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SNP win in Glasgow East

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Tom Griffin (London, The Green Ribbon [1]): The SNP has tonight won the Glasgow East by-election [2] by the narrowest of margins, 365 votes, following a recount.

Underlying the narrow victory, however, was a huge swing of 22.54 per cent, which according to Professor John Curtice would leave Labour with only 1 MP if it were projected across Scotland. This is not unique in by-election terms, but what is unprecedented is that was achieved by a party that is itself an incumbent Government.

Curtice suggested that the result confirms the SNP's position as the major challenger to Labour in Scotland at the next general election.

Although the Conservatives took third place ahead of the Liberal Democrats, who continued their recent run of poor by-election results, the Tory share of the vote actually fell by one per cent.

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Links:

[1] http://tomgriffin.typepad.com/the_green_ribbon/

[2] http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7522153.stm