

More than 100 seats that backed Brexit now want to remain in EU

The Observer
Brexit

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Major new analysis shows most constituencies now have majority who want to Remain

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Observer policy editor
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25,380

4,025



The constituencies of Leavers Michael Gove and Boris Johnson have changed sides to back remain, polling shows. Photograph: Stefan Rousseau/PA



More than 100 Westminster constituencies that voted to leave the EU have now switched their support to Remain, according to a stark new analysis seen by the *Observer*.

In findings that could have a significant impact on the parliamentary battle of **Brexit** later this year, the study concludes that most seats in Britain now contain a majority of voters who want to stay in the EU.

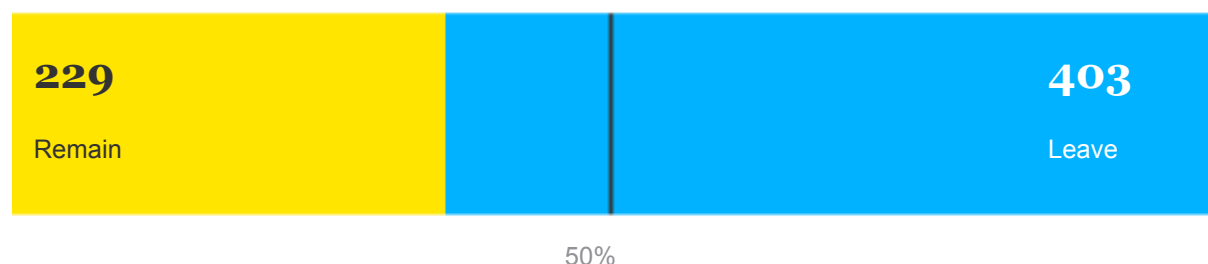
The analysis, one of the most comprehensive assessments of Brexit sentiment since the referendum, suggests the shift has been driven by doubts among **Labour** voters who backed Leave.

As a result, the trend is starkest in the north of England and Wales – Labour heartlands in which Brexit sentiment appears to be changing. The development will heap further pressure on Jeremy Corbyn to soften the party's opposition to reconsidering Britain's EU departure.

Researchers at the Focaldata consumer analytics company compiled the breakdown by modelling two YouGov polls of more than 15,000 people in total, conducted before and after Theresa May published her proposed Brexit deal on 6 July.

Analysis shows voters in most constituencies now favour remaining in the EU

In 2016, according to the Focaldata model, the **632 parliamentary seats** in England, Scotland and Wales were split...

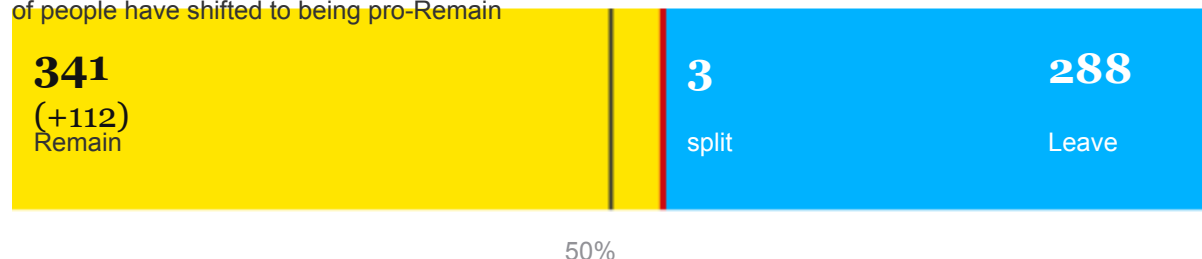


.... but analysis shows that in

112 seats

a majority

of people have shifted to being pro-Remain



50%

The constituencies with the biggest shift among the 112 seats that have switched from a Leave to Remain majority are...

Liverpool Walton

14.3 percentage points



Knowsley

13.4



Swansea East

12.8



Hayes & Harlington

12.8



Oldham West & Royton

12.6



12.4



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Rhondda



12.4



12.4



12.3



12



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particularly in the north and Wales

