



By Email and Post

Graham Howell
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA
Graham.Howell@ofcom.org.uk

Dear Graham,

Review of Ofcom list of major political parties

Ofcom is consulting on proposals relating to the list of major parties for the 2014 European Parliamentary elections in England, Wales and Scotland ('the European Elections'). Ofcom has put forward two different methodologies for analysing evidence of past and current electoral support, and a further method combining both.

The outcome of all three methodologies is that the UK Independence Party ('UKIP') is added to the list of major parties in respect of the European Elections, albeit excluding Scotland under one methodology.

As a commercial news broadcaster, Sky News makes no comment on which methodology ought to be used or the outcome in respect of the European Elections. The key issue for Sky News as a broadcaster, is adequate certainty as to its coverage of the May 2014 elections, and in relation the General Election in 2015. It is essential that the list is settled well in advance of the official 'election period'. Ofcom's current review is therefore timely, however, it is as important to have certainty in planning future coverage.

Ofcom ought to state now whether and when it expects to review the list prior to the 2015 elections. It should also acknowledge in its statement that the timing of any further changes may impact on the manner in which broadcasters' give 'due weight' to any additional 'major party'.

Should Ofcom's preliminary view regarding the list of major parties change from that set out in the consultation, Sky News would expect there to be a further opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely,

John Ryley
Head of Sky News
British Sky Broadcasting