



Election Guidelines

Election Campaigns for: - the European Parliament across the UK

- Local Government in England

Polling Day: 4th June 2009

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1.1 The Election Period and when the Guidelines come into effect

The election period as defined by Parliament will begin on April 28th, twenty five working days before polling day on June 4th. Nominations close on May 7th.

These guidelines come into effect from: 0001 on April 28th

and continue until the close of polls at 2200 on June 4th

However, election campaigning is likely to begin before the formal election period and programme makers should be sensitive to the need for care in the period between now and then. Advice is available from the Chief Adviser, Politics.

1.2 Which Elections: June 4th 2009

The elections to the European Parliament will be fought on a proportional representation system. The number of seats at stake in the UK has been reduced, since the last election in 2004, from 78 to 72:

- England is divided into 9 electoral regions of varying sizes which will elect between 3 and 10 candidates each - a total of 59 seats (5 fewer than 2004).
- Scotland is a single electoral area electing 6 candidates (1 fewer than 2004).
- Wales is a single electoral area electing 4 candidates (no change).

For detailed guidelines on the European Election in Great Britain, see [Appendix A](#).

- Northern Ireland is a single electoral area electing 3 candidates (no change).

For detailed guidelines on the European Election in Northern Ireland, see [Appendix B](#).

Local Government Elections in England will be fought in approximately 2300 seats in: (for details, see [Political Research Unit](#))

- 27 county councils electing 1929 of their members
- 7 unitary authorities electing 387 of their members.

For detailed guidelines on Local Elections in England, see [Appendix C](#).

1.3 The Guidelines

There is no area of broadcasting where the BBC's commitment to impartiality is more closely scrutinised than in reporting election campaigns.

These Guidelines are intended to offer a framework within which journalists:

- can operate in as free and creative an environment as possible,
- deliver to audiences impartial reporting of the campaign, giving them fair coverage and rigorous scrutiny of the policies and campaigns of all parties.

The BBC is legally obliged to adopt a code of practice for "the participation of candidates in the...election in items about the electoral area in question... during the election period". This obligation is fulfilled by Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of these Guidelines.

The BBC is also required, under the terms of its Charter and the accompanying Agreement of 2006 to ensure that political issues are covered with due accuracy and impartiality. These Election Guidelines supplement the Editorial Guidelines (Chapter 4, "[Impartiality and Diversity](#)" and Chapter 10, "[Politics and Public Policy](#)"). They should, in particular, be read in conjunction with the sections in Chapter 10 on "[Reporting UK Election Campaigns](#)" and "[Broadcasting During Elections](#)", which says we must ensure that:

- news judgements continue to drive editorial decision making in news based programmes.
- news judgements at election time are made within a **framework of democratic debate** which ensures that due weight is given to hearing the views and examining and challenging the policies of all parties.

The Guidelines are publicly available and the BBC can expect to be held accountable for their implementation during the campaign.

1.4 Who the Guidelines apply to

It is the responsibility of each editor to ensure that programme teams are aware of how the Guidelines affect their output.

The appendices to these Guidelines set out specific guidance in relation to the different elections.

Each programme, strand or channel must bear in mind the intended location of its audience in applying these Guidelines.

For those whose intended audience is across the UK, all of these Guidelines, and all Appendices, will apply.

The Guidelines will apply to any broadcast within the UK covering any aspect of the European elections, including those outside the UK.

International services broadcasting in Europe should also be aware of legal obligations in covering elections outside the UK. (See "[Reporting Overseas Elections](#)", [Editorial Guidelines Chapter 10](#)).

Any programme which does not usually cover political subjects or normally invite politicians to participate, should consult the Chief Adviser, Politics, before finalising any plans to do so.

All editorial content online must comply with the Guidelines on balance, use of candidates etc. which apply to television and radio programmes.

2.1 Overall balance of the parties

Each bulletin, programme or programme strand, as well as online and interactive services, covering each election, must achieve a proportionate and fair balance over an appropriate period, normally across a week, taking into account levels of past and current electoral support.

Balance must be achieved within categories:

- clips
- interviews/discussions of up to 10minutes
- longer form programmes

Previous electoral support in equivalent elections is a starting point for making judgements about the proportionate levels of coverage between parties (see [Appendices](#)), as is the number of candidates a party is fielding.

However, other factors can be taken into account where appropriate, including evidence of variation in levels of support in more recent elections, changed political circumstances (e.g. new parties, or party splits) as well as other evidence of current support.

2.2 Coverage of the parties

- Daily news magazine programmes (in the nations, regions and UK wide) should normally achieve an appropriate and fair balance in the course of each week of the campaign.
- This means that each strand (e.g. a drive time show on radio) is responsible for reaching its own targets within the week and cannot rely on other outlets at different times of day (e.g. the breakfast show) to do so for it. This does not preclude programmes, in specific

circumstances, from co-operating to organise joint coverage, achieving balance between them. But such an arrangement needs clear sign-posting and should normally be referred to the Chief Adviser, Politics.

