

Reference: 01491951

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11 August 2022

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information asking about coverage of English political parties on media outlets. We received this request on 05 August 2022 and have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the “FOI Act”).

Your request

You asked:

Please confirm whether or not there are any ENGLISH (Not BRITISH!) Political Parties (recognized by the electoral commission) or any political figure in public life who specifically promotes English Culture; English Laws and Customs; Voiding the Act of Union and/or English Independence that are subject to any restriction preventing their views being aired by any of the media outlets that are bound by Ofcom. Please include full details in your reply, including the authority for such action.

Our response

Consistent with the right to the broadcaster’s right to freedom of expression and the audience’s right to receive information and ideas, no political parties registered with the Electoral Commission are subject to restriction by Ofcom that prevents their views being aired by any of the media outlets that we regulate. How individual broadcasters cover different parties in their output is an editorial matter, subject to the broadcasters complying with our rules. In particular, the [Ofcom Broadcasting Code](#) sets rules on due impartiality in news and current affairs content, and around times of elections, as outlined in Sections Five and Six of the Code, as well as rules relating to issues of harm and offence. Additionally party election broadcasts (during election periods) and party political broadcasts (outside of election periods) may be allocated by the relevant broadcasters to any party

registered by the Electoral Commission that qualify according to criteria as set out in our rules on [Party Political and Referendum Broadcasts](#).

If you have any queries, then please contact information.requests@ofcom.org.uk. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Katherine Childs

If you are unhappy with the response you have received in relation to your request for information and/or consider that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law you may ask for an internal review. If you ask us for an internal review of our decision, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom.

The following outcomes are possible:

- the original decision is upheld; or
- the original decision is reversed or modified.

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 responding to 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 information.requests@ofcom.org.uk.

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. Further information about this, and the internal review process can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office [here](#).

Alternatively, the Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF