

Green Party makes formal complaint to BBC over local elections coverage



8 May 2017

***Letter accuses BBC of breaching its fair coverage guidelines**

***Greens won 40 seats while UKIP won just 1**

***Co-leader Jonathan Bartley: "It's time the BBC recognised the widespread support for our positive vision for Britain"**

The Green Party has today (May 7) sent the BBC a letter of complaint over the broadcaster's coverage of the May 4 local elections results.

The BBC's guidelines [1] state the Green Party should receive coverage "proportionate to the larger parties" and "more than those parties with less evidence of past or current electoral support or fewer candidates".

The Greens fielded a record number of candidates in this round of local elections, overtaking UKIP, [2] and 40 Green councillors were elected, compared to UKIP's one. However, with the exception of a few items, most of the BBC's coverage failed to report the Green Party's results, while giving disproportionate coverage to UKIP.

Jonathan Bartley, Green Party co-leader, said:

"It's time the BBC recognised the strength of the Green movement and the widespread support for our positive vision for Britain as a confident and caring country. When people see what we stand for, they vote Green.

"While UKIP makes cheap attempts to win headlines with blatantly Islamophobic policies [3], Greens are out making a difference to their local communities and this contrast was made clear in Friday's election results. The Green Party is making gains across the country – from the Orkney Islands to the Isle of Wight – and it's only fair we're given proportionate coverage by our national broadcaster."

Notes:

1. <http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/guidelines/editorialguidelines/pdfs/2017local-electionguidelines.pdf>
2. http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/ukip-overtaken-by-greens-in-englis-h-council-seats-contested-big-drop_uk_58e68cb2e4b0773c0d3f1e26
3. http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/ukip-muslim-face-veil_uk_58fdfd2ae4b018a9ce5cdd3b

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