- Single programmes should avoid individual editions getting badly out of kilter. There may be days when inevitably one party dominates the news agenda, e.g. when party manifestos are launched, but in that case care must be taken to ensure that appropriate coverage is given to other manifesto launches on the relevant days.
- The News Channel and television and radio summaries will divide the 24 hour day into blocks and aim to achieve balance across a week in each one.
- Weekly programmes, or running series within daily sequence programmes, which focus on one party or another, should trail both forward and backwards so that it is clear to the audience that balance is built in over time. In these instances, balance should be achieved over the course of the campaign.
- Any programme or content giving coverage to any of the elections must achieve appropriate balance overall between parties during the course of the whole campaign.

In all elections, the BBC must take care to prevent candidates being given unfair advantage, for instance, where a candidate's name is featured through depicting posters or rosettes etc.

Anyone who is in doubt as to how this applies to their own programme should contact the Chief Adviser, Politics, for advice.

2.3 Coverage of other political issues, other Parliaments, Assemblies and Councils in the UK during the Election Period.

The elections do not happen in isolation and many elements of non-election related politics will continue during the Election Period. Programme-makers need to comply with the general requirement of due accuracy and due impartiality and be aware of the possible influence of other political coverage on the election campaigns. However, normal coverage of politics should continue, albeit with increased sensitivity, ensuring that levels of coverage for each party are fair and appropriate.

This also applies to all Parliamentary reportage during the campaign, including from Westminster, the Scottish Parliament and the Assemblies in Wales and Northern Ireland, which should continue to be covered in the normal way. Any issues relating to local government in England, or matters within the competence of the European Parliament, which are discussed in the parliaments or assemblies, must be reported with care to avoid imbalance.

These bodies will be sitting during the elections and the UK government will continue with normal business. Council business will also continue during the election period. Programmes need to bear in mind which issues are within the remit of the different bodies and ensure it is clear to the audience when stories have a bearing on an election. They also should be alert to other party politicians who are not involved directly in the elections, including Westminster Ministers and shadow Ministers, intervening in issues relevant to any of the elections and ensure that appropriate balance is maintained.

Where there are other major news stories, special care is needed to ensure that any political coverage is comprehensive, but also reflects the fact that we are in an election period. How this is achieved will depend on the particular circumstances of each case. For example, where there are major stories which fall outside the competence of the bodies holding elections, due impartiality may be achieved by giving additional time to cross-examine those most closely involved, to report fully statements that tell us what is happening, and, on occasion, to reflect vigorous internal debates within parties on such issues.

3.1 Reports on specific Electoral Areas (Regions or Wards)

There is no longer any legal distinction for us between the period before close of nominations and the period after it. References are now solely to the “Election Period” – there is no longer a “pending period”.

Candidates or parties withholding their consent from regional/ward reports or debates cannot effectively exercise a veto over all other candidates.

However, this does not weaken in any way the BBC’s obligations to fairness in ensuring the audience is informed of all main strands of argument:

Reports or debates about a specific electoral area, such as a council ward or a European region as a whole, should give due weight to candidates of parties which have demonstrated substantial support in that area (see [Appendices](#)). This means that if any candidate takes part in an item about a specific electoral area, then a candidate from each of those parties should also be offered the opportunity to take part.

The choice of candidate to represent a party will be made on editorial grounds, but care must be taken over the course of the campaign to ensure that one candidate is not unduly favoured at the expense of others or that a party spokesperson does not gain disproportionate coverage at the expense of candidates from other parties.

Regional/ward reports or debates should also include some participation from candidates representing any other parties or independents with either previous significant electoral support, or with evidence of significant current support in that region/ward.

Programmes may decide to use either candidates or party representatives. But if a candidate from one of the parties is invited to take part, the other participants should, where at all possible, also be candidates (see below [3.2a Welsh Language Services](#)). In exceptional circumstances, if a candidate is genuinely unavailable, the opportunity may be offered instead to a suitable party representative from within the electoral area (e.g. party official or agent) but it should normally be made clear to the audience that the missing candidate was invited and why they were unable to take part. If a party declines to put forward any representative the item/programme will go ahead without them.

Full-length reports (e.g. 3 or 4 minute packages) about specific electoral areas should refer – as a minimum - to an online list of all candidates and parties standing. If such a report is being broadcast several times on the same channel in a day, the online list of candidates should be referred to on each occasion and at least once the list should feature visually or verbally. For longer items, especially where only major candidates are receiving significant coverage, such as debates – or, where there is no online list available for the relevant electoral area - then the candidates should be listed, visually or verbally.

Before the close of nominations (May 7th) reports referring to the list of candidates should make it clear that these are “known candidates so far.”

3.2 Use of Candidates in issue based packages

Programmes are now able to use candidates more freely to discuss local or regional issues or national issues across a number of regions or councils. But there remains a responsibility to be fair between the parties and between candidates.

