

Supporters of smaller parties are also represented on all programmes, as are undecided voters. Obviously, when the programme is in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland the different political environment and different parties mean the appropriate balances will vary. Parties such as UKIP, the Greens, Respect, Scottish Socialists and the BNP will all have an appropriate number of audience supporters, and there is scope to increase their share if an especially big issue that relates to one of the parties is in the news.

You can also find out more about how the BBC selects the Question Time audience at the following website:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/newswatch/ukfs/hi/newsid_4200000/newsid_4202800/4202877.stm

This article was written by Ric Bailey, now the BBC's Chief Political Adviser, but what he wrote still holds.

We hope you find this helpful. Your request is outside the scope of the Act because the BBC and the other public service broadcasters are covered by the Act only in respect of information held for purposes "other than those of journalism, art or literature" (see Schedule I, Part VI of the Act). However, on this occasion we're happy to respond to your request. For more information about how the Act applies to the BBC please see www.bbc.co.uk/foi Please note that this guidance is not intended to be a comprehensive legal interpretation of how the Act applies to the BBC.

The BBC does not offer an internal review when the information requested is not covered by the Act. If you disagree with our decision you can appeal to the Information Commissioner. Contact details are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF telephone 01625 545 700. <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

Yours sincerely

Stephanie Harris
Head of Editorial Compliance
BBC News