Research and Library Services

Northern Ireland Assembly

Research Paper 01/07 **20 April 2007**

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2007

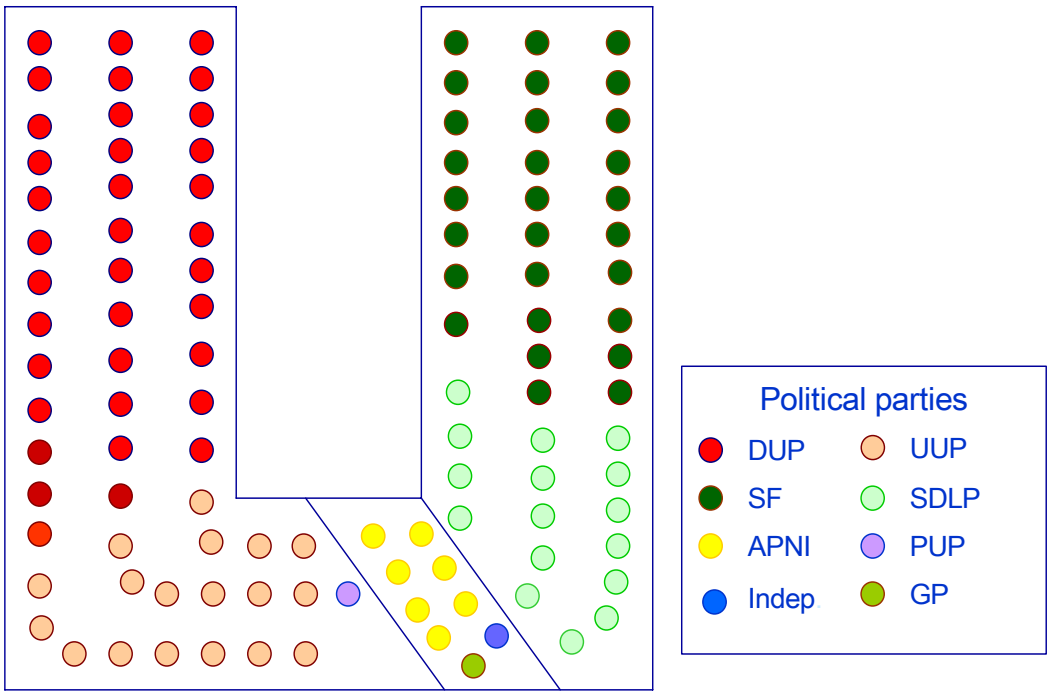
This paper provides an analysis of the Northern Ireland Assembly election held on 7 March 2007 and compares it with the 2003 election. It includes analysis of turnout, transferred votes and results by party and constituency. It also contains some useful links to other sources of information on the politics of Northern Ireland and the 2007 election results.

Library Research Papers are compiled for the benefit of Members of The Assembly and their personal staff. Authors are available to discuss the contents of these papers with Members and their staff but cannot advise members of the general public.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

- The 2007 Northern Ireland Assembly election left the parties with the following seats:

Democratic Unionist Party	36
Sinn Fein	28
Ulster Unionist Party	18
Social Democratic and Labour Party	16
Alliance Party of Northern Ireland	7
Progressive Unionist Party	1
Green Party	1
Independent	1



- Compared with the 2003 election, the 2007 election resulted in swings in favour of the Democratic Unionist Party (+6 seats), Sinn Fein (+4 seats) and the Alliance Party (+1 seat), while the Green Party acquired its first seat in the Assembly. The Progressive Unionist Party retained the one seat that it had held previously, while the UK Unionist Party lost its only seat. The Ulster Unionist Party lost 9 seats and Social Democratic and Labour Party 2 seats.

- The Democratic Unionist Party had the highest share of all first preference votes (30.1% - up from 25.7% in 2003), followed by Sinn Fein (26.2% - up from 23.5% in 2003), SDLP (15.2% - down from 17.0% in 2003) and the Ulster Unionist Party (14.9% - down from 22.7% in 2003). The Alliance Party increased its share of the vote from 3.7% in 2003 to 5.2%.

- 79% of transfers[1] from Unionist voters went to other Unionist party candidates; 12% went to Nationalist party candidates.

- 64% of transfers from Nationalist voters went to other Nationalist party candidates; 13% went to Unionist party candidates.

- Of the 108 MLAs elected in 2007, 29 were new[2] and 18 were women (the same number as elected in 2003).

- Turnout[3] in the election was 62.3% (compared with 63.1% in 2003).

- A total of 257 candidates[4] contested the election (compared with 256 in 2003).

[1] Excluding transfers to other candidates in the same party.
[2] i.e. did not have seats during the 2003-2007 term.
[3] Valid votes expressed as a percentage of electorate.
[4] This includes multiple counting for one candidate who stood in six constituencies. There were, in fact, only 252 individuals standing for election.

CONTENTS

Introduction..... 1

The Electoral System..... 1

The Constituencies..... 3

The Candidates..... 4

Turnout..... 5

Results by Constituency..... 7

- Belfast East..... 9
- Belfast North..... 10
- Belfast South..... 11
- Belfast West..... 12
- East Antrim..... 13
- East Londonderry..... 14
- Fermanagh & South Tyrone..... 15
- Foyle..... 16
- Lagan Valley..... 17
- Mid Ulster..... 18
- Newry & Armagh..... 19
- North Antrim..... 20
- North Down..... 21
- South Antrim..... 22
- South Down..... 23
- Strangford..... 24
- Upper Bann..... 25
- West Tyrone..... 26

Results Summary..... 27

Annexes:

A. 1998 first preference votes by party and constituency..... 31

B. 1998 Share of first preference votes by party and constituency..... 32

C. 2003 first preference votes by party and constituency..... 33

D. 2003 Share of first preference votes by party and constituency..... 34

E. 2007 first preference votes by party and constituency..... 35

F. 2007 Share of first preference votes by party and constituency..... 36

G. 2007 Votes Transferred Between Parties..... 37

H. List of abbreviations..... 38

1. Introduction

The current Northern Ireland Assembly[5] was established under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement[6] and was first elected on 25 June 1998. Legislative powers and executive authority for the Northern Ireland Government Departments[7] were devolved to the Assembly from 2 December 1999.

Since devolution, the Assembly has been suspended on four occasions[8], with the latest of these suspensions occurring on 14 October 2002. Despite this, an election for the second session of the Assembly eventually went ahead on 26 November 2003.

The Assembly remained suspended, however, after the second election, although the Northern Ireland (St Andrews Agreement) Act 2006 provided for a Transitional Assembly to take part in preparations for the restoration of devolved government in accordance with the St Andrews Agreement.[9]

This Transitional Assembly helped to create the conditions for a third Assembly election, which took place on 7 March 2007. Restoration is scheduled to take place on 8 May 2007.

2. The Electoral System

The Single Transferable Vote (STV)[10] system of proportional representation is used to elect Members of the Assembly. This system is also used in the Northern Ireland Local Government and European Parliament elections and in elections in the Republic of Ireland.

STV has a number of advantages over the simple 'first past the post' system used in the Westminster elections:

- It increases voter choice (voters can vote for more than one candidate and can choose between candidates as well as between parties);

- It ensures that more voters have an effect on the outcome (over 80% of all valid votes are used in the determination of the six seats in each constituency[11]); and

[5] Previous Assemblies were elected in Northern Ireland on 28 June 1973 and 20 October 1982 (see http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/issues/politics/polit.htm).
[6] Also referred to as the 'Belfast Agreement' (see http://www.nio.gov.uk/agreement.pdf).
[7] See http://www.northernireland.gov.uk for list of Departments and their functions.
[8] The first suspension took place on 11 February 2000, shortly after devolution, and lasted until 29 May 2000; two further one day suspensions took place on 11 August 2001 and 22 September 2001; the latest suspension began on 14 October 2002 (see http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/issues/politics/government.htm).
[9] Information on the St. Andrews Agreement and more information on the background and politics of Northern Ireland can be found at the following websites:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Politicsofnorthernirelandlogo.svg
http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/issues/politics/politics.htm
[10] See *R.A. Newland & F.S. Britton "How to Conduct an Election by the Single Transferable Vote", Electoral Reform Society, London: 1973* for a detailed description of STV.
[11] See note 8 - if all successful candidates make the quota then six quotas will be used i.e. 6/7 of all valid votes = 86%.

- It ensures an outcome that is more representative of the views of the electorate (overall share of seats will better reflect overall share of the vote i.e. voters will be proportionately represented).

The STV system works as follows:

i. Voters in each constituency vote for as many candidates as they wish in **order of preference.**

ii. Each voting paper is checked to see if it has been correctly filled in and any spoilt papers[12] are removed from the count to give a **total valid count**.

iii. A **quota** is calculated for each constituency using the formula[13]:

$$\text{Quota} = \left[\frac{\text{total number of valid votes cast in constituency (V)}}{\text{Number of seats (S)} + 1} \right] + 1$$

iv. Voting papers are sorted according to first preferences. Any candidate attaining or exceeding the quota is deemed to be elected.

v. **Surplus votes** from candidates who exceed the quota are transferred at a fractional value to the remaining candidates according to next available preference[14].

vi. Candidates with the least number of votes are excluded and their votes are also transferred according to next available preference.

vii. This process continues until all available seats have been filled.

This procedure was used to elect six Members for each of the 18 constituencies in the 1998, 2003 and 2007 Assembly elections.

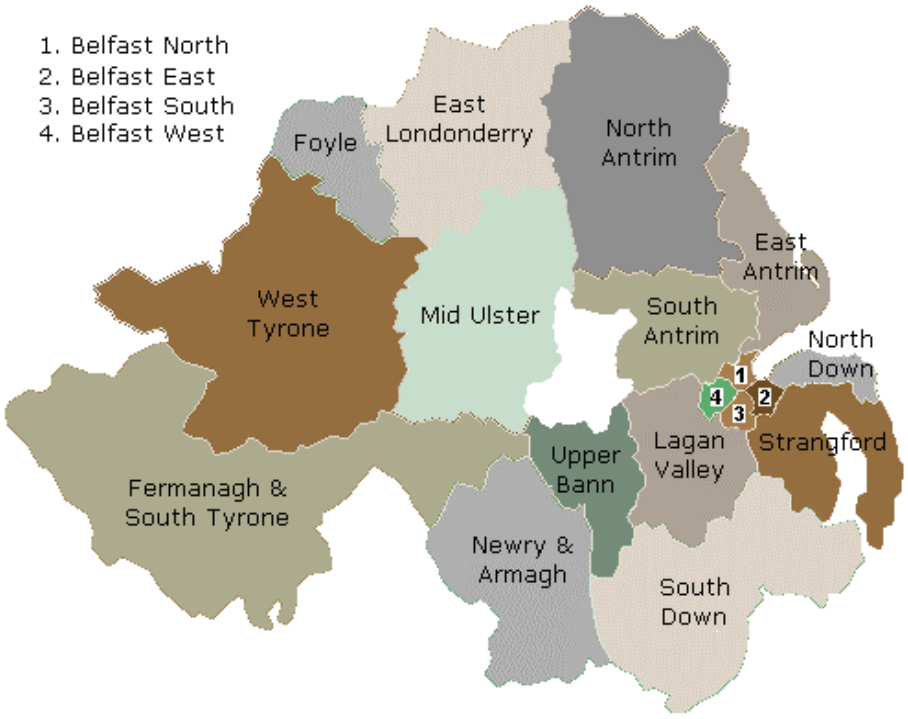
[12] Spoilt ballots include those where the first preference candidate cannot clearly be determined e.g. where a voter has placed a number of "X's" against the list of candidates instead of using the numbers 1, 2, 3, etc. If an "X" has been placed against only one candidate, this will be taken as the first preference and the vote will be counted. Also, if a voter has left out a number (e.g. voting 1,2,3,5,6) their votes up to the missing number will be accepted and the remaining numbers will be ignored (votes 1,2 and 3 only are valid in this example).

[13] The formula is a rationalisation of the simple majority count, whereby one candidate needs just over half the votes to be elected in a single member constituency i.e. 100%/(1+1) +1 = just over 50%. The Droop quota (as it is sometimes referred to) generalises this to say that in a two-member constituency, two candidates need just over one-third of the votes each to be elected. This gives a proportional representation of two times one-third or two-thirds of the total vote. Three members are returned with one-quarter of the votes each, proportionally representing three-quarters of the voters, and so on. Therefore, in a six-member constituency, the candidates require just over 1/7 of the votes each and the PR is 6/7 (or 86%) of the voters (see http://www.voting.ukscientists.com/stvcount.html).

[14] All the most preferred candidate's voters have an equal right to decide how that candidate's surplus vote is transferred or re-distributed to second preferences, so *all* the elected candidate's transferable votes are transferred with a fractional transfer value (obtained by taking the surplus and dividing it by the total number of papers that were transferable - the result is calculated to two decimal places and the remainder ignored).

3. The Constituencies

The 18 Westminster parliamentary constituencies[15] are used for the Assembly elections (see map below). Six seats are allocated to each constituency, giving a total of 108 seats. The geographical boundaries for the 18 constituencies have remained unchanged since the first Assembly election in 1998.



[15] Profiles of the 18 constituencies can be found on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's *Neighbourhood Statistics* site at http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk (click on 'NINIS website' button, then 'Area Profile' button, then 'View Assembly Areas' button; any constituency can then be selected by clicking on the map location or by clicking on the list of constituencies; finally, click on the 'View Profile' button (bottom right) to view the profile).

4. The Candidates

A total of 257 candidates stood for the 2007 election[16], compared with 256 in 2003 (Table 4.1 provides a breakdown by party and gender).[17]

There were 47 female candidates in this election (compared with 49 in 2003). The party with the greatest number of female candidates was the SDLP, with 14 (see Table 4.1 below).

Of the 108 outgoing MLAs, 91 stood for re-election.

Table 4.1. 2007 Election Candidates by Party and Gender

	Male	Female	Total
Alliance Party	12	6	18
Conservative Party	9	0	9
Democratic Unionist - DUP	40	6	46
Green Party	8	5	13
Independent	25	3	28
Labour Party of Northern Ireland	1	0	1
Make Politicians History	4	0	4
People Before Profit Alliance	1	0	1
Procapitalism	1	0	1
Progressive Unionist Party	1	2	3
SDLP	21	14	35
Sinn Féin	28	9	37
Socialist Environmental Alliance	1	0	1
Socialist Party (Northern Ireland)	2	0	2
The Workers Party	5	1	6
UK Independence Party	1	0	1
Ulster Unionist Party	37	1	38
United Kingdom Unionist Party	13	0	13
Totals	**210**	**47**	**257**

[16] This includes multiple counting for one candidate - Robert McCartney - who stood in six constituencies. There were, in fact, only 252 individuals standing for election.
[17] See also http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/issues/politics/parties.htm for information on parties, or http://www.politicalresources.net/n-ireland.htm for links to party websites.

5. Turnout

The total eligible electorate was 1,107,904 (compared with 1,097,526 in 2003).[18] The total valid vote was 690,313, or 62.3% of the electorate (compared with a turnout[19] of 63.1% in 2003).

Turnout for the 2007 election was highest in Mid Ulster (72.3%) and lowest in East Antrim (53.0%) – see Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 2007 Election Turnout by Constituency *

	Electorate	Poll	% Poll	Valid Votes	% Turnout
Belfast East	49,757	29,873	60.0	29,629	59.5
Belfast North	49,372	30,067	60.9	29,715	60.2
Belfast South	48,923	30,533	62.4	30,344	62.0
Belfast West	50,792	34,238	67.4	33,790	66.5
East Antrim	56,666	30,293	53.5	30,039	53.0
East Londonderry	56,104	34,180	60.9	33,922	60.5
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	65,826	46,845	71.2	46,442	70.6
Foyle	64,889	41,455	63.9	41,036	63.2
Lagan Valley	70,101	42,058	60.0	41,822	59.7
Mid Ulster	61,223	44,728	73.1	44,277	72.3
Newry & Armagh	70,823	50,165	70.8	49,619	70.1
North Antrim	72,814	44,655	61.3	44,331	60.9
North Down	57,525	30,930	53.8	30,707	53.4
South Antrim	65,654	38,481	58.6	38,175	58.1
South Down	71,704	46,623	65.0	46,110	64.3
Strangford	66,648	36,340	54.5	36,019	54.0
Upper Bann	70,716	43,235	61.1	42,882	60.6
West Tyrone	58,367	41,839	71.7	41,454	71.0
Northern Ireland	**1,107,904**	**696,538**	**62.9**	**690,313**	**62.3**

* Turnout is calculated by taking the number of valid votes as a percentage of the electorate.