In order to achieve fairness across the board, when programmes decide to use a candidate in a package or debate, the other participants should, where at all possible, also be candidates in that election. (see [3.2a Welsh Language Services](#), below). Candidates do not have to be from the same region or ward. In local issue round-table debates – including where all the participants are candidates – reasonable references, for instance, to local hospitals, schools, etc, are allowed.

However, if a candidate is being interviewed as a national spokesperson, we should not allow them to gain an unfair advantage over their local opponents by making repeated references to their own area. This can best be achieved by politely advising them in advance of our policy on this, editing out such references if pre-recorded and swift intervention by the interviewer, if live.

Callers to phone-ins must be checked to see if they are candidates. They can be encouraged to contribute, but the audience must be clear that they are speaking not as ordinary members of the public but as contributors with a stated political agenda. Care must be taken that over time programmes are

not giving undue prominence to one party or undue preference to one candidate over another.

The aim of all these guidelines is to encourage vigorous debate and a higher profile to candidates of all parties in general without giving unfair advantage to one candidate over another.

Further advice on use of candidates can be sought from the Chief Adviser, Politics.

3.2a Welsh Language Services

Some politicians in Wales are not Welsh language speakers. In the event that a party is unable to find a Welsh speaker, Radio Cymru and BBC Wales programmes for S4C may do items which draw on both candidates and other party representatives.

3.3 Order of Parties

The order in which parties appear in packages or are introduced in discussions should normally be editorially driven. However, programme makers should take care to ensure they vary this order, where appropriate, so that no fixed pattern emerges in the course of the campaign.

3.4 Items which may not require balance

Not every appearance by a politician may have to be balanced during the course of the election campaign. Exceptionally, for example, comment on a personal tragedy or a public disaster, an eye witness account of a news incident, may not require balance from other parties or candidates, especially where to do so might appear insensitive or risk the appearance of a media circus. Advice on such instances should always be sought from a senior line manager and the Chief Adviser, Politics.

4.1 BBC Online

The same guidelines as those for programmes will apply to BBC Editorial content on all bbc.co.uk sites. These will apply to audio and video content as well as text content, e.g. blogs, podcasts and downloads.

With user generated content, we will not seek to achieve artificial balance by distorting the weight of opinion, but all sites prompting debate on the election will be actively hosted and properly moderated to encourage a wide range of views. Sites which do not usually engage in political issues should seek advice from the Chief Adviser, Politics, before doing so.

There is no certain solution to the problem of organised lobbying. However, all sites will be alert to the danger of distortion caused by organised campaigning and the bbc.co.uk escalation strategy will be activated immediately if necessary. For example, it may be necessary to put a board into premoderation or read-only mode.

There will be no online votes attempting to quantify support for a party, politician or policy issue during the election period.

Non news websites will direct users who want to discuss the election in forums, message boards and blog comments, to a handful of specific sites which will be premoderated or postmoderated within an hour of being published.

Journalists and moderators will have to make fine judgements between remarks that constitute robust debate and personal abuse. The general rule of thumb should be if we would not broadcast it on radio or TV, it should not be online. Filters for harm and offence and personal abuse will operate as usual, but they should not be relied on as a substitute for effective moderation.

BBC News Online and Regional sites will list links to all available party sites, provided that it does not give strong grounds for concern that this breaches the BBC harm and offence guidelines or the law e.g. defamation or incitement to racial hatred.

News Online will not link to the sites of individual candidates, unless there is a very strong editorial justification on news grounds and then only for a limited period (e.g. a big row because major player publishes policy on his/her website which contradicts manifesto on their party's website).

Any speeches which are carried in full will be selected on news value, bearing in mind the need for balance between the parties.

5.1 Opinion Polls

Section 5 of the Election Guidelines should, where appropriate, be read in conjunction with [Chapter 10](#) of Editorial Guidelines and the Editorial Policy Guidance "[Opinion Polls, Surveys, Questionnaires, Votes, Straw Polls](#)", published in February 2008 and available on the Editorial Policy website.

5.2 Reporting Polls

During the campaign our policy takes into account three key factors:

- that polls should not be ignored during the campaign. They are part of the story and audiences should be informed about them;
- but, context is essential, and so is the language used in reporting them;

- polls can be wrong. There are real dangers in only reporting the most “newsworthy” polls – i.e. those which, on a one-off basis, show dramatic movement.

So, the general rules and guidance about reporting polls need to be scrupulously followed. They are:

- not to lead a news bulletin or programme simply with the results of a voting intention poll;
- not to headline the results of a voting intention poll unless it has prompted a story which itself deserves a headline and reference to the poll's findings is necessary to make sense of it;
- not to rely on the interpretation given to a poll's results by the organisation or publication which commissioned it: look at the questions, the results and the trend;
- to report the findings of voting intentions polls in the context of trend. The trend may consist of the results of all major polls over a period or may be limited to the change in a single pollster's findings. Poll results which defy trends without convincing explanation should be treated with particular scepticism and caution;
- not to use language which gives greater credibility to the polls than they deserve: polls “suggest” but never “prove” or even “show”;
- to report the expected margin of error if the gap between the contenders is within the margin. On television and online, graphics should *always* show the margin of error;
- to report the organisation which carried out the poll and the organisation or publication which commissioned it;
- take particular care with newspaper reviews. Polls should not be the lead item in a newspaper review and should always be reported with a sentence of context (e.g: “that's rather out of line with other polls this week”).

