

Decision of the Electoral Commission on the allocation of time and money to eligible political parties for the broadcasting of election programmes for the 2014 General Election

Allocation Decision

The following table sets out the allocation of time and money to eligible political parties for the broadcasting of election programmes for the 2014 General Election.

Parties	Monetary allocation (inclusive of GST)	Time allocation of opening addresses (in minutes) ¹	Time allocation for closing addresses (in minutes)
<i>The New Zealand National Party (National Party)</i>	\$1,053,622	15.5	15.5
<i>The New Zealand Labour Party (Labour Party)</i>	\$919,829	13.5	13.5
<i>The Green Party of Aotearoa/New Zealand (Green Party)</i>	\$401,380	7.5	7.5
<i>New Zealand First (NZ First)</i>	\$200,690	4.5	4.5
<i>Māori Party</i>	\$100,345	2.5	2.5
<i>ACT New Zealand (ACT Party)</i>	\$76,930	2	2
<i>Internet Party and MANA Movement (Internet MANA)²</i>	\$76,930	2	2
<i>United Future New Zealand (United Future)</i>	\$76,930	2	2
<i>New Zealand Independent Coalition (NZIC)</i>	\$76,930	2	2
<i>Conservative Party of New Zealand (Conservative Party)</i>	\$60,207	1.5	1.5
<i>The Alliance (Alliance)</i>	\$33,635	1	1
<i>Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party (ALCP)</i>	\$33,635	1	1
<i>The Civilian Party (Civilian)</i>	\$33,635	1	1
<i>The Expatriate Party of New Zealand (Expatriate Party)</i>	\$33,635	1	1
<i>Focus New Zealand (Focus NZ)</i>	\$33,635	1	1
<i>The New Zealand Democratic Party for Social Credit (Democrats for Social Credit)</i>	\$33,635	1	1
<i>Truth, Freedom, Justice</i>	\$33,635	1	1
<i>Radio New Zealand (RNZ)³</i>	\$4,012		
Total allocated	\$3,283,250	60	60
Total available	\$3,283,250	60	60

¹ The order for opening and closing addresses appears in paragraphs 74 and 75 of this decision.

² Formerly the New Freedom Party.

³ Allocated to RNZ in accordance with section 77A(5).

Introduction

1. The Electoral Commission ('the Commission') is required under Part 6 of the Broadcasting Act ('the Act') to allocate time made available by Television New Zealand ('TVNZ') and Radio New Zealand ('RNZ') and money made available by Parliament to enable political parties to broadcast election programmes during the election period for a General Election ('the broadcasting allocation'). Unless otherwise stated, section references in this decision are to sections of the Broadcasting Act 1989.
2. The Commission commenced the allocation process for the 2014 General Election in mid-February 2014 with the view to issuing the allocation decision in June 2014. The Prime Minister announced on 10 March 2014 that the 2014 General Election will be held on 20 September 2014.
3. This written decision formally records the Commission's broadcasting allocation decision and its interpretation and application of the statutory criteria in the Act.

Statutory provisions – eligibility

4. Section 75(1) of the Act specifies that a party is only eligible for the broadcasting allocation if:
 - (a) the party was registered on the Register of Political Parties at the time of the dissolution or expiry of Parliament for that election; and
 - (b) the party has given notice to the Commission that the party considers itself to be qualified for an allocation by the date required by the Commission.
5. The Commission is required to advertise in the *Gazette* in the year in which Parliament is due to expire the date by which parties must give notice of their eligibility for an allocation of broadcasting time and money. For the 2014 broadcasting allocation the deadline was 14 March 2014. Nineteen parties gave the required notice.
6. Though there may be further parties registered before the 2014 General Election, those parties that did not give notice to the Commission by 14 March 2014 cannot be considered for an allocation because of section 75(1)(b).
7. A party must also be registered on the Register of Political Parties, in accordance with Part 4 of the Electoral Act 1993, to qualify for the broadcasting allocation. All parties will need to be, or remain registered, by 14 August 2014, the date for the dissolution of Parliament, to be eligible for the broadcasting allocation.
8. The broadcasting allocation can only be used for production costs or the cost of broadcasting time for election programmes broadcast by a political party during the election period. For the 2014 General Election the election period starts on 20 August 2014 and ends on 19 September 2014 (writ day until midnight on the day before the election).
9. Parties cannot use their own money to buy broadcasting time but they can use their own money for production costs (section 70(2A)).