[18] Figures obtained from the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland - http://www.eoni.org.uk.
[19] Turnout is calculated according to the Electoral Commission definition i.e. by taking the number of valid votes as a percentage of the electorate.

A comparison with turnout for previous Assembly elections shows a slight decline in most areas since the 2003 election and a significant decline in all areas since 1998 (Table 5.2).

Table 5.2 Turnout – All Assembly Elections *

	1998	2003	2007
	%	%	%
Belfast East	65.4	59.6	59.5
Belfast North	65.8	61.4	60.2
Belfast South	66.5	61.8	62.0
Belfast West	68.9	64.6	66.5
East Antrim	60.0	55.8	53.0
East Londonderry	66.6	61.0	60.5
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	78.1	71.7	70.6
Foyle	70.8	62.5	63.2
Lagan Valley	64.9	60.7	59.7
Mid Ulster	83.0	73.8	72.3
Newry and Armagh	75.7	68.9	70.1
North Antrim	67.8	62.6	60.9
North Down	59.3	53.7	53.4
South Antrim	63.4	58.8	58.1
South Down	72.3	64.6	64.3
Strangford	60.6	56.2	54.0
Upper Bann	71.1	63.2	60.6
West Tyrone	77.8	72.2	71.0
Northern Ireland	**68.8**	**63.1**	**62.3**

* Turnout is calculated by taking the number of valid votes as a percentage of the electorate.

6. Results by Constituency

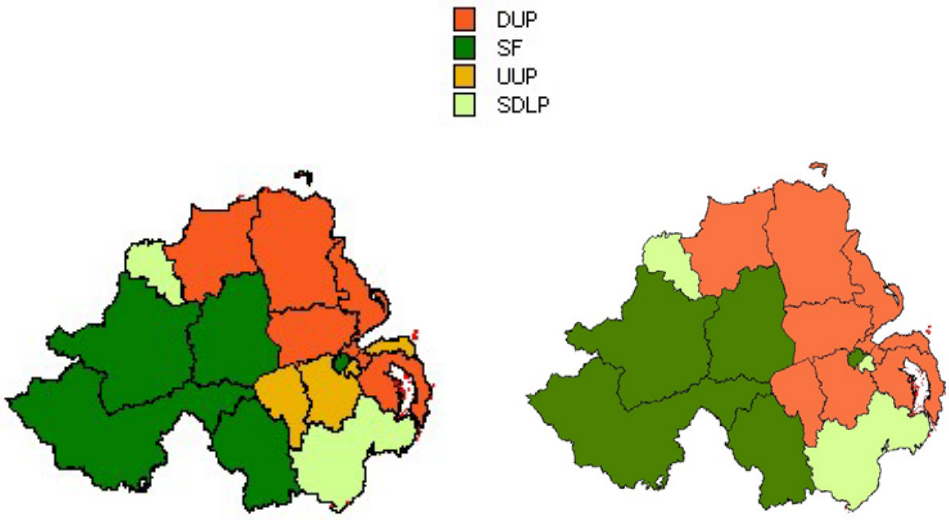


Figure 6.1 Party with Highest Share of First Preference Votes

The 2007 election resulted in further significant changes to the Northern Ireland political map (see Figure 6.1 above), with the Democratic Unionist Party taking the largest share of the votes in 10 of the 18 constituencies. An analysis of the results for each constituency, including the transfer of votes and the major changes since 2003, is presented in this section of the report (a summary of party changes is provided in Section 7 of the report and breakdowns of the 1998, 2003 and 2007 results by party and constituency are presented in Annexes A - F).[20]

Table 6.1 below shows the distribution of seats by constituency (with 2003 comparisons). The party shares of first preference votes and an analysis of transferred votes are presented separately for each constituency in the charts that follow.[21] Swings in favour of the DUP, Sinn Fein and the Alliance Party (in terms of share of first preference votes) are evident throughout most of the 18 constituencies.

[20] See the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland website for the full results for each constituency – www.eoni.org.uk. Analysis of the 2007 Northern Ireland Assembly election is also available at the following sites:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Ireland_Assembly_election%2C_2007
http://www.rte.ie/news/nielections2007
http://www.ark.ac.uk/elections
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/vote2007/nielection/html/main.stm.

[21] Constituencies appear in alphabetical order (see Annex G for list of party abbreviations).

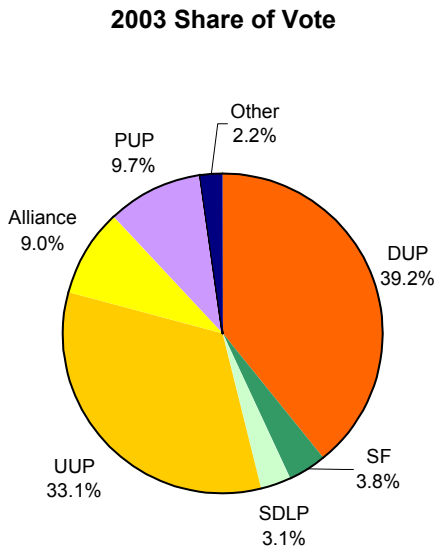
Table 6.1 Seats by Party and Constituency: 2007 (v 2003)

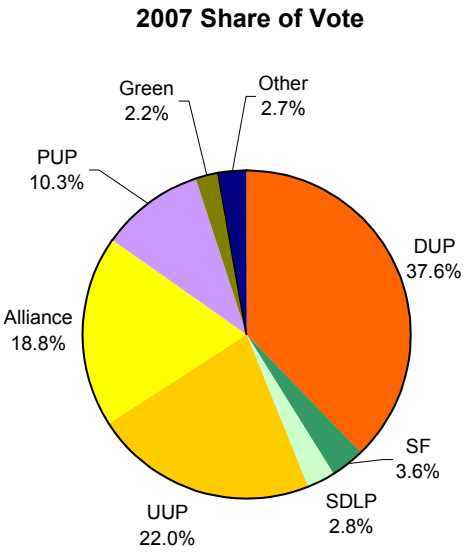
Parliamentary Constituency	DUP	UUP	SF	SDLP	APNI	UKUP	PUP	Green	Ind
Belfast East	3 (2)	1 (2)			1 (1)		1 (1)		
Belfast North	2 (2)	1 (1)	2 (2)	1 (1)					
Belfast South	1 (1)	1 (2)	1 (1)	2 (2)	1 (-)				
Belfast West	- (1)		5 (4)	1 (1)					
East Antrim	3 (3)	2 (2)			1 (1)				
East Londonderry	3 (2)	1 (2)	1 (1)	1 (1)					
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	2 (1)	1 (2)	2 (2)	1 (1)					
Foyle	1 (1)		2 (2)	3 (3)					
Lagan Valley	3 (1)	1 (3)	1 (-)	- (1)	1 (1)				
Mid Ulster	1 (1)	1 (1)	3 (3)	1 (1)					
Newry and Armagh	1 (1)	1 (1)	3 (3)	1 (1)					
North Antrim	3 (3)	1 (1)	1 (1)	1 (1)					
North Down	2 (2)	2 (2)			1 (1)	- (1)		1 (-)	
South Antrim	2 (2)	1 (2)	1 (-)	1 (1)	1 (1)				
South Down	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)	2 (2)					
Strangford	4 (3)	1 (2)			1 (1)				
Upper Bann	2 (2)	2 (2)	1 (1)	1 (1)					
West Tyrone	2 (1)	- (1)	3 (2)	- (1)					1 (1)
Northern Ireland	**36 (30)**	**18 (27)**	**28 (24)**	**16 (18)**	**7 (6)**	**- (1)**	**1 (1)**	**1 (-)**	**1 (1)**

(2003 results in brackets)

See Annex H for list of party abbreviations.