5.3 Commissioning Polls

The BBC does not commission voting intention opinion polls during election periods. Editorial Guidelines say “any proposal to commission an opinion poll on politics or any other matter of public policy for any BBC service must be referred to the Chief Adviser Politics for approval”. Care must be taken to ensure that any poll commissioned by the BBC is not used to suggest a BBC view on a particular policy or issue. It is particularly important that a poll is not used to imply BBC intervention in a current controversy.

No opinion poll may be published on polling day, or - for the European election - until all the polls have closed across the European Union.

5.4 Vox Pops

The value of vox pops to programmes is to allow different sides of an issue in question to be expressed through the voices of the man and woman in the street. But the context should always make it clear that they are an expression of an argument, not an indication of the weight of opinion on either side. It follows that special care must be taken with vox pops during an election campaign to edit them in such a way as to ensure different sides of the issue are covered.

5.5 Emails

The same principle applies to all e-mails we broadcast. E-mails offer immediacy and interactivity to many programmes, but they too are an expression of opinion, not an indication of the weight of opinion on one side or the other of a question. What matters is the balance of what we broadcast, not the balance of those we receive.

Programme makers should be particularly alert to organised e-mail campaigns by parties and pressure groups. If mass mailings are suspected during the Election Period, e-mail contributors may be asked to include their address and telephone number so that checks can be run purely for that purpose.

During the Election Period, we will not broadcast numbers of e-mails received on either side of any issue connected to the campaign.

5.6 SMS/Text Messaging

Similarly, programme-makers should be as rigorous about establishing the origins of material derived from text messages as they are about material from other sources. We should carefully scrutinize texts before using them.

Essentially, this is no different from a phone-in programme. Just as with a phone in, producers must take appropriate steps to ensure veracity of the message e.g. if a text message is received that appears to be from a person in the public eye, the programme should check the source before publishing it on air/online. Checks could include calling/texting the user back to ask for further verification.

If the programme decides to edit a text message for length, care should be taken to ensure the sender's opinion is still fairly and accurately presented. Producers must ensure that text votes are not translated into anything that could be construed either as a representation of public opinion as a whole, or the BBC's opinion. Any proposal to conduct text voting on any political issue

that could have a bearing on any of the elections should be discussed with the Chief Adviser, Politics. As with conventional polls the BBC will not conduct SMS/text votes on voting intention.

5.7 Audience Programmes

All programmes covering elections and planning studio audiences should consult the Chief Political Adviser to discuss how they plan to select the audience and to achieve an appropriate balance. All such procedures must stand up to public scrutiny.

6.1 Party Leader Interviews

With the exception of brief newsgathering interviews gathered on news value on the day, all bids for party leader interviews must be referred to the Chief Political Adviser before parties are approached. Unsolicited offers should not be accepted without consultation with senior managers and a reference to the Chief Political Adviser.

7.1 Polling Day

There will be no coverage of any of the election campaigns on polling day, June 4th, from 6am until polls close at 10pm on TV, radio or bbc.co.uk. However, online sites will not have to remove archive reports. Coverage will be restricted to factual accounts with nothing which could be construed as influencing the ballots.

Whilst the polls are open, it is a criminal offence to broadcast anything about the way in which people have voted in that election.

Anyone requiring further advice on the application of these guidelines should consult the Chief Adviser Politics.

Ric Bailey
Chief Adviser, Politics

APPENDIX A**European Parliamentary Elections in Great Britain 2009:
England, Scotland and Wales.****Ai Party Coverage**

The level of coverage given to political parties in each electoral area should reflect levels of past and/or current electoral support. In considering this, the following factors should be taken into account:

- their performance at the last equivalent election (i.e. the 2004 European election) in terms of representation and share of the vote.
- their performance in subsequent elections, where relevant
- other evidence of current electoral support
- the number of candidates they are fielding in the election

Aii Past Results

These are the results for the leading parties at the 2004 European election in different electoral areas: (see [Appendix D](#) for more detailed results)

England - 2004 European Election

Party	Seats	% of the Vote
Conservative	24	27.9
Labour	15	21.7
UKIP	12	17.3
Lib Dem	11	15.3
Green	2	6.4
BNP	0	5.3
Respect	0	1.6

(All other parties below 1%)

Scotland – 2004 European Election

Party	Seats	% of the Vote
Labour	2	26.4
SNP	2	19.7
Conservatives	2	17.8
Lib Dem	1	13.1
Scottish Greens	0	6.8
UKIP	0	6.7
Scottish Socialist	0	5.2
Op Christian Vote	0	1.8
BNP	0	1.7

(All other parties below 1%)

Wales - 2004 European Election

Party	Seats	% of the Vote
Labour	2	32.5
Conservatives	1	19.4
Plaid	1	17.4
UKIP	0	10.5
Lib Dem	0	10.5
Green	0	3.6
BNP	0	3.0
Forward Wales	0	1.9

(All other parties below 1%)

Great Britain - 2004 European Election

(England, Scotland, Wales – combined)

Party	Seats	% of the Vote
Conservative	27	26.7
Labour	19	22.6
UKIP	12	16.2
Lib Dem	12	14.9
Green	2	6.2
SNP	2	1.4
Plaid	1	1.0
BNP	0	4.9

Aiii Party Coverage for broadcasts across the UK:

Parties which gained substantial representation at the last European election are:

- Labour, Conservative, Lib Dems and UKIP.

