

Professor Ivor Gaber

Response:

Your details

- Full name: Professor Ivor Gaber
- Representing: Individual
- Organisation (Optional): Department of Media and Film, University of Sussex
- Confirmation: I confirm that the correspondence supplied with this form is a formal consultation response. It can be published in full on Ofcom's website, unless otherwise specified below, and I authorise Ofcom to make use of the information in this response to meet its legal requirements.

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Your response

- Question 1: Do you agree with Ofcom's proposal to remove the list of larger parties from Section Six of the Code and the PPRB Rules? Give reasons for your answer.: I do. These rules were introduced at a time when there was far less electoral volatility than at present. It was also a time when there were not the differences in the spread of electoral support between England, Scotland and Wales as there now is. Hence, there is a much greater need for allowing the broadcasters flexibility in allocating broadcasts to parties. However, it is important the the right of parties to appeal decisions is retained.
- Question 2: Do you agree with the proposal laid out in paragraph 3.30 that Ofcom produce an annual digest of electoral support? Give reasons for I agree. Such a digest would provide both the parties and the public with a better understanding as to why decisions had been taken in the past and enable them to anticipate

your answer.:

how broadcasts might be allocated in the immediate future.

- Question 3: Do you agree with the proposed amendments to Section Six set out in Annex 5 a) in relation to larger parties and b) to include BBC broadcasting services and BBC ODPS? Give reasons for your answer.:

I do. It is crucial that all PSB news providers are seen to be operating to a common standard, both in terms of equity and to secure and retain public confidence in PSB news services.

- Question 4: Do you agree with the proposed amendments to the PPRB Rules set out in Annex 4 a) in relation to larger parties and b) to include BBC broadcasting services? Give reasons for your answer.:

I agree for the reasons given in my answer to Question 3.

- Question 5: Do you have any comments on Ofcom's proposed amendments set out in Annex 5 for the purpose of regulating BBC broadcasting services and BBC ODPS in the area of due impartiality and due accuracy?:

In view of the controversy over claims made by both sides in the Euro Referendum I would like to suggest the following addition to the Impartiality code, applicable to all PSB news providers: 1.9 In accordance with a broadcaster's right to freedom of expression... e.g. statistical findings or ambiguous statements made by politicians. ADD Broadcasters should use information supplied by recognised fact-checking organisations (such as those used by the BBC and Channel Four News) to contextualise the competing claims made. . 1.10 Rule 5.1 is potentially applicable to any topic included in news programming... There is no requirement on broadcasters to provide an alternative viewpoint in all news stories or all issues in the news. ADD This applies in particular where authoritatively sourced information is contested by information gleaned from untested sources.