COMP5122M Data Science Coursework (2019-20)

Coursework Overview

This module has two related pieces of coursework. Together, the courseworks account for 50% of your final module grade. The overall objective is to assess your ability to assemble a dataset, analyse it, and present your findings. I recommend that you work as a group, and in the same group for both courseworks, but that is not essential. A group may comprise a maximum of four people.

The courseworks are about Brexit and petitions to parliament. On 23rd June 2016 the "Brexit" referendum took place in the UK. The referendum question was "Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?" and, to be eligible to vote, people had to be aged 18+ years old. The overall result was that 52% voted "leave" and 48% voted "remain". Further detail is provided in the House of Commons Library (https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/parliament-and-elections/elections-elections/brexit-votes-by-constituency/).

British citizens and UK residents may create petitions that call for specific actions from the UK Government or the House of Commons (https://petition.parliament.uk/help). If a petition gains 10,000 signatures then there will be a response from the government, and if there are 100,000 signatures then the petition will be considered for a debate in Parliament. A number of petitions about Brexit have reached one or both of those signature thresholds. For each petition, the number of signatures from each parliamentary constituency may be downloaded (https://petition.parliament.uk).

The courseworks only concern the 632 parliamentary constituencies that are in England, Scotland and Wales (https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/elections-and-voting/constituencies/). You should ignore the Northern Ireland constituencies. Further detail about the population of each constituency is available from the Office for National Statistics (https://www.ons.gov.uk/) and National Records of Scotland (https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/).

In **Coursework 1** you will produce data tables and write a report.

In **Coursework 2** you will analyse the data to answer certain questions and write a report.

Roy Ruddle, October 2019