Where coverage relates purely to the European Election or matters decided in the European Parliament, these parties will receive similar levels of coverage.

The Green Party of England and Wales won significant support and representation and should receive some coverage, proportionate to the four leading parties.

UK-wide programmes must ensure that, where either SNP or Plaid Cymru or both have distinctive policies on matters decided in the European Parliament these parties are featured in a substantial number of items on such matters in which the UK-wide parties take part. This should not preclude network programmes using SNP and Plaid Cymru spokespeople on other major election news stories.

All parties which are standing a full slate of candidates (ie as many candidates as there are seats available) in one or more of the nations of Great Britain will have – as a minimum – their manifesto launch (or equivalent event) covered on appropriate network TV and radio news and current affairs programmes.

All parties which are standing candidates, as well as serious independent candidates, will, where appropriate and possible, have their manifesto launches (or some equivalent event) covered online.

Aiv For BBC Scotland:

The main parties in Scotland are Labour, SNP, Conservatives and Lib Dems.

These parties will receive similar levels of coverage.

Other parties fielding a full slate of candidates in Scotland (i.e. 6) will have – as a minimum – their manifesto launch (or equivalent event) covered on appropriate TV and radio news and current affairs programmes.

Parties not standing a complete list of candidates, but which are running serious campaigns, should also receive coverage at some stage in the campaign, as should serious independent candidates.

Av For BBC Wales:

The main parties in Wales are Labour, Conservative, Plaid Cymru and Lib Dems.

These parties will receive similar levels of coverage.

Other parties fielding a full slate of candidates in Wales (i.e. 4) will have – as a minimum – their manifesto launch (or equivalent event) covered on appropriate TV and radio news and current affairs programmes.

Parties not standing a complete list of candidates, but which are running serious campaigns, should also receive coverage at some stage in the campaign, as should serious independent candidates.

Avi For English Regions and Local Radio:

There were some variations in voting patterns and representation across the nine European Parliamentary regions in England at the 2004 European elections. In their own areas, regional and local programmes should take account of those differing levels of support in the way they cover issues relating to the European election. (see [Appendix D](#) for regional breakdown in 2004)

For each party standing a complete list of candidates in their region, as a minimum, each English Region should carry at least two TV items during the campaign - either separate pieces or as part of a longer package. At least one of these series of items should be on the 6.30 programme. Parties not standing a complete list of candidates in their region, but which are running serious campaigns, should also receive coverage at some stage in the campaign, as should serious independent candidates.

Local radio stations should do at least one substantial item during each week of the campaign on each party standing a complete list of candidates in their region. Parties not standing a complete list of candidates in their region, but which are running serious campaigns, should also receive coverage at some stage in the campaign, as should serious independent candidates.

Avii Lists of candidates on BBC Online

For the European elections, BBC News Online, the Nations' and English Regions' websites (in close liaison with each other to ensure a consistent BBC wide approach) will publish a complete list of candidates in each European region, which can be referred to by programmes.

APPENDIX B**Bi European Parliamentary Election in Northern Ireland**

In the European election, Northern Ireland has a different electoral system from the rest of the UK – Single Transferable Vote. For this reason, all parties, irrespective of size and electoral support, normally field only a single candidate for the three seats available.

The level of coverage given to political parties in Northern Ireland is based on:

- their performance at the last equivalent election (i.e. the 2004 European election) in terms of representation and share of the vote
- their performance in subsequent elections
- other evidence of current electoral support.

Bii Past Election Results**Northern Ireland – 2004 European Election:****Northern Ireland**

Elected: **Jim Allister (DUP)**
Bairbre de Brun (SF)
Jim Nicholson (UUP)

Electorate: **1,072,669**

Turnout: **554,744 (51.72%)**

Party share of poll:

DUP	175,761 (32.00%)
SF	144,541 (26.31%)
UUP	91,164 (16.60%)
SDLP	87,559 (15.94%)
Ind	36,270 (6.60%)
Soc Env	9,172 (1.67%)
Green	4,810 (0.88%)

Biii Party Coverage for BBC Northern Ireland and broadcasts across the UK

This appendix to the guidelines applies primarily to coverage by BBC Northern Ireland, but applies with equal rigour where network programmes are covering the Northern Ireland aspect of the European election.

The four main parties in Northern Ireland are the DUP, Sinn Fein, the SDLP and the UUP (who will stand in this election under the title: "Ulster Conservatives and Unionists.").