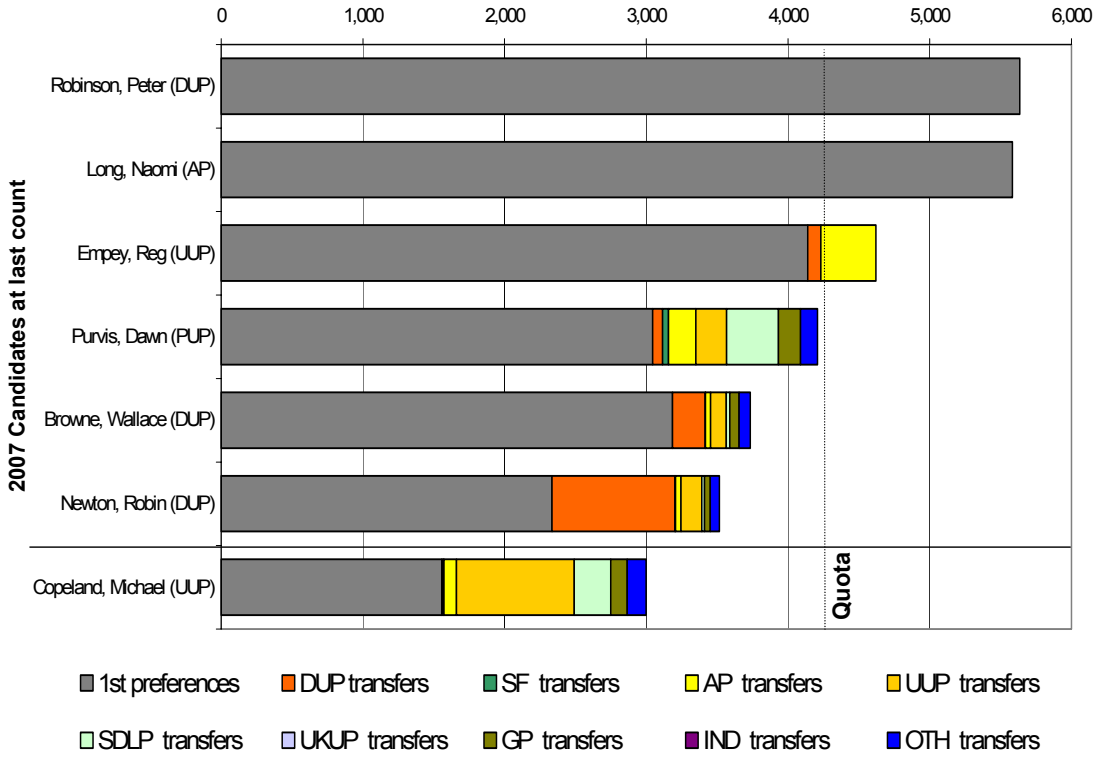
Belfast East



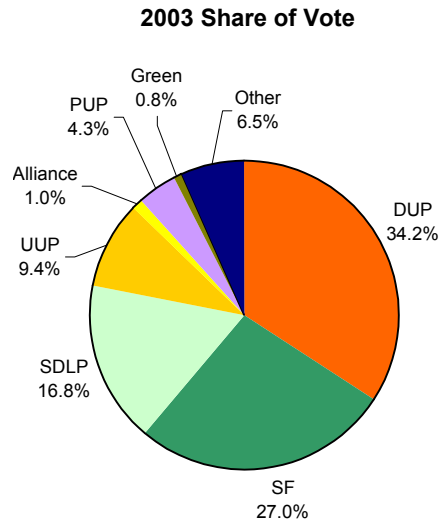


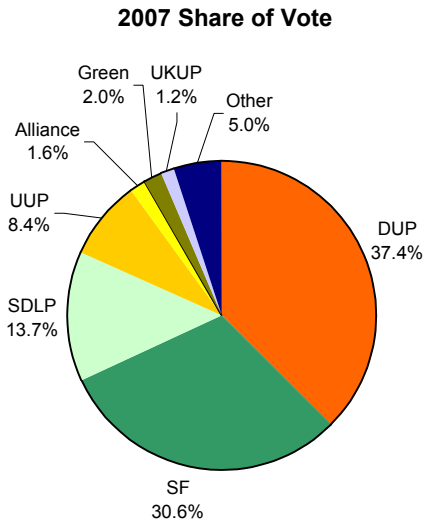
2007 Result

Seats Won: DUP 3, Alliance 1, UUP 1, PUP 1



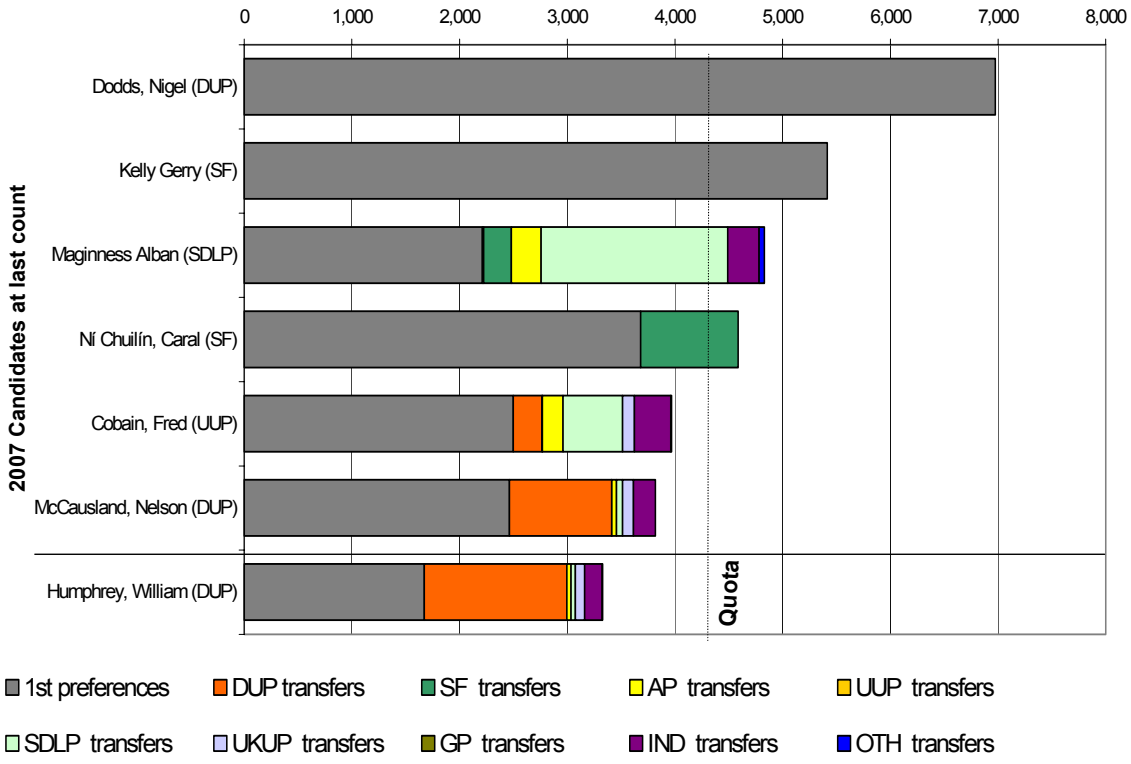
Belfast North



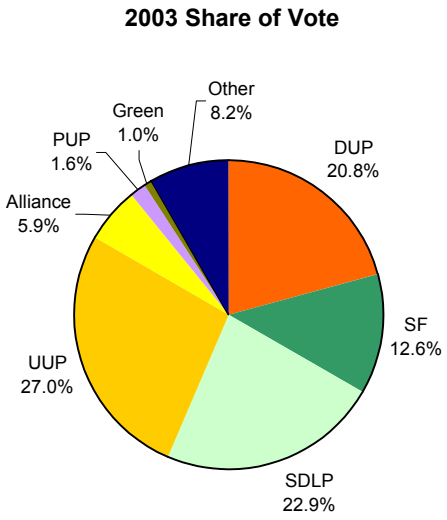


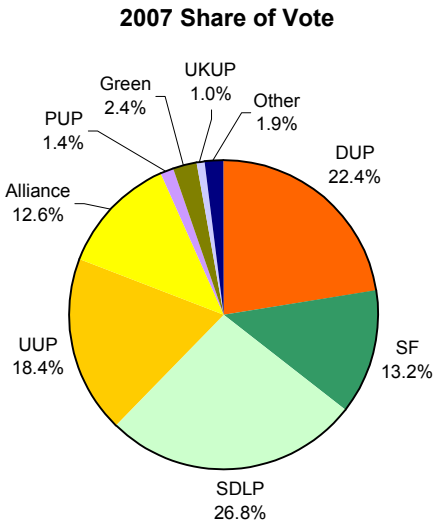
2007 Result

Seats Won: DUP 2, Sinn Fein 2, SDLP 1, UUP 1



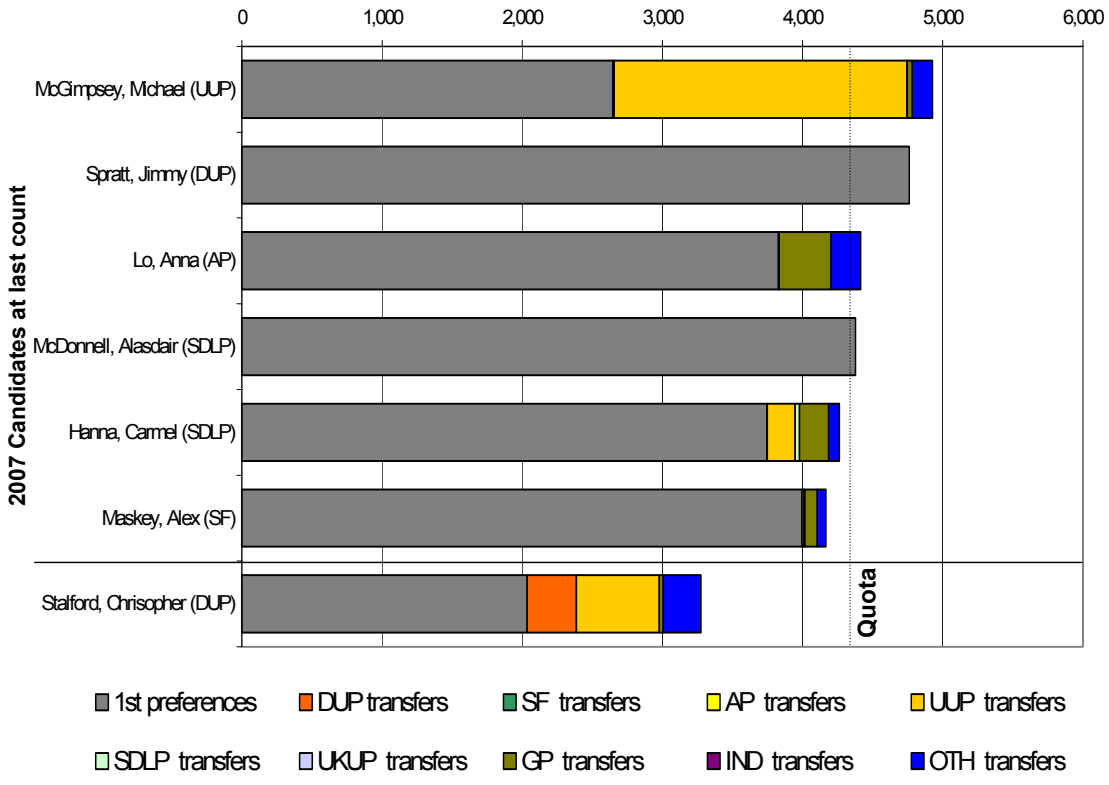
Belfast South



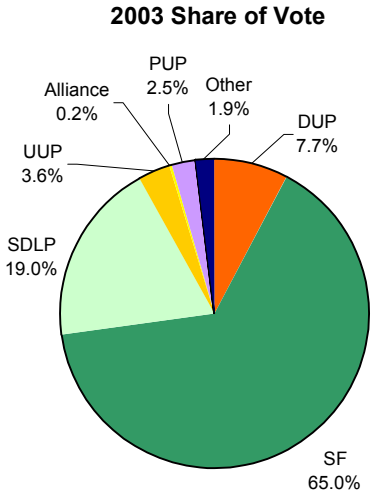


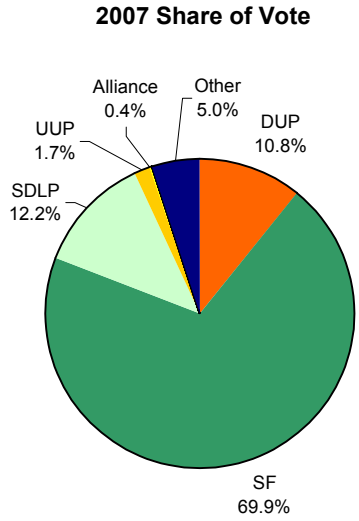
2007 Result

Seats Won: SDLP 2, DUP 1, SF 1, UUP 1, Alliance 1



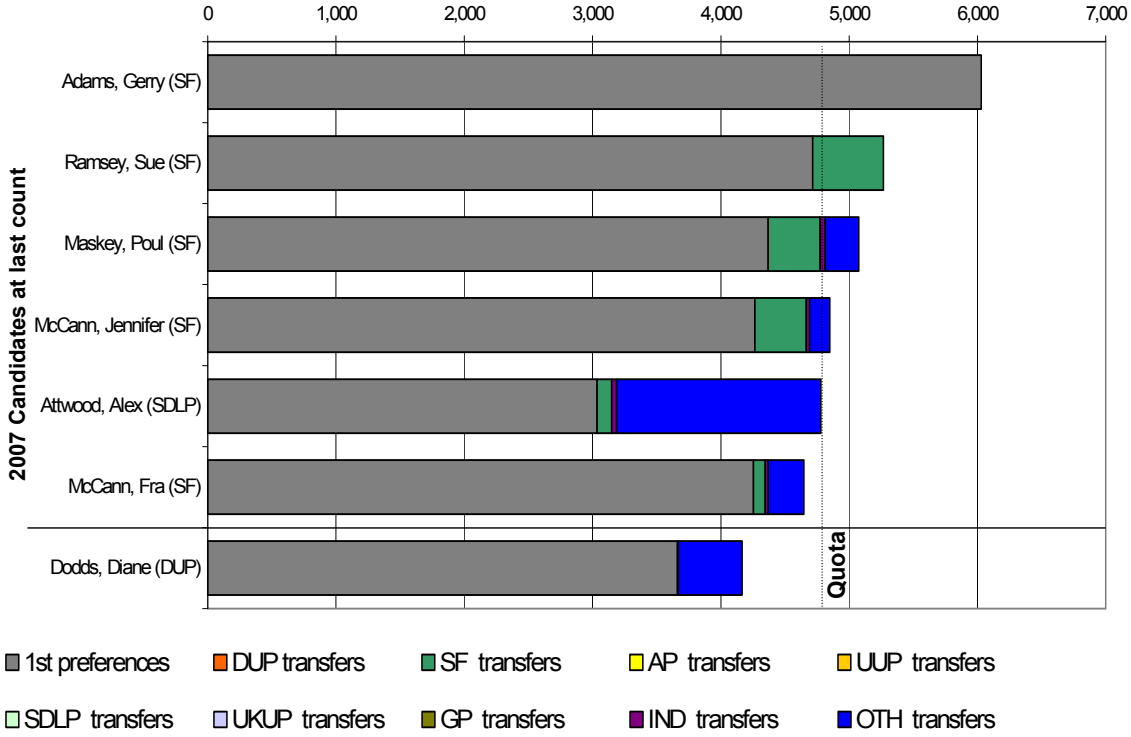
Belfast West





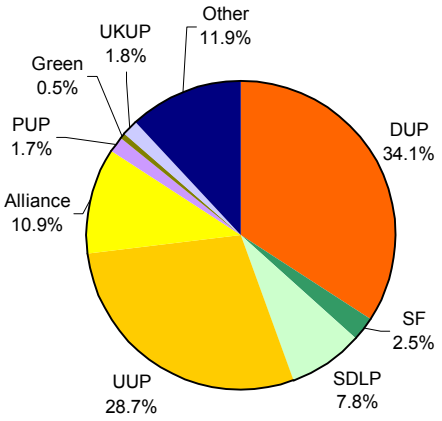
2007 Result

Seats Won: Sinn Fein 5, SDLP 1

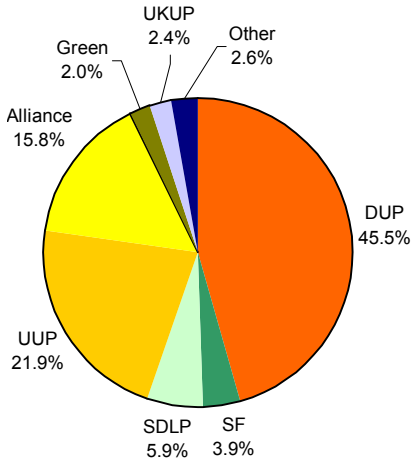


East Antrim

2003 Share of Vote

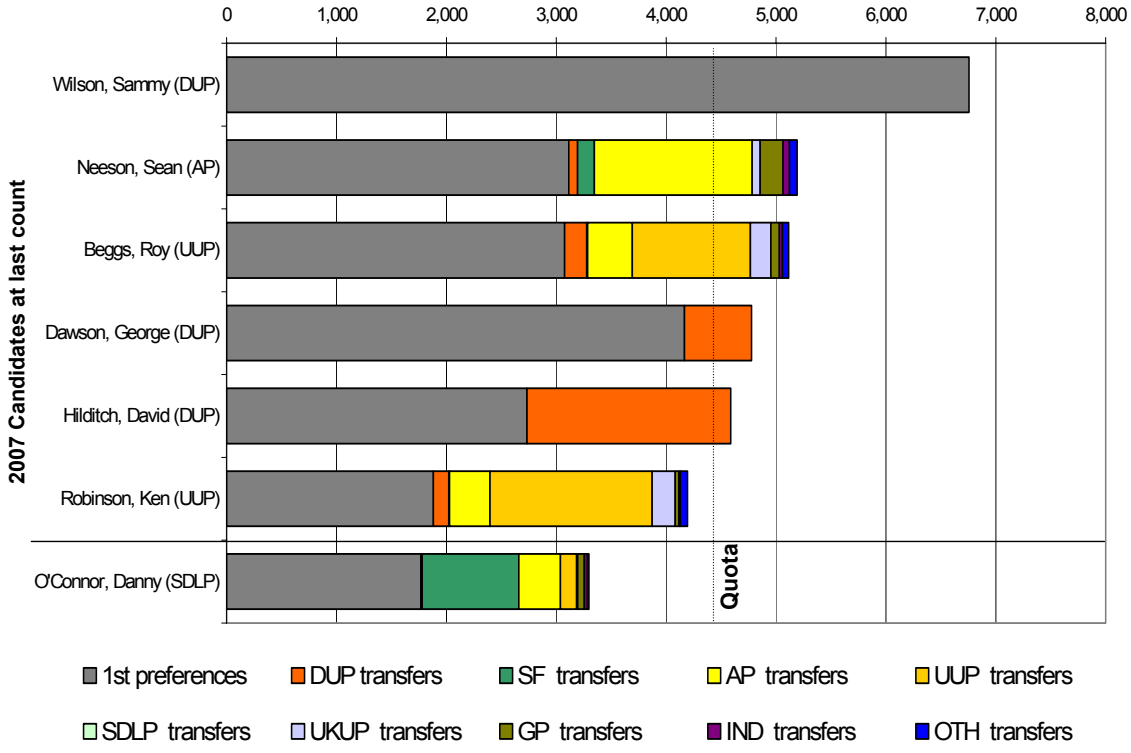


2007 Share of Vote

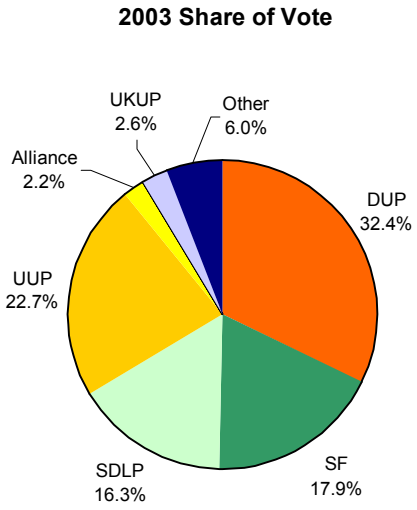


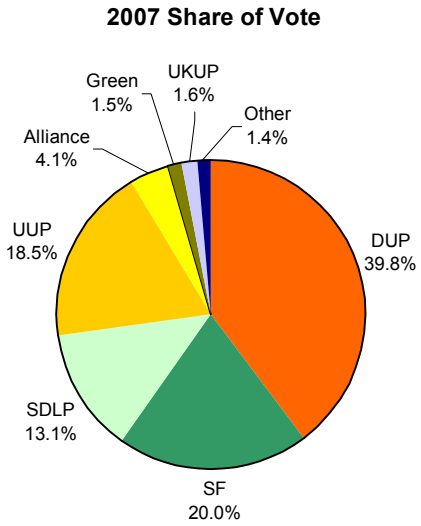
2007 Result

Seats Won: DUP 3, UUP 2, Alliance 1



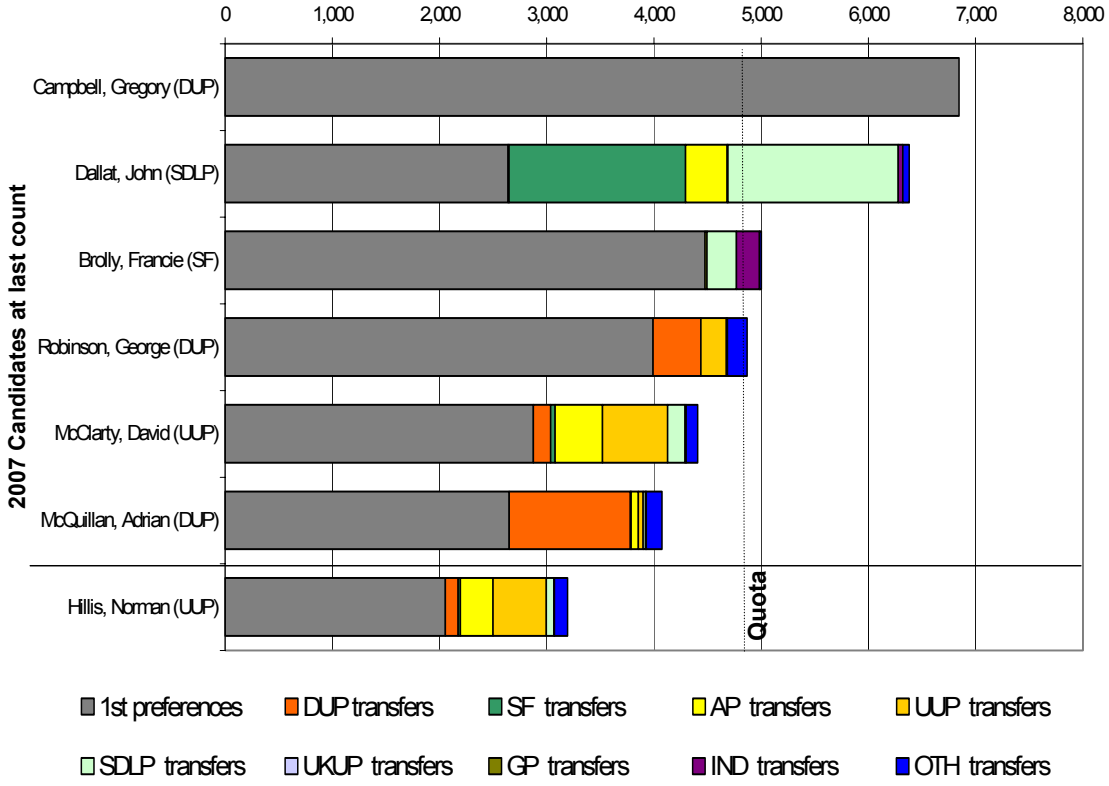
East Londonderry





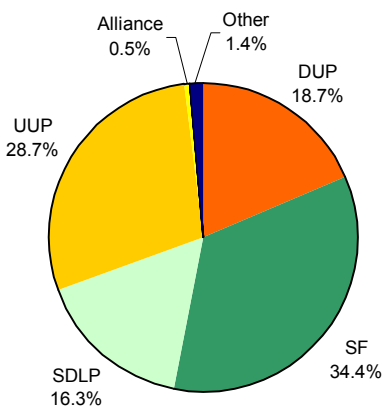
2007 Result

Seats Won: DUP 3, SDLP 1, Sinn Fein 1, UUP 1

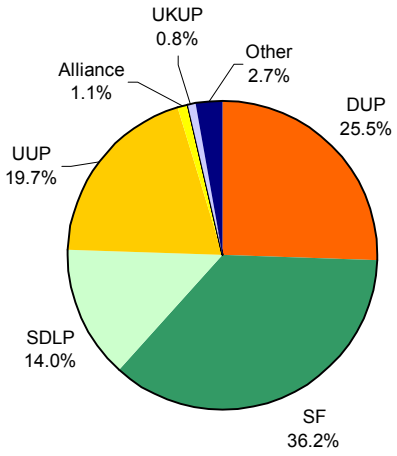


Fermanagh & South Tyrone

2003 Share of Vote

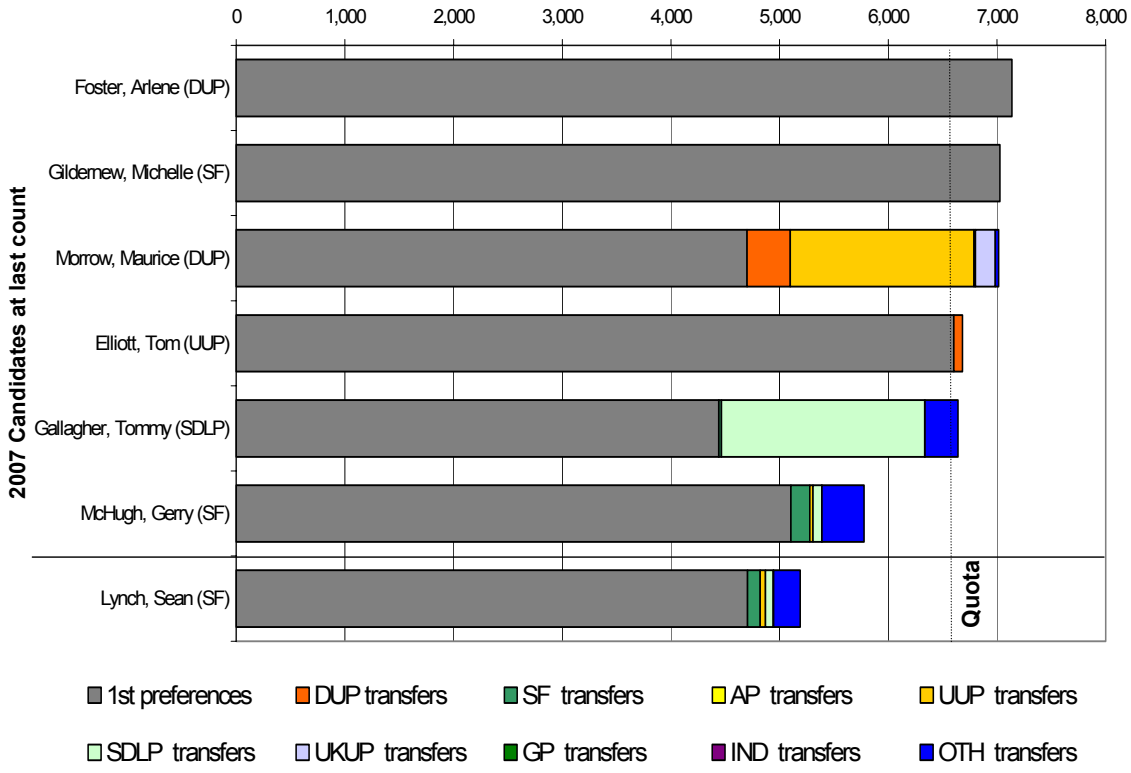


2007 Share of Vote

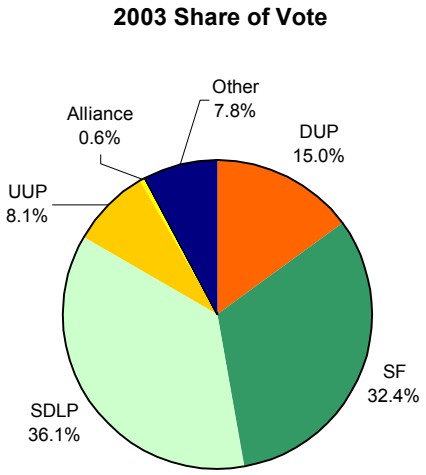


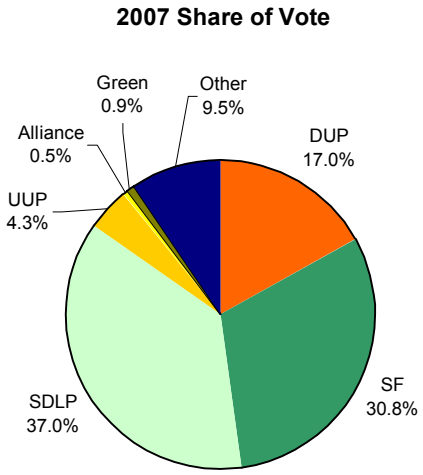
2007 Result

Seats Won: DUP 2, Sinn Fein 2, UUP 1, SDLP 1



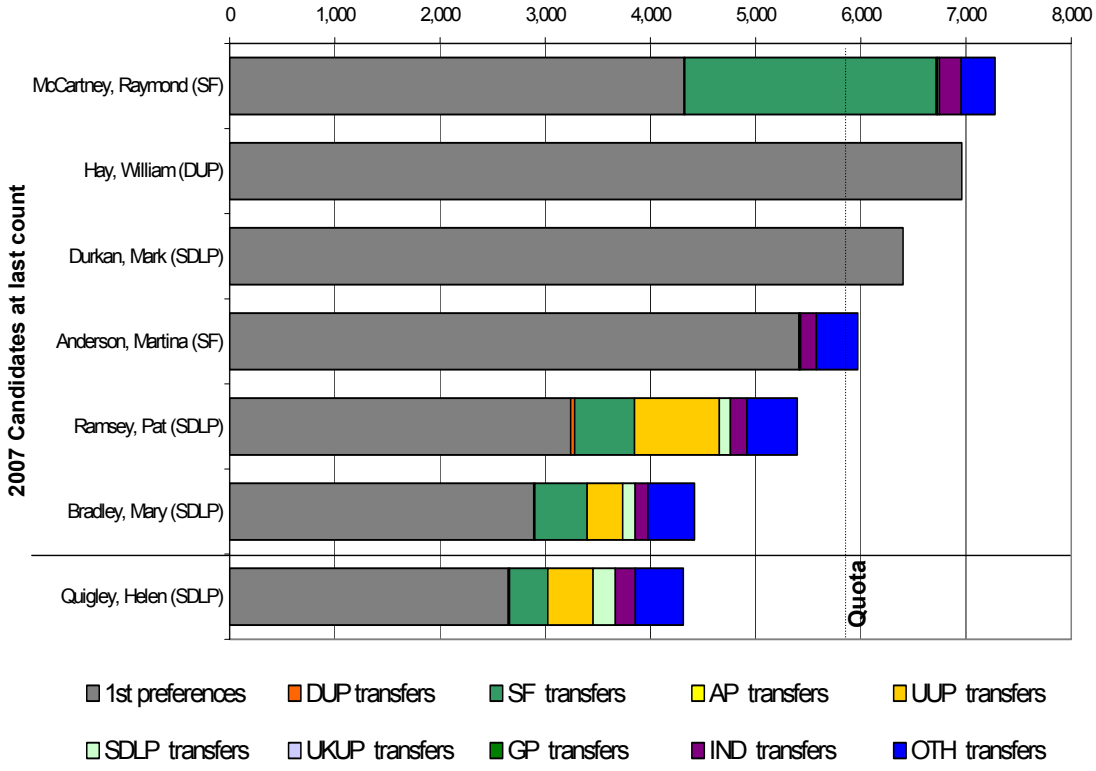
Foyle



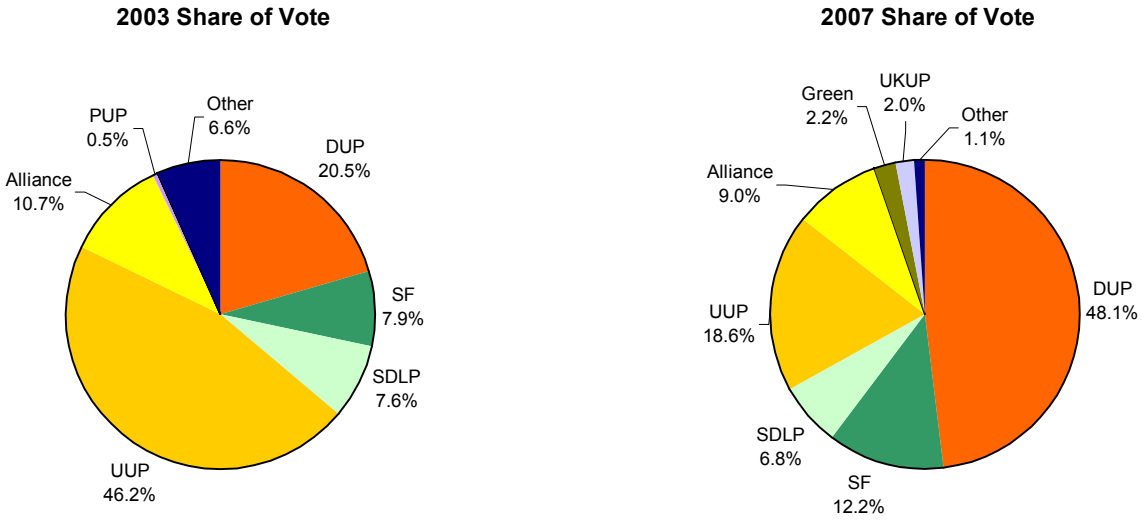


2007 Result

Seats Won: SDLP 3, Sinn Fein 2, DUP 1

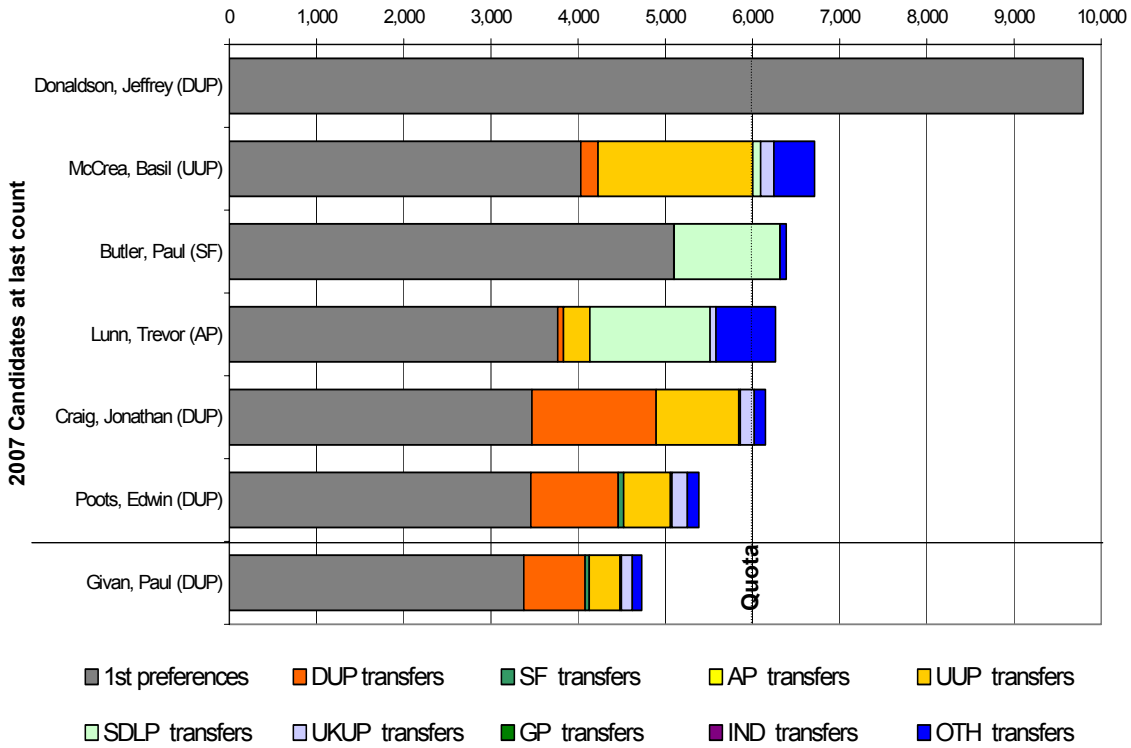


Lagan Valley



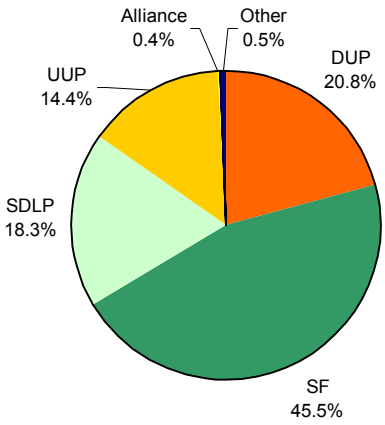
2007 Result

Seats Won: DUP 3, UUP 1, Sinn Fein 1, Alliance 1

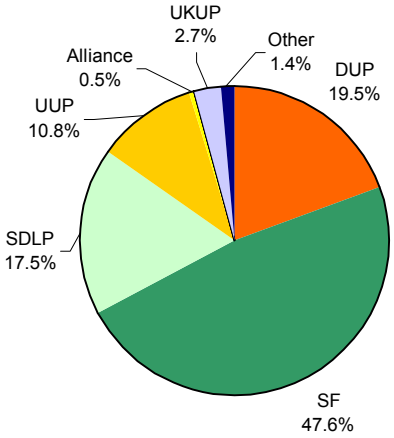


