

## BASIC DETAILS

Consultation title:

**Ofcom's rules on due impartiality, due accuracy, elections and referendums: 1) A proposal to remove the list of larger parties 2) Proposed changes to apply the rules to the BBC**

To (Ofcom contact): Adam Baxter

Name of respondent: Jonathan Turner

Representing (self or organisation/s): UK Lawyers for Israel

Address (if not received by email):

## CONFIDENTIALITY

What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?

Nothing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name/contact details/job title	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whole response	<input type="checkbox"/>	Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part of the response	<input type="checkbox"/>	If there is no separate annex, which parts?	

If you want part of your response, your name or your organisation to be confidential, can Ofcom still publish a reference to the contents of your response (including, for any confidential parts, a general summary that does not disclose the specific information or enable you to be identified)?

## DECLARATION

I confirm that the correspondence supplied with this cover sheet is a formal consultation response. It can be published in full on Ofcom's website, unless otherwise specified on this cover sheet, and I authorise Ofcom to make use of the information in this response to meet its legal requirements. If I have sent my response by email, Ofcom can disregard any standard e-mail text about not disclosing email contents and attachments.

Ofcom seeks to publish responses on receipt. If your response is non-confidential (in whole or in part), and you would prefer us to publish your response only once the consultation has ended, please tick here.

Name Jonathan Turner

Signed (if hard copy)



## Question 5

As the Code observes, the import of the qualification “due” depends on the context, including the nature of the subject, the type of programme, the channel and the likely audience expectation. In our view the Code and/or Guidance Notes should point out that a high standard is expected of the BBC in view of its public funding through the licence fee and its status as a public broadcasting service.

In addition, we consider that the Code and/or Guidance Notes should indicate that all broadcasters must exercise particular care to achieve due accuracy and due impartiality in relation to subjects where (a) coverage that is not accurate and impartial may promote racism and/or (b) sources of information may be unreliable.

We note with concern that under the draft Framework Agreement as it currently stands, Ofcom will not consider complaints of inaccuracy of BBC content other than news, for example documentaries dealing with controversial subjects. We regard this as a serious failing and a breach of promises made by the Government in the White Paper and in correspondence. We have written to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, proposing an amendment to the draft Framework Agreement and asking her to address this issue as a matter of urgency. If an amendment is made as we have proposed, some further amendments will be required to the Ofcom code.