



Ofcom list of major parties

Publication date:

3 March 2014

Ofcom list of major parties

1. This document sets out the definition of “major parties” as applies to Section Six of the Ofcom Broadcasting Code¹ and the Ofcom rules on Party Political and Referendum Broadcast².
2. Ofcom will periodically review the definition of “major parties”, taking account of relevant evidence, such as changes in the electoral landscape, across a range of elections.
3. At present in Great Britain, major parties are defined as: the Conservative Party; the Labour Party; and the Liberal Democrats.
4. In addition, major parties in Scotland and Wales respectively are the Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru.
5. The major parties in Northern Ireland are: the Alliance Party; the Democratic Unionist Party; Sinn Fein; the Social Democratic and Labour Party; and the Ulster Unionist Party.
6. In addition to the above, in England and Wales the major parties for the purposes of the European Parliamentary elections taking place on 22 May 2014 includes the United Kingdom Independence Party.

¹ See <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/broadcasting/broadcast-codes/broadcast-code/elections/>

² See <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/broadcast/guidance/ppbrules.pdf>