

## Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your e-mail of 3 July 2017 in which you requested information about the allocation of Party Election Broadcasts (“PEBs”). We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You referred to a table produced by Ofcom illustrating the number of PEBs for the 2015 General Election, and requested similar statistics for the for 2001, 2005, and 2010 General Elections.

Under Ofcom’s rules<sup>[1]</sup>, registered parties are entitled to at least one PEB by the relevant broadcasters. Parties may be considered for additional PEBs by broadcasters based on evidence of their past electoral support and/or current support at a particular election as appropriate.

The table you referred to for 2015 shows the number of PEBs shown on ITV, STV and UTV ahead of the 2015 General Election, alongside the minimum number of party election broadcasts required by Ofcom’s rules. Ofcom obtained the data on the number of PEBs shown directly from the broadcasters, and we do not hold similar information for previous elections. However, the Broadcasters Liaison Group website lists details of historic allocations here:

<http://www.broadcastersliaisongroup.org.uk/timetables-and-allocations>

Although the historic allocations tables mostly refer to broadcasts by the BBC, these patterns would be largely representative of the other relevant broadcasters.

### Timing

If you wish to exercise your right to an internal review you should contact us within two months of the date of this letter. There is no statutory deadline for undertaking internal reviews and it will depend upon the complexity of the case. However, we aim to conclude all such reviews within 20 working days, and up to 40 working days in exceptional cases. We will keep you informed of the progress of any such review. If you wish to request an internal review, you should contact:

Steve Gettings  
The Secretary to the Corporation  
Ofcom  
Riverside House  
2a Southwark Bridge Road  
London SE1 9HA

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner’s Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

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[1] See: [https://www.ofcom.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0035/99188/pprb-rules-march-2017.pdf](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0035/99188/pprb-rules-march-2017.pdf)