These parties will receive similar levels of coverage.

Other parties which have representation in the European Parliament, the House of Commons or the Northern Ireland Assembly should receive some coverage, proportionate to the four leading parties. These are the Alliance Party, Traditional Unionist Voice, the Green Party and the Progressive Unionist Party.

Other parties which stand a candidate, as well as independent candidates, will receive – as a minimum – coverage of their manifesto launch (or equivalent event).

Programmes should take account of the electoral pact between the Conservatives and the UUP.

- Where Conservatives in Great Britain – on UK-wide output or on BBC Northern Ireland - are addressing issues of direct relevance to the European election in Northern Ireland, they should be regarded - for purposes of balance - as speaking for the "Ulster Conservatives and Unionists".
- Where Conservatives in Great Britain are speaking on UK-wide output about issues not relating directly to the European Election in Northern Ireland, that will not normally be regarded - for purposes of balance - as speaking for the Ulster Conservatives and Unionists.
- Where Ulster Unionists are on UK-wide output, but addressing primarily Northern Ireland aspects of the European elections, that will not be regarded – for purposes of balance – as speaking for the Conservatives in Great Britain, but will be appropriately balanced only with other Northern Ireland parties.

Biv List of Candidates on BBC Online

For the European elections, BBC News Online and BBC Northern Ireland websites (in close liaison with each other to ensure a consistent BBC wide approach) will publish a complete list of candidates in Northern Ireland which can be referred to by programmes.

APPENDIX C**Ci Party Coverage for Local Elections in England**

The three main parties in relation to the English local elections are Labour, the Conservatives and the Lib Dems.

In any coverage relating primarily to the council elections, these three parties will receive similar coverage.

There is some variation in support for other parties and independents in parts of England and regional and local output should take account of differing levels of past and current electoral strength in their areas.

Across England, the Green Party has some support in those parts of local government up for election and should receive some coverage proportionate to the main parties.

Other parties which are standing candidates in at least one sixth of the seats available (either in England as a whole for network programmes or in particular areas for local and regional output), will receive some proportionate coverage.

Appropriate network news and current affairs programmes will cover, as a minimum, the manifesto launch (or equivalent event relating to the council elections) of all parties which are standing candidates in at least one sixth of the seats being contested.

Cii Lists of Candidates in Local Elections

For the local elections, where there is a report featuring candidates or parties in an electoral area (a ward or a whole council), it is the responsibility of the programme concerned to provide details of links to a website with a full and accurate list of candidates, or for that list to be part of the report.

APPENDIX D**Di Voting Figures for European Elections 2004: All Parties in Great Britain**

PARTY	VOTES			MEPs		
	%	+/-%	TOTAL	1999	+/-%*	TOTAL
Conservative	26.7	-9.0	4397090	-8	27	
Labour	22.6	-5.4	3718683	-6	19	
UK Independence Party	16.1	9.2	2650768	10	12	
Liberal Democrat	14.9	2.3	2452327	2	12	
Green	6.3	0.0	1028283	2	2	
British National Party	4.9	3.9	808200	0	0	0
Respect - The Unity Coalition	1.5	1.5	252216	0	0	0
Scottish National Party	1.4	-1.3	231505	0	0	2
Plaid Cymru	1.0	-0.9	159888	0	0	1
English Democrats Party	0.8	0.8	130056	0	0	0
Liberal Party	0.6	-0.3	96325	0	0	0
Independent - Bell	0.6	0.6	93028	0	0	0
Scottish Socialist Party	0.4	0.0	61356	0	0	0
Christian Peoples Alliance	0.4	0.4	56771	0	0	0
Senior Citizens Party	0.3	0.3	42861	0	0	0
The Countryside Party	0.3	0.3	42107	0	0	0
Independent - Herron	0.2	0.2	39658	0	0	0
Pensioners Party	0.2	0.2	33501	0	0	0
Operation Christian Vote	0.1	0.1	21056	0	0	0
ProLife	0.1	0.1	20393	0	0	0
Forward Wales	0.1	0.1	17280	0	0	0
Independent - Ellis	0.1	0.1	14762	0	0	0
People's Party for Better Government	0.1	0.1	13776	0	0	0
Peace Party	0.1	0.1	12572	0	0	0
The Common Good	0.1	0.1	8650	0	0	0
Independent - Neal	0.1	0.1	8318	0	0	0
Scottish Wind Watch	0.0	0.0	7255	0	0	0
Christian Democratic Party	0.0	0.0	6821	0	0	0
Independent - Rhodes	0.0	0.0	5671	0	0	0
Independent - Naisbitt	0.0	0.0	5137	0	0	0
Independent - Tait	0.0	0.0	3624	0	0	0
Independent - Rogers	0.0	0.0	2615	0	0	0
Independent Shadmyraine	0.0	0.0	847	0	0	0

*

Dii Results of the 2004 European Election by English Regions

East Midlands Scoreboard

Pre-Election Data

Turnout: 1406706 (43.4%)
Change: 682973 (20.8%)

