

The Electoral Commission

Adam Baxter
Ofcom
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7 December 2016

Dear Adam

Thank you for consulting with us on the latest review of Ofcom's rules on due impartiality, due accuracy, elections and referendums.

We welcome Ofcom's decision to remove the list of 'larger parties' from its rules. As we have said in previous responses on this issue, we think the existence of such a list creates an unnecessarily inflexible approach to regulating broadcasting at elections. As you indicate in your consultation, the political landscape is increasingly complex for producing a list that is suitable for all broadcasters. Allowing decisions to be made by broadcasters at each set of polls by reference to the past and/or current levels electoral support seems appropriate therefore, as does Ofcom's commitment to producing an annual digest of this information to support smaller broadcasters in reaching their decisions.

We also welcome the fact that a clear route of appeal to Ofcom will remain in place for parties and campaigners that wish to raise complaints about any decisions that are made.

Please let me know if you require any further information or would find it useful to discuss the content of this letter.

Regards



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