

# Danish PM clings on despite poll drubbing

**Denmark**

**Oliver Moody**

Denmark's prime minister is expected to hold on to power despite exit polls suggesting she has led her party to its worst performance since 1903 in a snap election yesterday.

Mette Frederiksen's centre-left Social Democratic party was projected to win 19 per cent of the vote, which would make it the largest force in the country's highly fragmented political landscape and give her a range of coalition partners to choose from. However, it would mean the party had lost nearly a third of the vote share it won at the last election, four years ago.

If Frederiksen, who took office in

2019, succeeds in keeping it for another full term, she will become her country's longest-serving prime minister since the Second World War.

The brief campaign was triggered by President Trump's maximum-pressure campaign to take Greenland in January, which gave Frederiksen a minor fillip in the polls. The crisis came as a profound shock to Denmark, which had previously been one of America's most loyal allies in Europe.

Yet the episode played only a marginal role in an election that was dominated by wrangling over domestic policy, such as class sizes in primary schools, the scale of pig farms and traces of pesticide and fertiliser contaminating the water supply.