

A Labour majority now would let it deliver on the wish ...

Published: January 13, 2026, 4:02 am

This was the full by-election result in Chester last night:

- Samantha Dixon (Labour) 17,309 (61.22%, +11.58%)
- Liz Wardlaw (Conservative) 6,335 (22.40%, -15.93%)
- Rob Herd (Liberal Democrat) 2,368 (8.37%, +1.53%)
- Paul Bowers (Green) 787 (2.78%, +0.15%)
- Jeanie Barton (Reform UK) 773 (2.73%)
- Richard Hewison (Rejoin EU) 277 (0.98%)
- Cain Griffiths (UK Independence Party) 179 (0.63%)
- Howling Laud Hope (Official Monster Raving Loony Party) 156 (0.55%)
- Chris Quartermaine (Freedom Alliance) 91 (0.32%)

Labour won with a swing of 13% despite already holding the seat and the former MP having been discredited.

This is the worst Tory result in the seat since 1832.

And no doubt Keir Starmer is rubbing his hands in glee.

I would however draw his attention [to this article in The Chartist](#) by Mary Southcott:

Nearly a century ago, the 1926 Labour Conference dropped its support of proportional representation in favour of 'alternative vote'. In practice, it has been in support of first-past-the-post since. On the afternoon of 26th September 2022, Labour overwhelmingly supported PR to elect MPs, a long overdue response to a voting system which polarises our politics, encourages a blame game, fails to find solutions to problems which need to be addressed and disenfranchises all but a minority of switch voters in decreasing numbers of marginal target seats.

A Labour majority now would let it deliver on the wish of its members for real democracy in the UK.

Will Starmer deliver? I hope so.