

## **CANDIDATE CHAIR'S REPORT TO REGIONAL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 2024**

2024 started with a flurry of selections in anticipation of an early General Election. Thanks to the response and huge effort from our AROs, every local party in a position to select, was able to do so.

Appointments were made to seven constituencies in our Region, and we were very fortunate to have candidates willing to step in at this late stage and to work well with those local parties.

Thanks, must also be given to South Central candidates who stepped in to stand in other Regions – some at the last minute to enable the party to field candidates everywhere!

The election date probably took many of us by surprise and backed by our regional staff and regular training and briefings from HQ the results on 4<sup>th</sup> July exceeded all expectations – going from 2 to 12 MPs in our Region!

Looking to the future, candidates, agents and local party chairs/organisers have completed a brief survey and the approved candidates list will be updated soon.

The selection rules are having an update and will be presented to English Council for agreement. Candidate assessments are also being revised.

There will be refresher training for AROs (Assistant Returning Officers) and training for AROs who wish to become full Returning Officers. The door is always open for new AROs and for members who wish to put their names forward to become approved candidates!

I would like to give huge thanks to the AROS, Returning Officers and MI Voice administrators who enabled all the selections to happen, to local party chairs, organisers and campaigners, to agents who looked after all the legalities whilst the candidates campaigned.

I am extremely grateful for the support given me by regional staff, the candidate's committee and the executive and especially to Catherine.

Finally, candidates throughout the region did a great job working so hard building up and motivating teams and supporting colleagues in target seats. The results are testament to their hard work and dedication.

Congratulations on those brilliant results!