Swing to Remain

to Leave



>15

>10

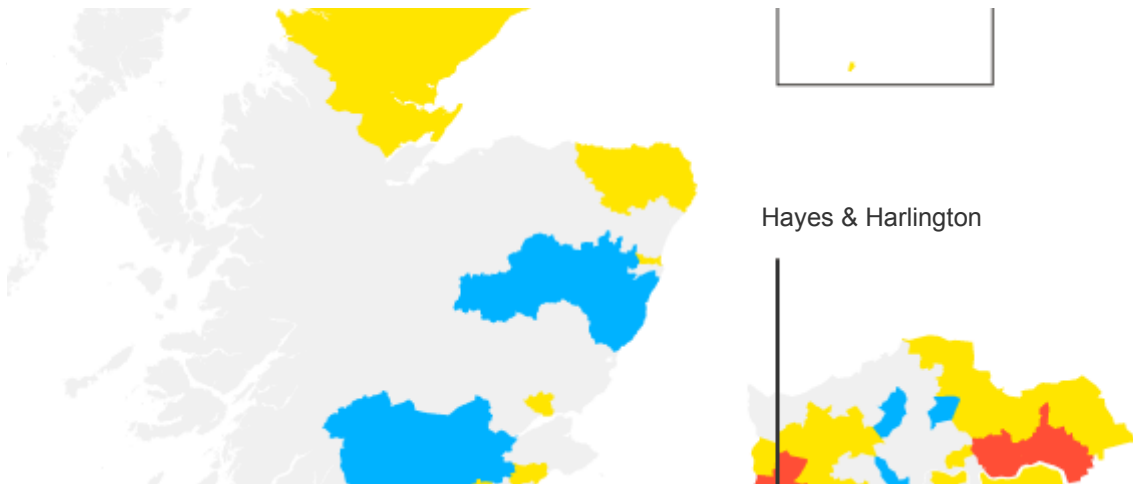
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Point change between 2016 and 2018







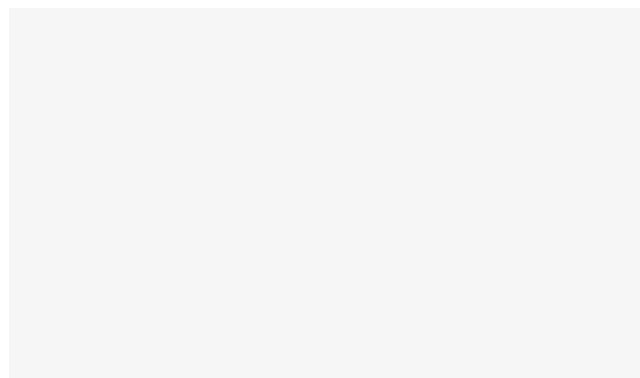
The Birkenhead constituency of Leave-supporting Labour MP Frank Field now has a 58% majority in favour of remain. Photograph: Anthony Devlin/PA

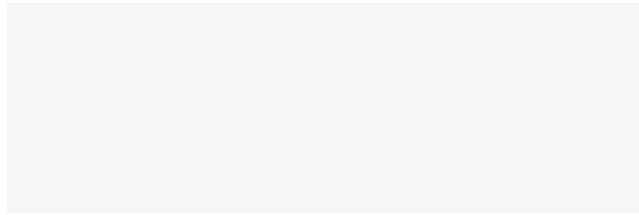
The seats of three pro-Leave Labour MPs switched to Remain. Birkenhead, Frank Field's constituency, now has a 58.4% majority in favour of Remain. Graham Stringer's Blackley and Broughton constituency now has a 59% in favour of Remain. Kelvin Hopkins's Luton North seat now has 53.1% backing Remain.

The doubts among Labour Leave voters have been accompanied by a less dramatic hardening of Brexit support among Tory voters. While no constituencies saw a switch from Remain to Leave, support for Brexit went up in some constituencies.

Of the seats that have switched to Remain since the referendum, some of the most dramatic swings have taken place in Liverpool Walton, where support for Remain has risen from 46.2% to 60.5%, Knowsley on Merseyside, where Remain has increased from 47.6% to 61%, and Swansea East, where Remain has risen from 37.9% to 50.7%.

Remain campaigners said that the findings should give more MPs the confidence to back a Brexit rethink. However, some pro-Remain MPs are still doubtful that there has been a significant shift and think a second vote would be a huge risk.





Eloise Todd, the chief executive of Best for Britain, said: “This groundbreaking research shows that Brexit is still not inevitable. People across the UK have witnessed the last two years of uncertainty with dismay and are thinking differently – 112 constituencies have switched to majorities that back staying in our current bespoke deal with the EU.

“The sands of public opinion are shifting and politicians risk falling behind. Our research shows that the deal must be put to the people. Westminster should legislate for a people’s vote on the Brexit terms, giving the public the option to stay and build our future on our current deal with the EU.”

Nick Lowles, head of Hope not Hate, said: “Our data shows a clear shift in public opinion against Brexit and people’s growing anxiety over how leaving the EU will affect themselves and their families. This cannot be ignored.

“The rate of change appears to be quickening as the realities of what Brexit would mean become more apparent and the fears of a no-deal Brexit grow, especially for Labour Leave voters who initially believed that leaving the EU would improve their economic prospects. Brexit is failing these voters and the country as a whole. Politicians need to understand that public opinion has changed.”

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