Electorate: 3241566
Seats: 6

2004					1999/2001				
Party	Votes	Share %	Seats	Seats Change	Share Change %		Seats 99	Adj 99	Seats
					99	01			
CON	371362	26.4	2	-1	-13.1	-10.9	3	3	
UKIP	366498	26.1	2	2	18.5	25		0	
LAB	294918	21	1	-1	-7.6	-24.1	2	2	
LD	181964	12.9	1	0	0.2	-2.5	1	1	
BNP	91860	6.5	0	0	5.2	6.4		0	
GRN	76633	5.5	0	0	0.1	5.3		0	
RESP	20009	1.4	0		1.4				
IND	2615	0.2	0		0.2				
IND	847	0.1	0		0.1				

East of England Scoreboard

Pre-Election Data

Turnout: 1510224 (36.5%)
Change: 515789 (12.1%)

Electorate: 4137374
Seats: 7

2004					1999/2001				
Party	Votes	Share %	Seats	Seats Change	Share Change %		Seats 99	Adj 99	Seats
					99	01			
CON	465526	30.8	3	-1	-11.9	-11	4	4	
UKIP	296160	19.6	2	2	10.7	17.4	1	0	
LAB	244929	16.2	1	-1	-8.9	-20.6	2	2	
LD	211378	14	1	0	2.1	-3.5	1	1	
IND	93028	6.2	0		6.2				
GRN	84068	5.6	0	0	-0.6	5		0	
BNP	65557	4.3	0	0	3.4	4.3		0	
ED	26807	1.8	0		1.8				
RESP	13904	0.9	0		0.9				
IND	5137	0.3	0		0.3				
PROL	3730	0.3	0		0.3				

South East ScoreboardPre-Election Data

Turnout: 2207417 (36.5%)
Change: 717365 (11.8%)

Electorate: 6048349
Seats: 10

2004					1999/2001				
Party	Votes	Share %	Seats	Seats Change	Share Change %		Seats 99	Adj 99	Seats
					99	01			
CON	776370	35.2	4	-1	-9.3	-7.7	5	5	
UKIP	431111	19.5	2	1	9.8	17	1	1	
LD	338342	15.3	2	0	0	-8.4	2	2	
LAB	301398	13.7	1	-1	-6	-15.8	2	2	
GRN	173351	7.9	1	1	0.4	7.1	1	0	
BNP	64877	2.9	0	0	2.1			0	
SCP	42861	1.9	0		1.9				
ED	29126	1.3	0		1.3				
RESP	13426	0.6	0		0.6				
PEAP	12572	0.6	0		0.6				
CPA	11733	0.5	0		0.5				
PROL	6579	0.3	0		0.3				
IND	5671	0.3	0		0.3				

South West ScoreboardPre-Election Data

Turnout: 1448417 (37.6%)
Change: 406030 (10%)

Electorate: 3852708
Seats: 7

2004					1999/2001				
Party	Votes	Share %	Seats	Seats Change	Share Change %		Seats 99	Adj 99	Seats
					99	01			
CON	457371	31.6	3	-1	-10.1	-6.9	4	4	
UKIP	326784	22.6	2	1	11.9	20.1	1	1	
LD	265619	18.3	1	0	1.9	-12.9	1	1	
LAB	209908	14.5	1	0	-3.6	-11.8	1	1	
GRN	103821	7.2	0	0	-1.1	6.4			0
BNP	43653	3	0	0	2.1			0	
TCP	30824	2.1	0		2.1				
RESP	10437	0.7	0		0.7				

West Midlands ScoreboardPre-Election Data

Turnout: 1437035 (36%)
Change: 588351 (14.8%)

Electorate: 3996130
Seats: 7

2004					1999/2001						
Party	Votes	Share %	Seats	Seats Change	Predicted		Share Change %		Seats	Adj 99	Seats
					Share %	Seats	99	01			
CON	392937	27.3	3	-1	27.3	3	-10.6	-7.7	4	4	
LAB	336613	23.4	2	0	23.4	2	-4.6	-21.4	3	2	
UKIP	251366	17.5	1	1	17.5	1	11.6	15.7		0	
LD	197479	13.7	1	0	13.7	1	2.5	-1	1	1	
BNP	107794	7.5	0	0	7.5	0	5.8	7.2		0	
GRN	73991	5.2	0	0	5.2	0	-0.7	4.8		0	
RESP	34704	2.4	0		5.3	0	2.4				
PP	33501	2.3	0				2.3				
TCG	8650	0.6	0				0.6				

North West ScoreboardPre-Election Data

Turnout: 2115162 (41.1%)
Change: 1097968 (21.6%)