Mid Ulster

2003 Share of Vote

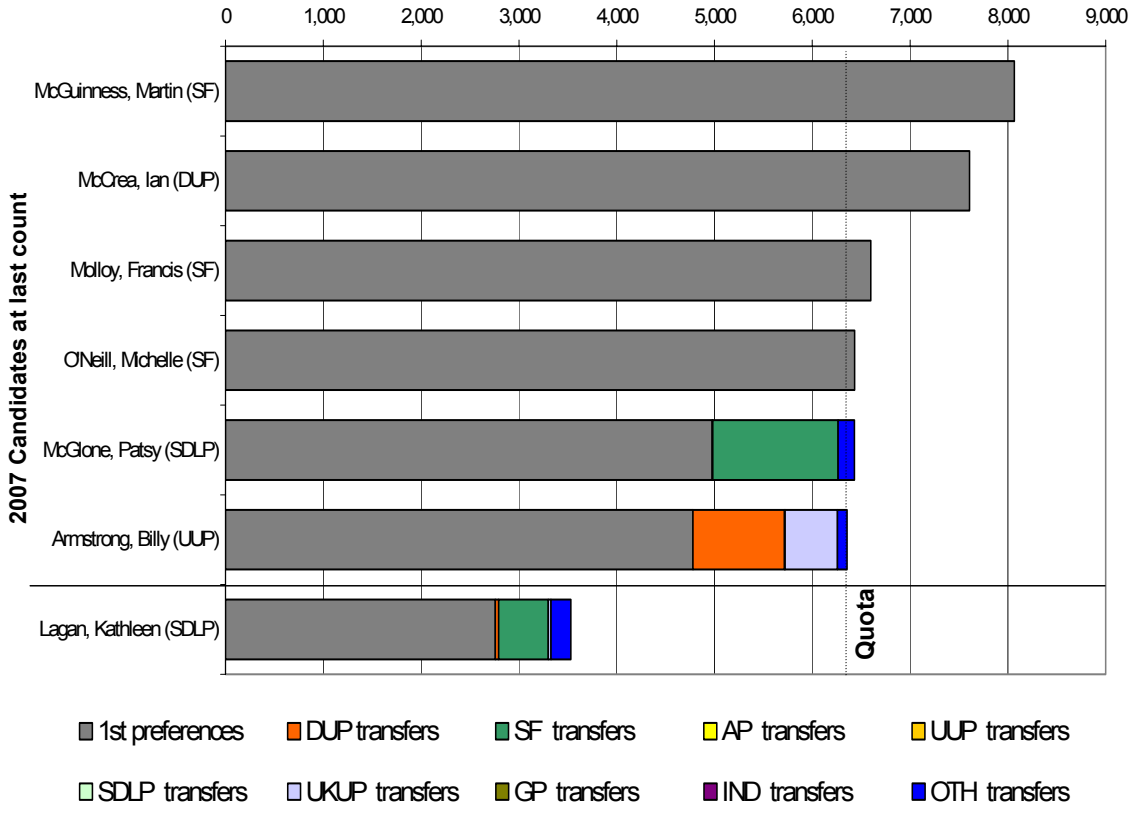


2007 Share of Vote



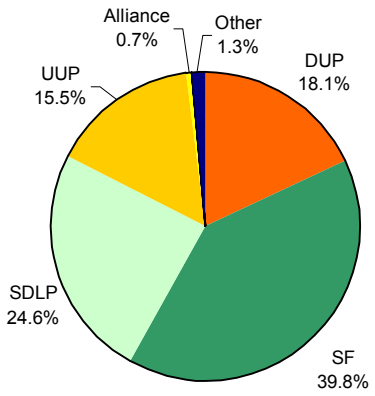
2007 Result

Seats Won: Sinn Fein 3, DUP 1, SDLP 1, UUP 1

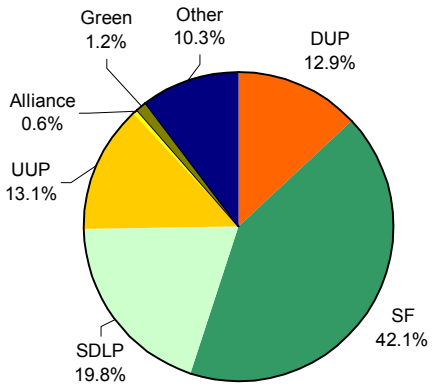


Newry & Armagh

2003 Share of Vote

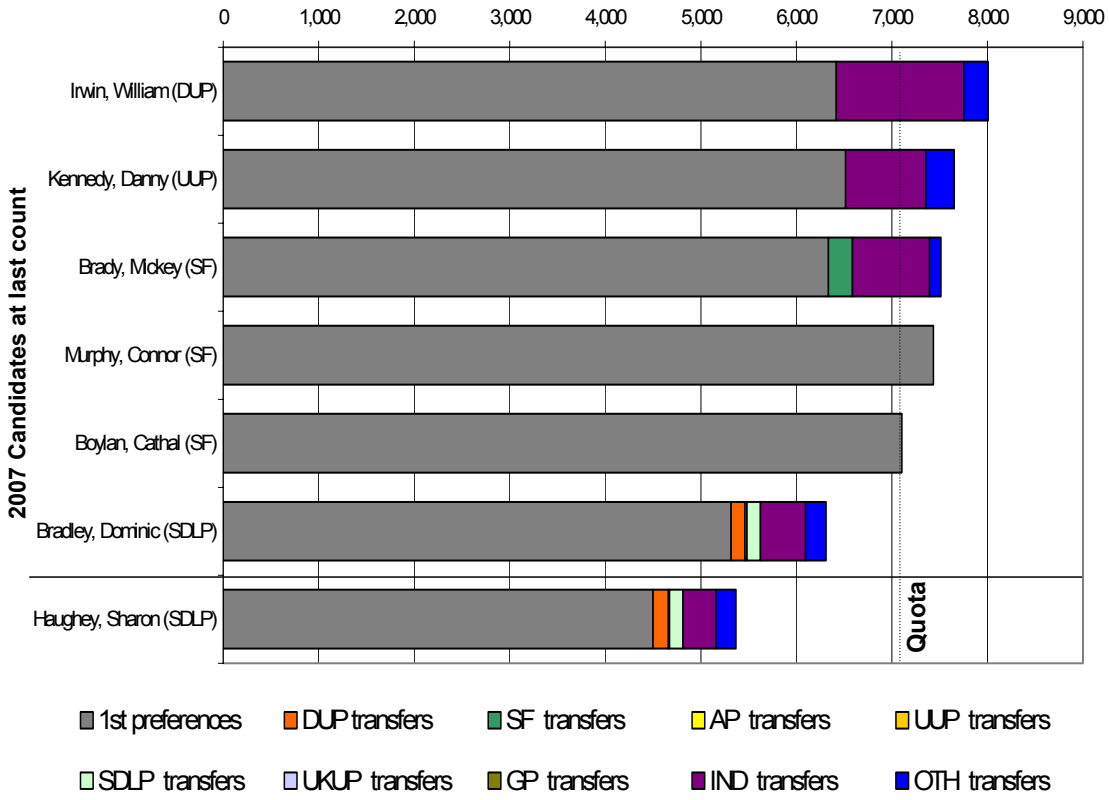


2007 Share of Vote

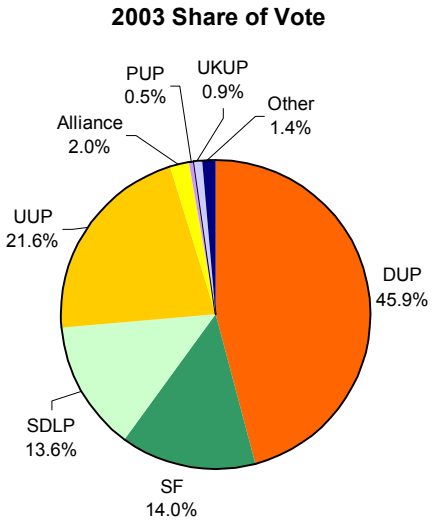


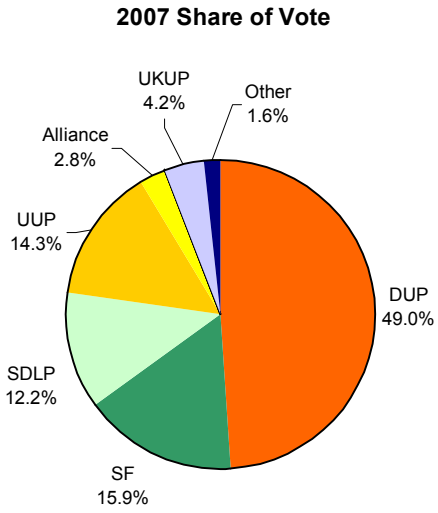
2007 Result

Seats Won: Sinn Fein 3, DUP 1, UUP 1, SDLP 1



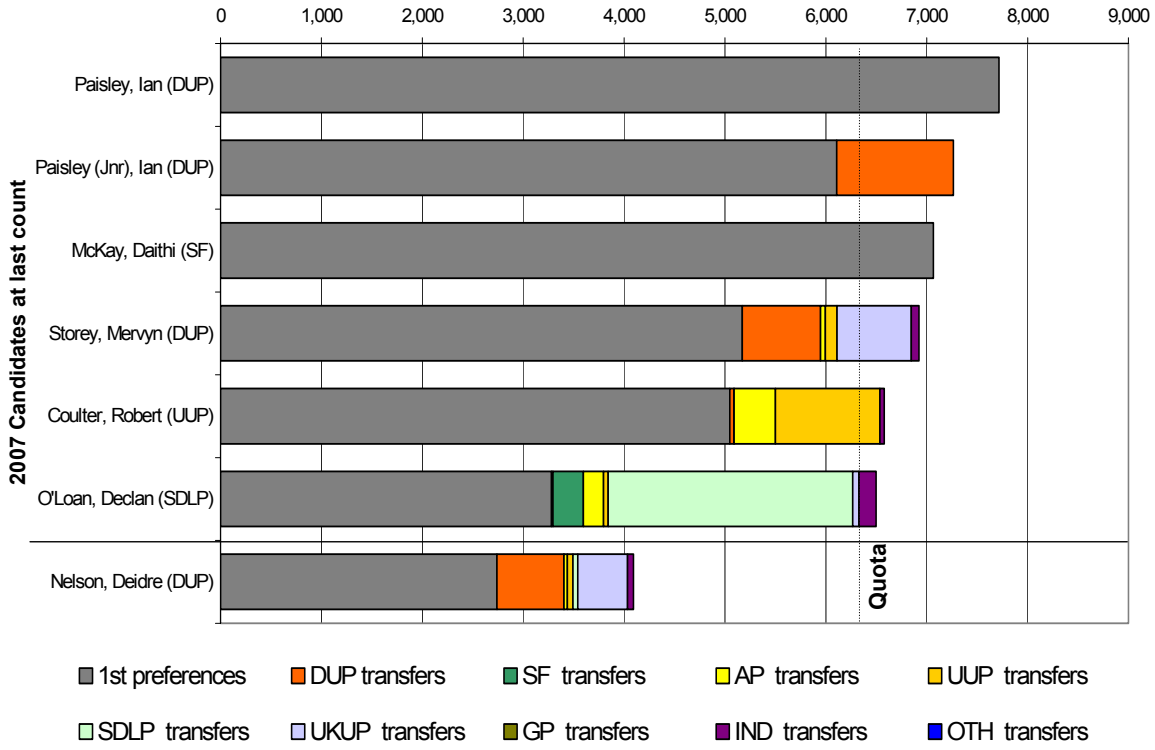
North Antrim





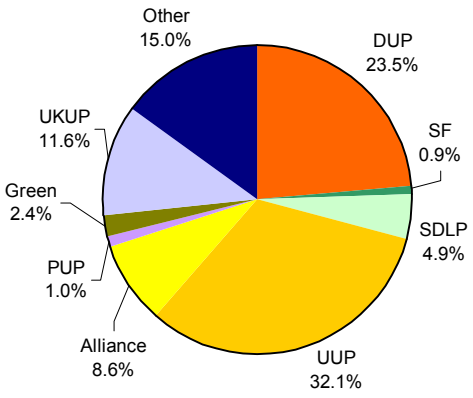
2007 Result

Seats Won: DUP 3, Sinn Fein 1, UUP 1, SDLP 1

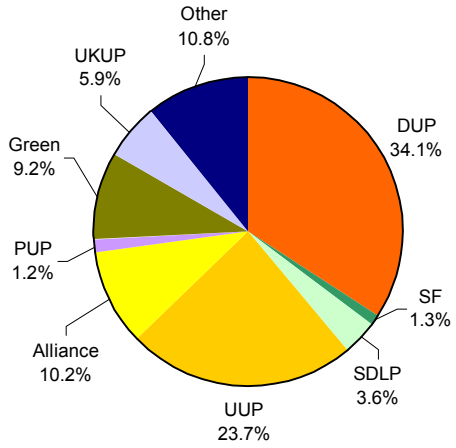


North Down

2003 Share of Vote

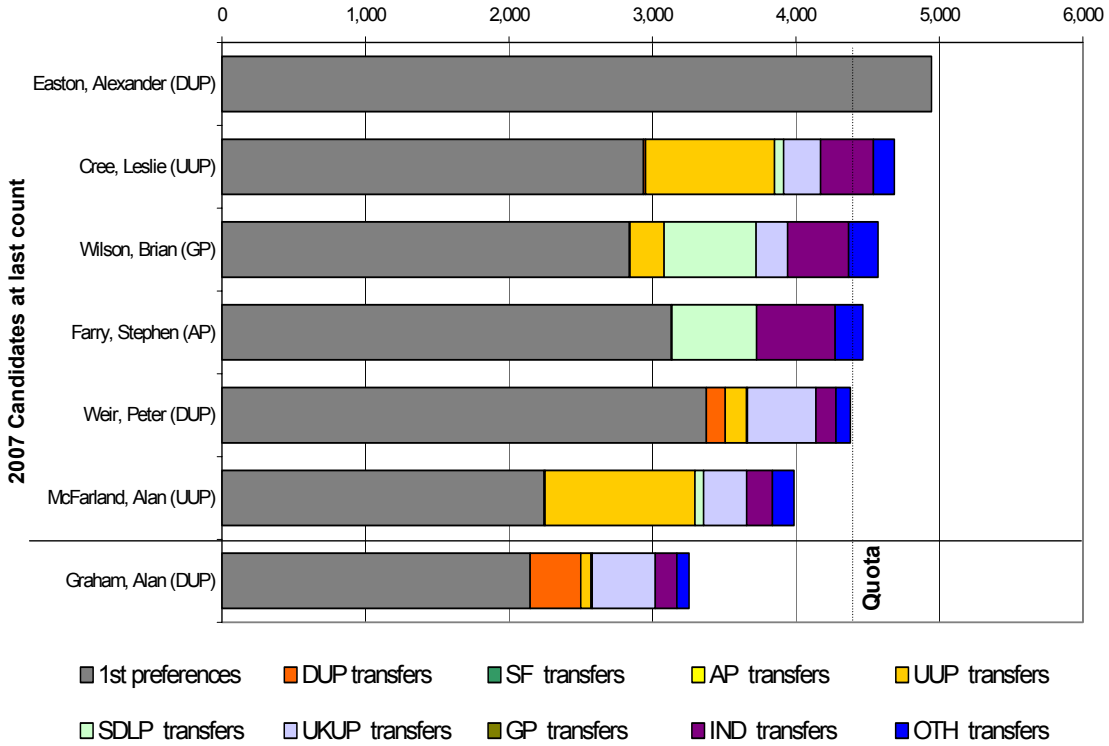


2007 Share of Vote

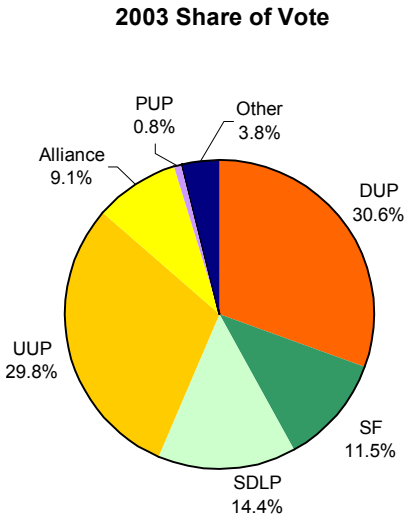


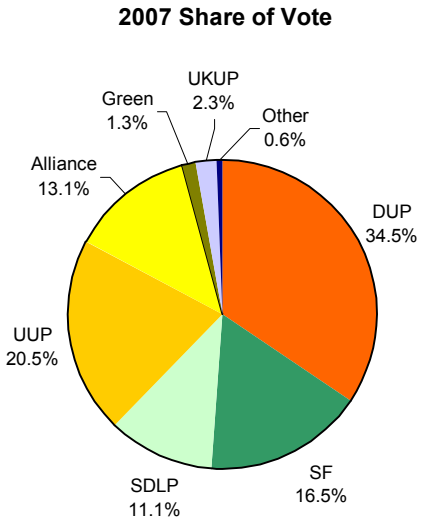
2007 Result

Seats Won: DUP 2, UUP 2, Alliance 1, Green 1



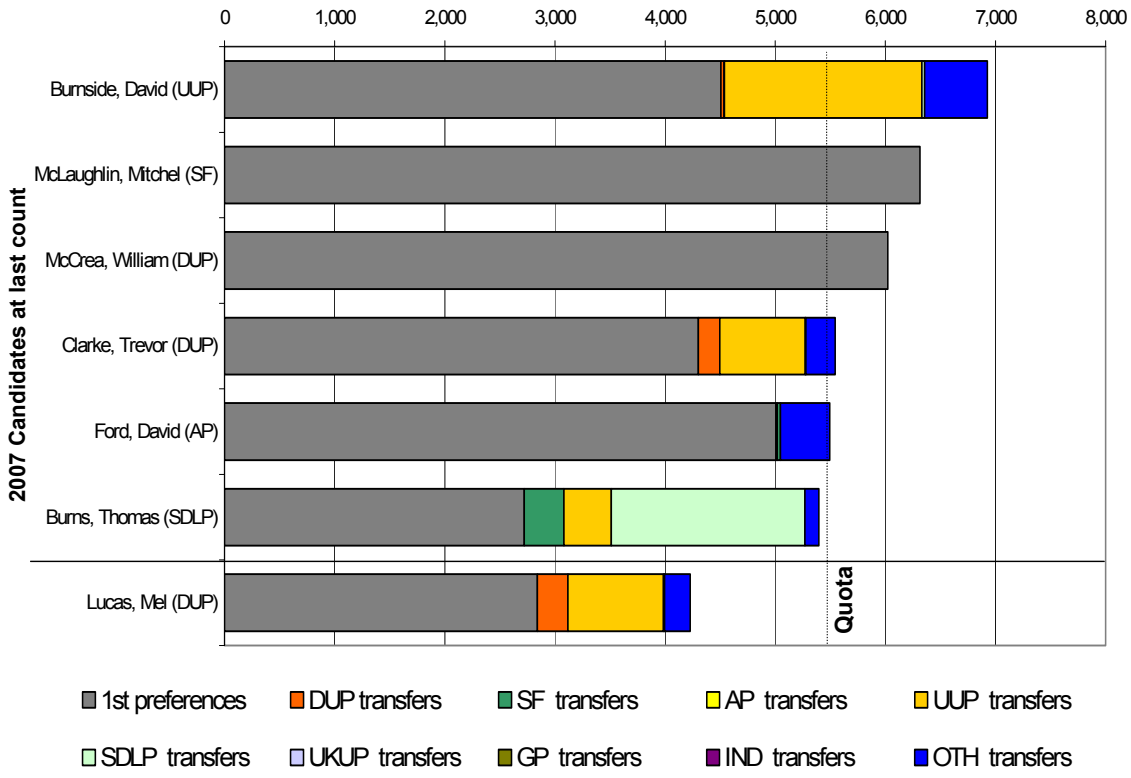
South Antrim



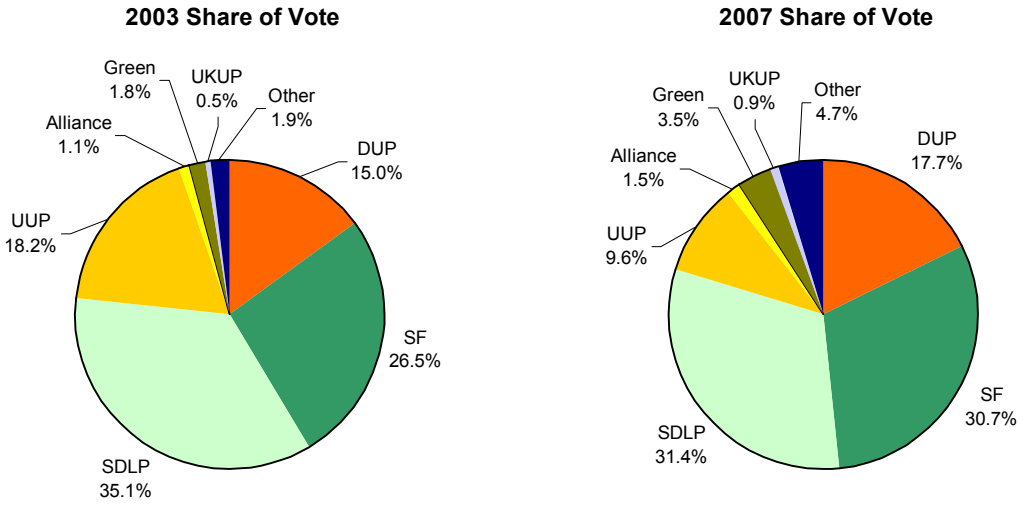


2007 Result

Seats Won: DUP 2, UUP 1, Sinn Fein 1, Alliance 1, SDLP 1

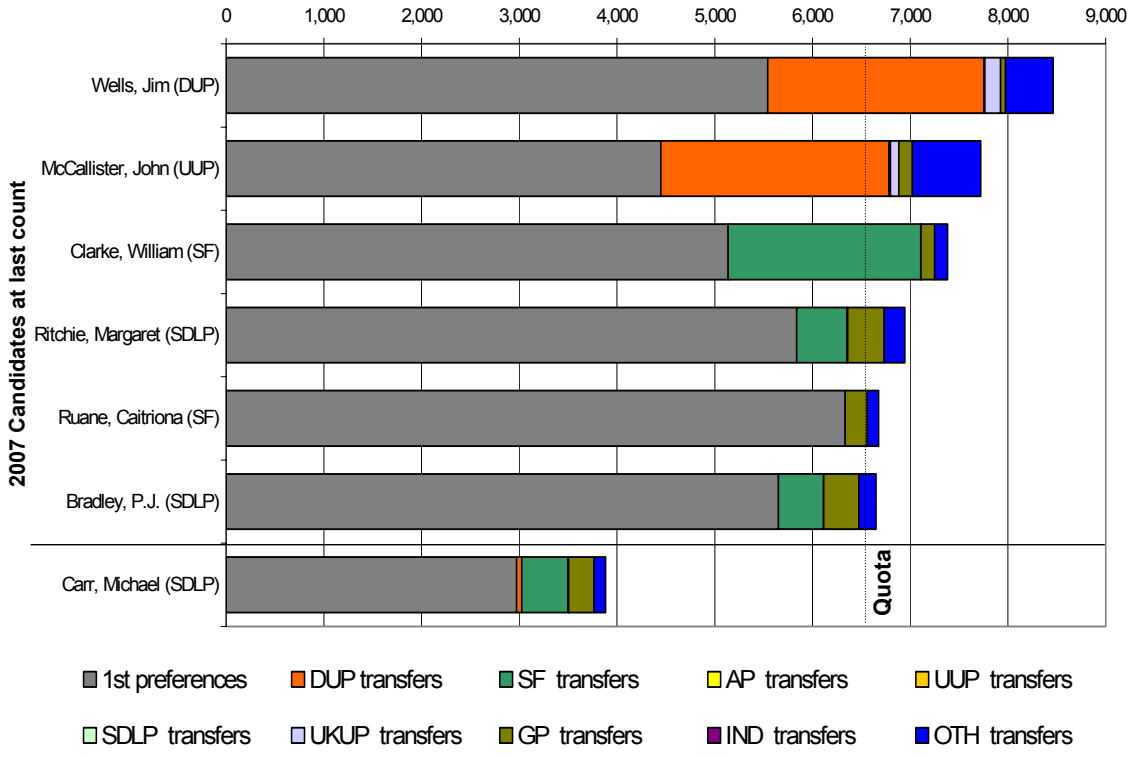


South Down



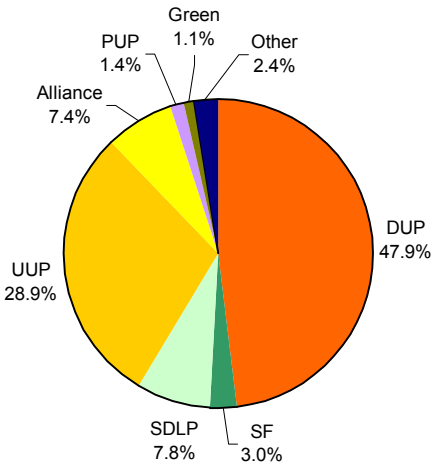
2007 Result

Seats Won: Sinn Fein 2, SDLP 2, DUP 1, UUP 1

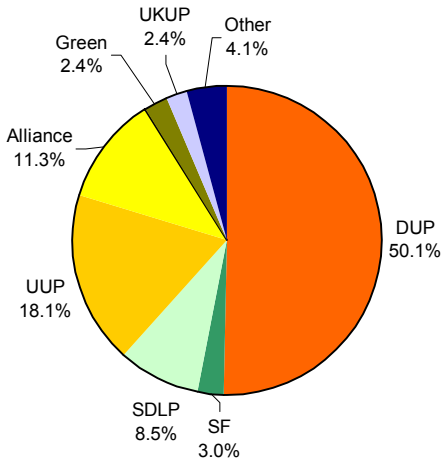


Strangford

2003 Share of Vote

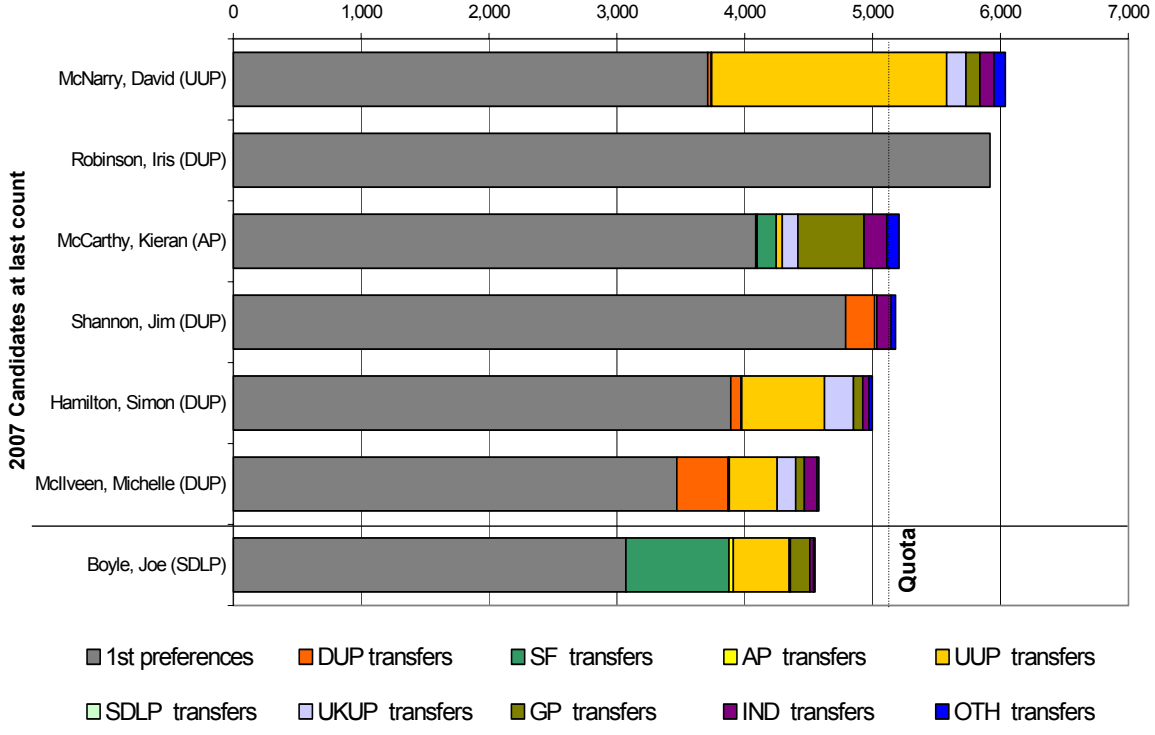


2007 Share of Vote

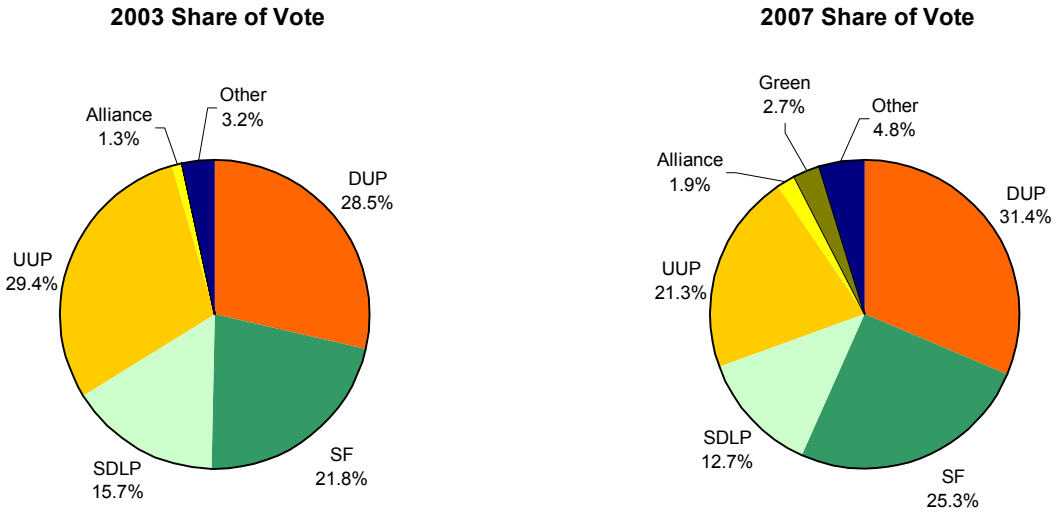


2007 Result

Seats Won: DUP 4, UUP 1, Alliance 1

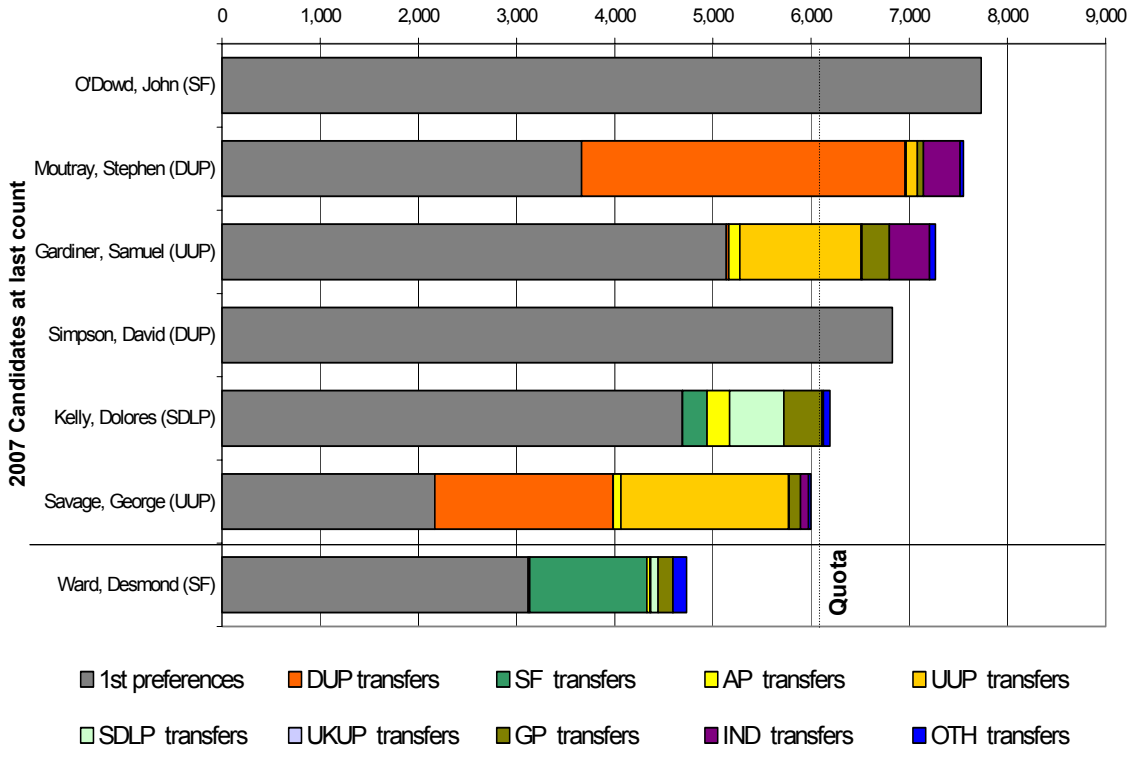


Upper Bann



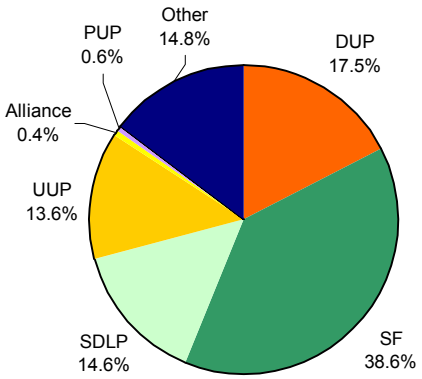
2007 Result

Seats Won: DUP 2, UUP 2, Sinn Fein 1, SDLP 1

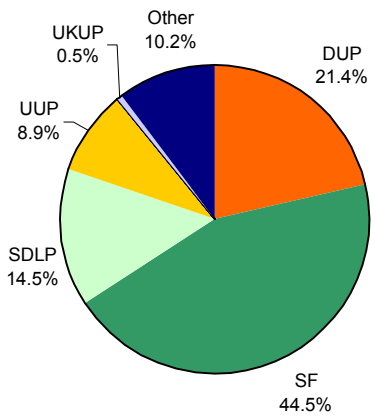


West Tyrone

2003 Share of Vote

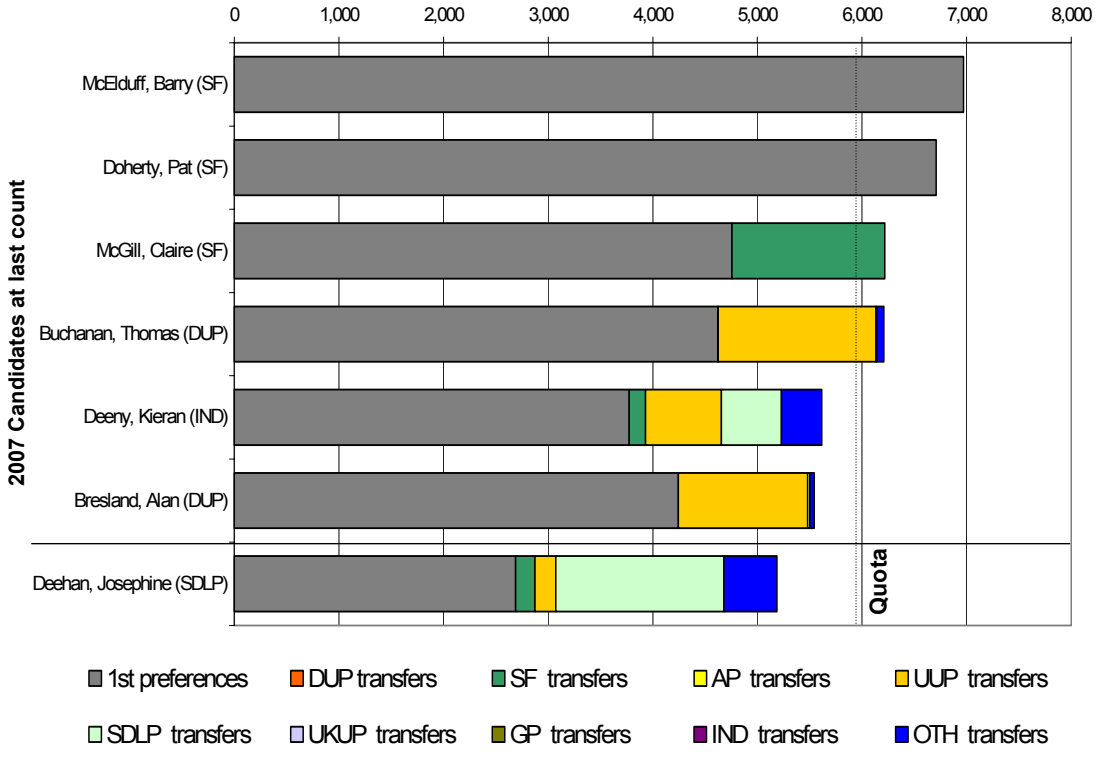


2007 Share of Vote



2007 Result

Seats Won: Sinn Fein 3, DUP 2, Independent 1



