England; Wales; and Scotland.

ELECTION FORECAST (OLD BOUNDARIES) BASED ON LATEST GALLUP WEEKLY TRACKING SURVEY

SEATS CHANGING HANDS IF 46.5 % VOTE CONSERVATIVE, 32 % LABOUR AND 19 % ALLIANCE.

CONSTITUENCY	NO.	CON%	LAB%	SDP%	WINR	CONSTITUENCY	NO.	CON%	LAB%	SDP%	WINR
ACCRINGTON	9	42.5	41.5	14.3	C(L)	BERWICK & E LOTHN	51	42.0	36.9	14.9	C(L)
BEXLEY ERITH & CRFD	54	43.2	40.1	14.7	C(L)	BIRMING ERDINGTON	58	46.0	39.1	13.2	C(L)
BIRMING PERRY BAR	63	47.9	40.4	10.0	C(L)	BIRMING STECHFORD	67	46.2	41.1	10.8	C(L)
BOLTON EAST	78	45.3	40.4	13.1	C(L)	BOLTON WEST	79	45.0	38.0	16.1	C(L)
BRADFORD SOUTH	86	41.2	40.0	17.8	C(L)	BRISTOL SOUTH-EAST	103	43.6	38.5	16.6	C(L)
BURY & RADCLIFFE	113	46.8	38.5	14.1	C(L)	DARLINGTON	166	45.1	38.6	15.3	C(L)
DERBY NORTH	172	46.1	38.1	14.7	C(L)	DONCASTER	181	44.1	41.5	13.2	C(L)
DUMBARTONSHR EAST	192	36.0	32.2	12.8	C(L)	ENFIELD EDMONTON	215	44.3	40.0	12.8	C(L)
ETON & SLOUGH	222	41.6	36.2	15.9	C(L)	GLASGOW CATHCART	240	43.5	39.0	10.7	C(L)
HALIFAX	271	43.0	37.2	18.9	C(L)	HARINGEY WOOD GREEN	279	41.6	39.8	15.5	C(L)
HARLOW	280	41.9	36.3	20.4	C(L)	HEYWOOD & ROYTON	302	43.3	38.4	17.1	C(L)
HILLINDN HAYES-H	304	42.3	41.0	14.5	C(L)	HOUNSLOW FELTHAM	314	43.1	41.0	13.7	C(L)
HUDDERSFIELD EAST	317	41.5	40.3	17.2	C(L)	IPSWICH	324	44.7	40.9	13.3	C(L)
KEIGHLEY	331	46.4	38.2	14.5	C(L)	KETTERING	334	44.6	38.2	17.0	C(L)
LAMBETH NORWOOD	347	43.4	40.2	14.1	C(L)	LEICESTER EAST	360	43.0	39.8	14.3	C(L)
LEICESTER SOUTH	361	44.3	39.4	14.4	C(L)	LEWISHAM EAST	367	44.5	39.1	13.8	C(L)
LEWISHAM WEST	368	45.8	39.4	12.7	C(L)	MERTON MITCHAM & M	401	45.6	38.4	14.1	C(L)
MIDDLETON & PRESTW	403	45.7	38.9	14.9	C(L)	NEWCASTLE-U-LYME	416	43.0	41.2	15.0	C(L)
NORWICH SOUTH	437	43.3	38.1	17.8	C(L)	NOTTINGHAM NORTH	439	42.8	39.8	14.4	C(L)
NOTTINGHAM WEST	440	43.8	39.5	14.9	C(L)	ORMSKIRK	446	50.4	42.5	5.7	C(L)
PLYMOUTH DEVONPORT	457	46.1	40.2	12.1	C(L)	PRESTON SOUTH	467	44.7	37.8	16.6	C(L)
SOUTHAMPTON ITCHEN	517	45.3	39.3	15.2	C(L)	SOUTHWARK DULWICH	525	44.4	36.5	16.1	C(L)
STOCKPORT NORTH	535	45.0	37.4	17.0	C(L)	STOCKPORT SOUTH	536	43.8	38.3	16.9	C(L)
SWANSEA WEST	553	46.9	39.1	11.9	C(L)	WALSALL SOUTH	576	48.9	43.2	5.7	C(L)
WANDSW BATTSEA STH	581	45.7	38.3	14.2	C(L)	WEST BROMWCH EAST	592	43.9	39.9	13.2	C(L)
WESTHOUGHTON	595	41.4	40.9	17.2	C(L)	YORK	619	44.3	38.0	16.4	C(L)

PARTY:	1979	NOW	GAIN	LOSS	1979%	ESTD%
CONSERVATIVE (C) :	339	391	52	0	44.87	46.50
LABOUR (L) :	269	217	0	52	37.69	32.00
SDP/LIBERAL (S) :	11	11	0	0	14.10	19.00

CONSERVATIVE OVERALL MAJORITY OF 147 SEATS.



CHRISTOPHER MONCKTON

7 December, 1982