Electorate: 5151964
Seats: 9

2004					1999/2001						
Party	Votes	Share %	Seats	Seats Change	Share Change %			Seats	Adj 99	Seats	
					99	01	99				
LAB	576388	27.3	3	-1	-7.2	-23.5	4	4			
CON	509446	24.1	3	-1	-11.3	-5.2	5	4	4		
LD	335063	15.8	2	1	4.1	-0.9	1	1	1		
UKIP	257158	12.2	1	1	5.6	11.3			0		
BNP	134958	6.4	0	0	5	5.7			0		
GRN	117393	5.6	0	0	0	5.2			0		
LIB	96325	4.6	0	0	2.3	4.4			0		
ED	34110	1.6	0		1.6						
RESP	24636	1.2	0		1.2						
TCP	11283	0.5	0		0.5						
PROL	10084	0.5	0		0.5						
IND	8318	0.4	0		0.4						

North East ScoreboardPre-Election Data

Turnout: 780491 (40.8%)
Change: 394750 (21.3%)

Electorate: 1911562
Seats: 3

2004					1999/2001				
Party	Votes	Share %	Seats	Seats Change	Share Change %		Seats 99	Adj 99	Seats
					99	01			
LAB	266057	34.1	1	-1	-8.1	-25.3	3	2	
CON	144969	18.6	1	0	-8.8	-2.7	1	1	
LD	138791	17.8	1	1	4.3	1.1		0	
UKIP	94887	12.2	0	0	3.3	11.4		0	
BNP	50249	6.4	0	0	5.5	6.3		0	
IND	39658	5.1	0		5.1				
GRN	37247	4.8	0	0	0.1	4.5		0	
RESP	8633	1.1	0		1.1				

Yorkshire and The Humber ScoreboardPre-Election Data

Turnout: 1573201 (42.6%)
Change: 829134 (23%)

Electorate: 3694415
Seats: 6

2004					1999/2001				
Party	Votes	Share %	Seats	Seats Change	Share Change %		Seats 99	Adj 99	Seats
					99	01			
LAB	413213	26.3	2	0	-5.1	-22.3	3	2	
CON	387369	24.6	2	-1	-12	-5.6	3	3	
LD	244607	15.6	1	0	1.2	-1.6	1	1	
UKIP	228666	14.5	1	1	7.4	12.6		0	
BNP	126538	8	0	0	6.8	7.8		0	
GRN	90337	5.7	0	0	0	4.8		0	
RESP	29865	1.9	0		1.9				
ED	24068	1.5	0		1.5				
IND	14762	0.9	0		0.9				
AGS	13776	0.9	0		0.9				

London ScoreboardPre-Election Data

Turnout: 1885449 (37.3%)
Change: 744224 (14.3%)

Electorate: 5056663
Seats: 9

Party	Votes	Share%	Seats	Seats Change	Share Change %		Seats 99	Adj 99	Seats
					99	01			
CON	504941	26.8	3	-1	-5.9	-3.7	4	4	
LAB	466584	24.8	3	-1	-10.3	-22.6	4	4	
LD	288790	15.3	1	0	3.7	-2.2	1	1	
UKIP	232633	12.3	1	1	6.9	11.3			0
GRN	158986	8.4	1	1	0.8	6.7	1	0	
RESP	91175	4.8	0		4.8				
BNP	76152	4	0	0	2.5	3.5			0
CPA	45038	2.4	0		2.4	2.4			
ED	15945	0.9	0		0.9				
PPBG	5205	0.3	0		0.3				

Diii Scotland and Wales**SCOTLAND Scoreboard**Pre-Election Data

Turnout: 1176817 (30.9%)
Change: 188507 (6.2%)

Electorate: 3809111
Seats: 7

Party	Votes	Share%	Seats	Seats Change	Share Change %		Seats 99	Adj 99	Seats
					99	01			
LAB	310865	26.4	2	0	-2.3	-17.5	3	2	
SNP	231505	19.7	2	0	-7.5	-0.4	2	2	
CON	209028	17.8	2	0	-2	2.2	2	2	
LD	154178	13.1	1	0	3.3	-3.3	1	1	
GRN	79695	6.8	0	0	1	6.6			0
UKIP	78828	6.7	0	0	5.4	6.6			0
SSP	61356	5.2	0	0	1.2	2.1			0
OCV	21056	1.8	0		1.8				
BNP	19427	1.7	0	0	1.3				0
SWW	7255	0.6	0		0.6				
IND	3624	0.3	0		0.3				

WALES Scoreboard[Pre-Election Data](#)

Turnout: 917686 (41.4%)
Change: 291261 (13.3%)

Electorate: 2218649
Seats: 4

Party	Votes	Share %	Seats	Seats Change	Share Change %		Seats 99	Adj 99	Seats
					99	01			
LAB	297810	32.5	2	0	0.6	-16.2	2	2	
CON	177771	19.4	1	0	-3.4	-1.6	1	1	
PC	159888	17.4	1	0	-12.2	3.1	2	1	
UKIP	96677	10.5	0	0	7.4	9.6		0	
LD	96116	10.5	0	0	2.3	-3.3		0	
GRN	32761	3.6	0	0	1	3.3		0	
BNP	27135	3	0		3	3			
FW	17280	1.9	0		1.9				
CDEM	6821	0.7	0		0.7				
RESP	5427	0.6	0		0.6				