Amount of free time made available

10. In accordance with section 71, TVNZ and RNZ must each provide time, free of charge, for the broadcasting of opening and closing addresses during the election period.

11. Section 71A of the Act requires the Commission to ascertain the amount of time that TVNZ and RNZ will provide, together with any proposals for the allocation of the time and any conditions proposed in relation to the scheduling and duration of opening and closing addresses. On 19 February 2014 the Commission requested TVNZ and RNZ to provide statements, by 17 March 2014, of the free time that would be made available.
12. On 17 March 2014 TVNZ and RNZ advised that the following amounts of time would be made available, free of charge, for the broadcasting of the opening addresses and closing addresses of political parties:
 - 60 minutes on the Friday or Saturday night (22 or 23 August 2014) of the opening week of the election campaign; and
 - 60 minutes on the evening before Election Day (Friday 19 September 2014).
13. The Commission notes that there are more eligible parties in 2014 than in 2011 but that TVNZ and RNZ have provided less time for the opening addresses compared to 2011. Following the oral hearings, the Commission asked TVNZ and RNZ to consider increasing the amount of time for opening addresses taking account of the increased number of eligible parties. TVNZ and RNZ have declined the request to increase the time for the opening addresses.

Amount of public money made available

14. In accordance with section 74, the Minister of Justice notified the Commission on 22 November 2013 that the amount of money appropriated by Parliament to enable political parties to fund their broadcasting of election programmes for the 2014 General Election is \$2,855,000 (\$3,283,250 including GST).
15. The amount of money appropriated by Parliament is the same amount (excluding GST) as was appropriated for the 2005, 2008 and 2011 General Elections.

Allocation criteria

16. Section 75(2) sets out the criteria that the Commission shall have regard to when determining the broadcasting allocation.
17. The criteria are:
 - (a) the number of persons who voted at the preceding general election for a party and its candidates; and
 - (b) the number of persons who voted at any by-election held since the preceding general election for any candidate for the party; and
 - (c) the number of members of Parliament who were members of a political party immediately before the expiration or dissolution of Parliament; and
 - (d) any relationships that exist between one political party and another party; and
 - (e) any other indications of public support for a political party such as the results of opinion polls and the number of persons who are members of the party; and
 - (f) the need to provide a fair opportunity for each registered political party to convey its policies to the public by the broadcasting of election programmes on television.

Implications of criteria

18. The Commission, in considering the criteria, recognises that the allocation of time and money is a difficult balancing exercise.
19. The Commission must consider specific matters, for example numbers of MPs, polling, and election results, under the criteria required in section 75(2)(a) to (e), but section 75(2)(f) requires the exercise of a wider discretion to consider “fairness”.
20. The criteria must all be taken into account and there is no power to take the criteria in isolation. This means that while the Commission must consider the question of fairness under section 75(2)(f), it must do so in conjunction with all of the other criteria. The statutory criteria do not provide for all parties to be placed on an equal footing, but includes providing all parties with a fair opportunity to disseminate their messages at election time.
21. In considering the requirement for fairness under section 75(2)(f) the Commission has taken account of the:
 - New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and freedom of expression;
 - Statutory context in which there is a prohibition on parties using their own money to buy broadcast advertising time; and
 - *Alliance Party v The Electoral Commission and Others* [CA639/2008] where the Court of Appeal expressed in an obiter statement the requirement for every party to be given an allocation of time.
22. The Māori Party requested that the Commission make an allocation that would enable the party to broadcast in te reo Māori and have due regard to tikanga Māori. However, in the Commission’s view, there is no scope to do so under the criteria.

Consultation

23. Prior to the Commission determining the amount of time and money to be made available to eligible parties, the Commission has consulted with all of them. Parties were invited to make submissions on the amount of time made available by TVNZ and RNZ for opening and closing addresses, including the minimum duration for each party for this purpose, the order of opening and closing addresses, and how the Commission should apply the criteria in section 75(2).
24. Seventeen of the eligible parties made written submissions to the Commission which have been considered in making this decision.
25. Parties were also invited to meet the Commission to make oral representations in accordance with section 76. Fourteen parties requested the opportunity to make oral representations. Hearings were held on 28 and 29 April 2014 and each party was given the opportunity to speak to their written submission with time provided for questions, discussion and points of clarification.
26. The Commission has also consulted with TVNZ and RNZ, in accordance with section 75A, prior to issuing the decision.
27. RNZ requested a payment of \$4,500 plus GST to cover the costs of script checking, tape audition, scheduling, attendance at meetings, follow-up with parties and administration.