7. Results Summary

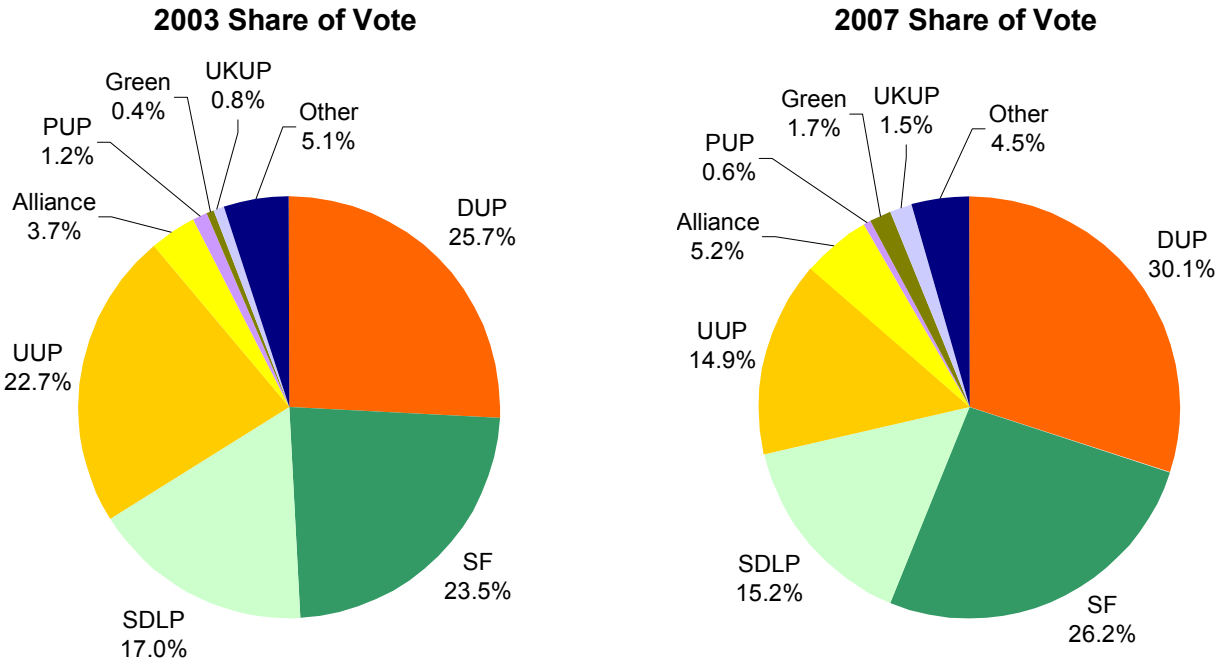


Figure 7.1 Party shares of first preference votes – 2003 v 2007

The 2007 Northern Ireland Assembly election resulted in further substantial swings in favour of the Democratic Unionist Party and Sinn Fein (see Tables 7.1 and 7.2 and Figure 7.1).

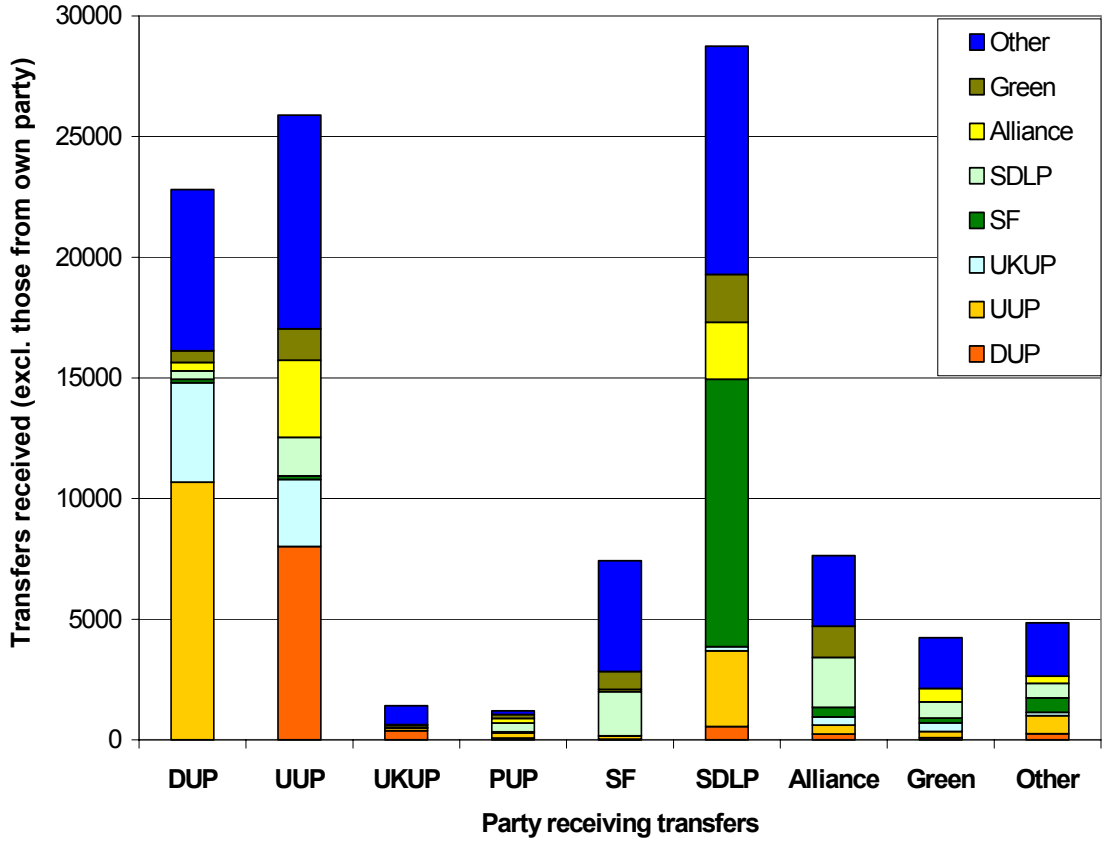
Table 7.1. Seats by Party

	1998	2003	2007
DUP	20	30	36
UUP	28	27	18
SF	18	24	28
SDLP	24	18	16
APNI	6	6	7
UKUP	5	1	
PUP	2	1	1
NIWC	2		
Green			1
Independent/Others	3	1	1
Totals	108	108	108

Table 7.2. Share of First Preference Votes by Party

	1998	2003	2007
DUP	18.1	25.7	30.1
SF	17.6	23.5	26.2
UUP	21.3	22.7	14.9
SDLP	22.0	17.0	15.2
APNI	6.5	3.7	5.2
PUP	2.5	1.2	0.6
NIWC	1.6	0.8	
UKUP	4.5	0.8	1.5
Green	0.1	0.4	1.7
Independent/Others	5.8	4.2	4.5
Totals	**100**	**100**	**100**

Figure 7.2 Votes Transferred Between Parties



The **Democratic Unionist Party** increased their share of first preference votes from 25.7% in 2003 to 30.1% and gained six seats (gains in Belfast East, East Londonderry, Fermanagh & South Tyrone, Lagan Valley (2), Strangford and West Tyrone, with one loss in Belfast West). DUP candidates received a total of 22,799 transferred votes[22] from other voters (see Annex G and Figure 7.2 above). Most of these (65%) came from other Unionist voters, with only 2% coming from Nationalist voters and 33% from other voters.

Sinn Fein increased their share of first preference votes from 23.5% in 2003 to 26.2% and gained four seats (Belfast West, Lagan Valley, South Antrim and West Tyrone). Of the five largest parties, Sinn Fein candidates received the fewest transferred votes. Excluding transfers from other candidates in their own party, they received only 7,419 in total – 25% of which came from SDLP voters; 10% from Green Party voters; 2% from Unionist voters; and 63% from other voters.

