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20 January 2016

Dear Adam

Thank you for consulting with us on the review of Ofcom's list of larger political parties for the numerous elections taking place across the UK on 5 May 2016.

As noted in our correspondence in previous years, we welcome Ofcom's review of the list. We remain of the view that, whilst the list remains in its current form, it should be reviewed in advance of every set of major elections to ensure that the particular circumstances of each are considered.

We welcome the change in terminology to 'larger', as opposed to 'major', parties, although as we have said previously we think the existence of the list itself creates an unnecessarily inflexible approach to regulating broadcasting at elections. We therefore welcome your suggestion that Ofcom plans to consider this issue after the elections in May and would welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss your plans.

With regard to the criteria used by Ofcom to develop the list, which is the main focus of the consultation, we believe it identifies the relevant factors that need to be taken into account. We have not, as with previous consultations on major party lists, taken a view on how the criteria have been applied.

I would be happy to meet and discuss this response if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely



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