

BBC

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.

The BBC supports Ofcom's proposed amendments to Section Six (elections and referendums) of the Code and Ofcom's PPRB Rules to remove the concept of the list of larger parties. Specifically, with regard to the following paragraph:

3.23 We consider there are strong arguments for removing the list of larger parties and replacing it with a general requirement to base editorial decisions in relation to election coverage and PEB allocation on evidence of past electoral support and/or current support.

As the consultation document sets out, the BBC has made these judgements on an annual basis with reference to past and current electoral support. This allows greater flexibility with regard to the diversity of the current political landscape.

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 your answer.

Similarly, the BBC supports the proposal for Ofcom to produce an annual digest of evidence of past electoral support and/or current support ahead of each set of elections that take place in May. This is also in line with the BBC's existing practice.

Questions 3&4:

We agree with the proposed amendments.