The **Ulster Unionist Party** lost nine seats and its share of first preference votes fell from 22.7% in 2003 to 14.9%. These losses were incurred in Belfast East, Belfast South, East Londonderry, Fermanagh & South Tyrone, Lagan Valley (2), South Antrim, Strangford and West Tyrone. UUP candidates received a total of 25,886 transferred votes from other voters. The largest proportion of these (42%) came from other Unionist voters; 12% from Alliance voters; 7% from Nationalist party voters; 5% from Green Party voters; and 34% from other voters.

The **SDLP** lost two seats (Lagan Valley and West Tyrone) and its share of first preference votes fell from 17.0% in 2003 to 15.2%. SDLP candidates received a total of 28,748 transferred votes from other voters. The largest proportion of these (39%) came from Sinn Fein voters; 13% from Unionist voters; 8% from Alliance voters; 7% from Green Party voters; and 33% from other voters.

The **Alliance Party** increased their share of first preference votes from 3.7% in 2003 to 5.2% and gained a seat in South Belfast. Alliance candidates received a total of 7,640 transferred votes – 32% of which came from Nationalist voters; 17% from Green Party voters; 13% from Unionist voters; and 38% from other voters.

The **United Kingdom Unionist Party** lost its only seat (in North Down) despite its overall share of first preference votes virtually doubling from 0.8% in 2003 to 1.5% (although this increase was primarily due to its representation in 13 constituencies this time around compared with only 6 in 2003).

