

Introduction:

Plaid Cymru asserts that it is essential that the electorate in Wales is presented with an accurate reflection of the democratic choices facing them on polling day. Media coverage should reflect the political realities in each of the nations of the UK. It would be wrong for output to be skewed to allow the political context of the most populated nation to dominate coverage almost entirely.

Question 1:

You ask whether there is any other relevant evidence that Ofcom should take into account for the purposes of the 2015 review of the list of major parties.

It is widely believed that the outcome of the 2015 election is likely to be one of no overall control (<https://yougov.co.uk/news/2014/09/29/ukip-snp-and-risks-parliamentary-paralysis/>). In this context there is a very real possibility that Plaid Cymru, alongside parties like the SNP and Green party, will be in the position of holding the balance of power. It is therefore right that viewers in all parts of the UK should have the opportunity to understand and scrutinise our policies and our proposed platform in the eventuality of a hung parliament. Furthermore, this scenario will of course mean that Plaid Cymru's policies will be of significant relevance to voters across the UK as a whole.

In your consultation document you take note of recent UKIP by-election successes. However there is no mention of the only major by-election to have taken place in Wales since 2010, which was the Ynys Mon Assembly by-election in 2013. Due to the irregularity of opinion polling in Wales I would suggest that it is particularly important to take this into account. Plaid Cymru won this by-election with a majority of 9,166 taking 58.2% of the vote.

Question 2:

It is quite clear right that Plaid Cymru should retain its status as a major party. As you have noted the party has demonstrated significant past electoral support in both UK and Welsh general elections, and Wales-only opinion polls indicate significant levels of current support. In addition to this, as I have referred to above, Plaid Cymru achieved a very significant share of the vote in the only significant Welsh by-election since 2010 and there is a strong possibility of being in the position of holding the balance of power in a hung parliament.

Plaid Cymru will not be commenting on the inclusion or exclusion of other parties in the major parties list.

Question 3:

We agree with the proposed amendment to Rule 9 of the PPRB Rules Procedures outlined in paragraph 3.7.