The **Progressive Unionist Party** retained its seat in Belfast East, although its share of first preference votes was halved from 1.2% in 2003 to 0.6% (a decrease which was due to reduced representation from 11 candidates in 2003 to only 3 in 2007). It is interesting to note that Dawn Purvis (the only PUP candidate who received any significant transfers – 1,163 in total) received more transfers from Nationalist voters (407) than she did from Unionist voters (286).

The **Green Party** increased its share of first preference votes from 0.4% in 2003 to 1.7% and gained its first seat in the Assembly (in North Down). The Green Party received a total of 4,236 transferred votes from other voters – 20% from Nationalist voters; 17% from Unionist voters; 13% from alliance voters; and 50% from other voters.

[22] Excluding transfers to other candidates within the same party.

There was only one seat won by an **independent**. Dr. Kieran Deeny retained his seat in West Tyrone.

Analysis of transferred votes[23] revealed that 79% of transfers from Unionist voters[24] went to other Unionist party candidates and 12% went to Nationalist party candidates, whilst 64% of transfers from Nationalist voters[25] went to other Nationalist party candidates and 13% went to Unionist party candidates. The SDLP received the most transferred votes from other parties. Out of the four major parties, Sinn Fein received the lowest number of transfers (see Annex G and Table 7.2 above).

Of the 108 MLAs elected, 29 are new[26] and 18 are women (the same number of women as in 2003).

Table 7.3 Seats by Party and Gender

	Male	Female	Total
Alliance Party	5	2	7
Democratic Unionist - DUP	33	3	36
Green Party	1	0	1
Independent	1	0	1
Progressive Unionist Party	0	1	1
SDLP	12	4	16
Sinn Féin	20	8	28
Ulster Unionist Party	18	0	18
Totals	**90**	**18**	**108**

Sinn Fein (with eight) has the highest number of female MLAs (see Table 7.3). The two Nationalist parties have 12 female MLAs between them, while the three Unionist parties have only four (three in the DUP and one PUP).

[23] Excluding transfers to other candidates in the same party.
[24] i.e. voters whose previous preference was for a Unionist party (UUP, DUP, PUP or UKUP) candidate.
[25] i.e. voters whose previous preference was for a Nationalist party (SDLP or Sinn Fein) candidate.
[26] i.e. did not have seats during the 2003-2007 term.

Annex A. 1998 First Preference Votes by Party and Constituency

Parliamentary Constituency	SDLP	UUP	DUP	SF	APNI	UKUP	PUP	NIWC	UDP	Lab	WP	Con	NLP	Green	Ind	Others	Totals
Belfast East	1025	9620	12225	917	7144	1362	5385	711	516	369	79	203	22			15	**39593**
Belfast North	8661	4479	8764	8775	1267	748	3751		911	255	155		76	257	3026		**41125**
Belfast South	8838	9533	5321	2605	4086	1496	2112	3912	1745	293	176	97	73		437		**40724**
Belfast West	10420	1640	1345	24650	129	666	2180				607		29			128	**41794**
East Antrim	2106	10547	7889	746	7168	2866	1432		596			233	32		1995		**35610**
East Londonderry	9366	9954	9379	3860	2395		582		171				46		3811		**39564**
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	11007	12572	7082	13714	614	4262		1729					63				**51043**
Foyle	23342	4669	6112	12696	1058		287			345			32	253			**48794**
Lagan Valley	4039	14339	8350	2000	6788	5361		955	3725		208	702	43				**46510**
Mid Ulster	11076	6938	10646	20305	497						207		38			91	**49798**
Newry and Armagh	18953	9819	7214	14052	777			1138					23		2160		**54136**
North Antrim	8415	11064	18687	4045	2282		641		400				156		4007		**49697**
North Down	2048	12147	2571		5368	8361	1376	1808	265	212		337	39		2781		**37313**
South Antrim	7783	13175	8850	3226	3778	4360	1546	1108		137			28				**43991**
South Down	23257	7419	4826	7771	1502	2576		1658		498	130		33		1683		**51353**
Strangford	3865	12514	11901	614	5216	3078	1342		322	181		263	27	200	3399		**42922**
Upper Bann	11947	14559	7812	7216	1556	1405				439	270		32		5163		**50399**
West Tyrone	11815	7237	8015	15666	1011						157		40		1269	741	**45951**
Northern Ireland	**177963**	**172225**	**146989**	**142858**	**52636**	**36541**	**20634**	**13019**	**8651**	**2729**	**1989**	**1835**	**832**	**710**	**29731**	**975**	**810317**

Sources: *Northern Ireland Yearbook 2003* and Electoral Office returns (see Annex H for list of abbreviations used in table).

Annex B. 1998 Share of First Preference Vote (%) by Party and Constituency

Parliamentary Constituency	SDLP	UUP	DUP	SF	APNI	UKUP	PUP	NIWC	UDP	Lab	WP	Con	NLP	Green	Ind	Others	Totals
Belfast East	2.6	24.3	30.9	2.3	18.0	3.4	13.6	1.8	1.3	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.1			0.0	**100**
Belfast North	21.1	10.9	21.3	21.3	3.1	1.8	9.1		2.2	0.6	0.4		0.2	0.6	7.4		**100**
Belfast South	21.7	23.4	13.1	6.4	10.0	3.7	5.2	9.6	4.3	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.2		1.1		**100**
Belfast West	24.9	3.9	3.2	59.0	0.3	1.6	5.2				1.5		0.1			0.3	**100**
East Antrim	5.9	29.6	22.2	2.1	20.1	8.0	4.0		1.7			0.7	0.1		5.6		**100**
East Londonderry	23.7	25.2	23.7	9.8	6.1		1.5		0.4				0.1		9.6		**100**
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	21.6	24.6	13.9	26.9	1.2	8.3		3.4					0.1				**100**
Foyle	47.8	9.6	12.5	26.0	2.2		0.6			0.7			0.1	0.5			**100**
Lagan Valley	8.7	30.8	18.0	4.3	14.6	11.5		2.1	8.0		0.4	1.5	0.1				**100**
Mid Ulster	22.2	13.9	21.4	40.8	1.0						0.4		0.1			0.2	**100**
Newry and Armagh	35.0	18.1	13.3	26.0	1.4			2.1					0.0		4.0		**100**
North Antrim	16.9	22.3	37.6	8.1	4.6		1.3		0.8				0.3		8.1		**100**
North Down	5.5	32.6	6.9		14.4	22.4	3.7	4.8	0.7	0.6		0.9	0.1		7.5		**100**
South Antrim	17.7	29.9	20.1	7.3	8.6	9.9	3.5	2.5		0.3			0.1				**100**
South Down	45.3	14.4	9.4	15.1	2.9	5.0		3.2		1.0	0.3		0.1		3.3		**100**
Strangford	9.0	29.2	27.7	1.4	12.2	7.2	3.1		0.8	0.4		0.6	0.1	0.5	7.9		**100**
Upper Bann	23.7	28.9	15.5	14.3	3.1	2.8				0.9	0.5		0.1		10.2		**100**
West Tyrone	25.7	15.7	17.4	34.1	2.2						0.3		0.1		2.8	1.6	**100**
Northern Ireland	**22.0**	**21.3**	**18.1**	**17.6**	**6.5**	**4.5**	**2.5**	**1.6**	**1.1**	**0.3**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**3.7**	**0.1**	**100**

See Annex H for list of abbreviations.

Annex C. 2003 First Preference Votes by Party and Constituency

Parliamentary Constituency	DUP	SF	UUP	SDLP	APNI	PUP	NIWC	UKUP	UUC	Green	Con	WP	NIUP	Ind	Others	Totals
Belfast East	12132	1180	10252	967	2774	2990					232	125		72	241	**30965**
Belfast North	10776	8514	2961	5294	305	1358	467		802	261		90		687	17	**31532**
Belfast South	6529	3933	8469	7176	1849	495	2150			308	116	96			209	**31330**
Belfast West	2544	21368	1170	6250	75	813						407		211	16	**32854**
East Antrim	10563	768	8883	2428	3372	534	307	564		165	196			3172		**30952**
East Londonderry	11091	6121	7769	5584	762			906	1903						137	**34273**
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	8630	15901	13229	7507	243		650									**46160**
Foyle	6101	13214	3322	14746	227									939	2257	**40806**
Lagan Valley	8475	3242	19069	3133	4408	212					395	97		2223		**41254**
Mid Ulster	9240	20194	6394	8138	166							230				**44362**
Newry and Armagh	8599	18852	7347	11637	311									632		**47378**
North Antrim	20235	6195	9538	6009	867	230		402						623		**44099**
North Down	7245	264	9887	1519	2655	316	1181	3583		730	491			2964		**30835**
South Antrim	11452	4295	11154	5403	3393	311	465				174		774			**37421**
South Down	6789	12007	8253	15922	489		565	245		799		115		162		**45346**
Strangford	17857	1105	10781	2906	2741	540				425			576	319		**37250**
Upper Bann	12400	9494	12786	6818	571							247		1166		**43482**
West Tyrone	7286	16111	5667	6110	164	233								6158		**41729**
Northern Ireland	**177944**	**162758**	**156931**	**117547**	**25372**	**8032**	**5785**	**5700**	**2705**	**2688**	**1604**	**1407**	**1350**	**19328**	**2877**	**692028**

Source: *BBC* and *RTE* websites (See Annex H for list of abbreviations).

Annex D. 2003 Share of First Preference Vote (%) by Party and Constituency

Parliamentary Constituency	DUP	SF	UUP	SDLP	APNI	PUP	NIWC	UKUP	UUC	Green	Con	WP	NIUP	Ind	Others	Totals
Belfast East	39.2	3.8	33.1	3.1	9.0	9.7					0.7	0.4		0.2	0.8	**100**
Belfast North	34.2	27.0	9.4	16.8	1.0	4.3	1.5		2.5	0.8		0.3		2.2	0.1	**100**
Belfast South	20.8	12.6	27.0	22.9	5.9	1.6	6.9			1.0	0.4	0.3			0.7	**100**
Belfast West	7.7	65.0	3.6	19.0	0.2	2.5						1.2		0.6		**100**
East Antrim	34.1	2.5	28.7	7.8	10.9	1.7	1.0	1.8		0.5	0.6			10.2		**100**
East Londonderry	32.4	17.9	22.7	16.3	2.2			2.6	5.6						0.4	**100**
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	18.7	34.4	28.7	16.3	0.5		1.4									**100**
Foyle	15.0	32.4	8.1	36.1	0.6									2.3	5.5	**100**
Lagan Valley	20.5	7.9	46.2	7.6	10.7	0.5					1.0	0.2		5.4		**100**
Mid Ulster	20.8	45.5	14.4	18.3	0.4							0.5				**100**
Newry and Armagh	18.1	39.8	15.5	24.6	0.7									1.3		**100**
North Antrim	45.9	14.0	21.6	13.6	2.0	0.5		0.9						1.4		**100**
North Down	23.5	0.9	32.1	4.9	8.6	1.0	3.8	11.6		2.4	1.6			9.6		**100**
South Antrim	30.6	11.5	29.8	14.4	9.1	0.8	1.2				0.5		2.1			**100**
South Down	15.0	26.5	18.2	35.1	1.1		1.2	0.5		1.8		0.3		0.4		**100**
Strangford	47.9	3.0	28.9	7.8	7.4	1.4				1.1			1.5	0.9		**100**
Upper Bann	28.5	21.8	29.4	15.7	1.3							0.6		2.7		**100**
West Tyrone	17.5	38.6	13.6	14.6	0.4	0.6								14.8		**100**
Northern Ireland	**25.7**	**23.5**	**22.7**	**17.0**	**3.7**	**1.2**	**0.8**	**0.8**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**0.2**	**2.8**	**0.4**	**100**

See Annex H for list of abbreviations.

Annex E. 2007 First Preference Votes by Party and Constituency

	DUP	SF	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	PUP	Green	UKUP	Other	Totals
Belfast East	11155	1055	816	6516	5583	3045	653	.	806	**29629**
Belfast North	11108	9094	4080	2498	486	.	590	360	1499	**29715**
Belfast South	6797	3996	8127	5573	3829	410	737	298	577	**30344**
Belfast West	3661	23631	4110	558	127	.	.	.	1703	**33790**
East Antrim	13654	1168	1769	6574	4738	.	612	731	793	**30039**
East Londonderry	13486	6797	4435	6267	1401	.	521	549	466	**33922**
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	11838	16833	6483	9134	521	.	.	388	1245	**46442**
Foyle	6960	12649	15182	1755	224	.	359	.	3907	**41036**
Lagan Valley	20098	5098	2839	7777	3765	.	922	853	470	**41822**
Mid Ulster	8629	21094	7735	4781	221	.	.	1210	607	**44277**
Newry & Armagh	6418	20879	9818	6517	278	.	599	.	5110	**49619**
North Antrim	21733	7065	5410	6328	1254	.	.	1848	693	**44331**
North Down	10469	390	1115	7280	3131	367	2839	1806	3310	**30707**
South Antrim	13165	6313	4247	7825	5007	.	507	893	218	**38175**
South Down	8153	14134	14462	4447	691	.	1622	424	2177	**46110**
Strangford	18062	1089	3068	6512	4085	.	868	872	1463	**36019**
Upper Bann	13466	10851	5450	9117	798	.	1156	.	2044	**42882**
West Tyrone	8869	18437	6018	3686	.	.	.	220	4224	**41454**
Northern Ireland	**207721**	**180573**	**105164**	**103145**	**36139**	**3822**	**11985**	**10452**	**31312**	**690313**

Source: *Electoral Office for Northern Ireland* (See Annex H for list of abbreviations).

Annex F. 2007 Share of First Preference Vote (%) by Party and Constituency

	DUP	SF	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	PUP	Green	UKUP	Other	Totals
Belfast East	37.6	3.6	2.8	22.0	18.8	10.3	2.2		2.7	**100.0**
Belfast North	37.4	30.6	13.7	8.4	1.6		2.0	1.2	5.0	**100.0**
Belfast South	22.4	13.2	26.8	18.4	12.6	1.4	2.4	1.0	1.9	**100.0**
Belfast West	10.8	69.9	12.2	1.7	0.4				5.0	**100.0**
East Antrim	45.5	3.9	5.9	21.9	15.8		2.0	2.4	2.6	**100.0**
East Londonderry	39.8	20.0	13.1	18.5	4.1		1.5	1.6	1.4	**100.0**
Fermanagh & South Tyrone	25.5	36.2	14.0	19.7	1.1			0.8	2.7	**100.0**
Foyle	17.0	30.8	37.0	4.3	0.5		0.9		9.5	**100.0**
Lagan Valley	48.1	12.2	6.8	18.6	9.0		2.2	2.0	1.1	**100.0**
Mid Ulster	19.5	47.6	17.5	10.8	0.5			2.7	1.4	**100.0**
Newry & Armagh	12.9	42.1	19.8	13.1	0.6		1.2		10.3	**100.0**
North Antrim	49.0	15.9	12.2	14.3	2.8			4.2	1.6	**100.0**
North Down	34.1	1.3	3.6	23.7	10.2	1.2	9.2	5.9	10.8	**100.0**
South Antrim	34.5	16.5	11.1	20.5	13.1		1.3	2.3	0.6	**100.0**
South Down	17.7	30.7	31.4	9.6	1.5		3.5	0.9	4.7	**100.0**
Strangford	50.1	3.0	8.5	18.1	11.3		2.4	2.4	4.1	**100.0**
Upper Bann	31.4	25.3	12.7	21.3	1.9		2.7		4.8	**100.0**
West Tyrone	21.4	44.5	14.5	8.9				0.5	10.2	**100.0**
Northern Ireland	**30.1**	**26.2**	**15.2**	**14.9**	**5.2**	**0.6**	**1.7**	**1.5**	**4.5**	100.0

ANNEX G. 2007 Transferred Votes

		Transfers to				Transfers to		Transfers to			
		DUP	UUP	UKUP	PUP	SF	SDLP	Alliance	Green	Other	Totals
Transfers from											
Unionists	**DUP**		8012	376	75	30	543	238	81	253	**9608**
	UUP	10679		108	217	130	3143	372	265	752	**15666**
	UKUP	4116	2778			11	176	340	358	140	**7919**
	Total	**14795**	**10790**	**484**	**292**	**171**	**3862**	**950**	**704**	**1145**	**33193**
Transfers from											
Nationalists	**SF**	148	148	10	42		11083	394	195	594	**12614**
	SDLP	347	1599	20	366	1822		2077	674	597	**7502**
	Total	**495**	**1747**	**30**	**408**	**1822**	**11083**	**2471**	**869**	**1191**	**20116**
Transfers from											
Others	**Alliance**	346	3198	81	194	99	2357		554	306	**7135**
	Green	485	1302	36	156	738	1993	1292			**6002**
	Other	6678	8849	780	148	4589	9453	2927	2109	2203	**37736**
	Total	**7509**	**13349**	**897**	**498**	**5426**	**13803**	**4219**	**2663**	**2509**	**50873**
Totals		**22799**	**25886**	**1411**	**1198**	**7419**	**28748**	**7640**	**4236**	**4845**	**104182**

Notes: Transfers have been rounded to nearest whole number
Excludes transfers to candidates in same party
Excludes votes that could not be transferred (e.g. if next preference already elected or excluded)
Includes votes that were transferred more than once

Annex H: List of Abbreviations

UUP	Ulster Unionist Party
DUP	Democratic Unionist Party
SDLP	Social Democratic and Labour party
SF	Sinn Fein
APNI	Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
UKUP	United Kingdom Unionist Party
PUP	Progressive Unionist Party
NIWC	Northern Ireland Women's Coalition
WP	Workers' Party
Con	Conservative
Lab	Labour
UDP	Ulster Democratic Party
NLP	Natural Law Party
UUAP	United Unionist Assembly Party
NIUP	Northern Ireland Unionist Party
UUC	United Unionist Coalition
GP	Green Party
SEA	Socialist Environmental Alliance
VFY	Vote for Yourself
UTW	Ulster Third Way
Ind	Independents