The allocation decision for the 2014 General Election

28. In exercising its discretion the Commission had regard to the section 75(2) criteria, recognising the difficulty in balancing the quantifiable criteria under section 75(2)(a) to (e) against the fair opportunity criterion under section 75(2)(f).
29. In light of the relationships between the Internet Party, Mana and New Freedom Party discussed below, in making its allocations to Internet MANA, the Commission has had regard to section 75(2)(d) and the submissions of the component parties (Internet Party and Mana).

The number of persons who voted at the preceding general election for a party and its candidates

30. The Commission has taken into account the following percentages of total votes cast for eligible parties and candidates of that party at the 2011 General Election as recorded in the official election statistics published by the Electoral Commission. The Commission notes that not all eligible parties contested the 2011 General Election.

2011 General Election Results for Eligible Parties		
Parties	% of Total Party Votes	% of Total Candidate Votes
<i>ACT Party</i>	1.07%	1.43%
<i>ALCP</i>	0.52%	0.29%
<i>Alliance</i>	0.05%	0.06%
<i>Conservative Party</i>	2.65%	2.38%
<i>Democrats for Social Credit</i>	0.08%	0.10%
<i>Green Party</i>	11.06%	7.16%
<i>Labour Party</i>	27.48%	35.12%
<i>Mana</i>	1.08%	1.38%
<i>Māori Party</i>	1.43%	1.81%
<i>National Party</i>	47.31%	47.31%
<i>NZ First</i>	6.59%	1.84%
<i>United Future</i>	0.60%	0.87%

The number of persons who voted at any by-election held since the preceding general election for any candidate for the party

31. Since the 2011 General Election, by-elections have been held in the Ikaroa-Rāwhiti and Christchurch East electorates. The Commission has taken into consideration the following percentages of total votes cast for candidates of those eligible parties that contested the by-elections. However, the Commission's view is that it is unable to place much weight on by-election results because they are insufficiently indicative of parties' nationwide support. By-elections are a candidate contest within a single electorate, there is no party vote and not all parties contest them.

Eligible Parties	Ikaroa-Rāwhiti By-election	
	Votes	% of Total
<i>ALCP</i>	176	1.6%
<i>Green Party</i>	1,251	11.1%
<i>Labour Party</i>	4,590	40.7%
<i>Mana</i>	2,931	26.0%
<i>Māori Party</i>	2,229	19.8%

Eligible Parties	Christchurch East By-election	
	Votes	% of Total
<i>ACT Party</i>	58	0.4%
<i>ALCP</i>	59	0.4%
<i>Conservative Party</i>	494	3.6%
<i>Green Party</i>	954	6.9%
<i>Labour Party</i>	8,414	61.3%
<i>National Party</i>	3,577	26.1%
<i>Democrats for Social Credit</i>	20	0.1%

The number of members of Parliament who were members of a political party immediately before the expiration or dissolution of Parliament

32. The Commission has taken into account the following percentages representing the current number of members of Parliament ('MP') for each eligible party who have MPs at the time of issuing the decision:

Eligible Parties	No of MPs	No of MPs as %
<i>ACT Party</i>	1	0.83%
<i>Green Party</i>	14	11.57%
<i>Labour Party</i>	34	28.09%
<i>Mana</i>	1	0.83%
<i>Māori Party</i>	3	2.47%
<i>National Party</i>	59	48.76%
<i>New Zealand First</i>	7	5.78%
<i>United Future</i>	1	0.83%

33. Brendan Horan is currently an independent list MP. If Mr Horan is a member of NZIC, and NZIC is registered before the dissolution of Parliament, NZIC would have one MP for the purposes of the criterion in section 75(2)(c) of the Act.
34. Similarly Internet MANA has one MP for the purposes of the criteria in 75(2)(c).

Any relationships that exist between one political party and another party

Internet MANA

35. Under section 75(2)(d) of the Act, the Commission is required to have regard to any relationships between political parties.
36. Three parties (Internet Party, Mana and New Freedom Party) separately gave notice to the Commission by 14 March 2014 of their eligibility for an allocation of broadcasting time and money. Subsequently, the Internet Party and Mana entered into a memorandum of understanding that they will become component parties of a new umbrella party, Internet MANA, to contest the 2014 General Election under a joint party list. The Internet Party and Mana will maintain their registrations and their candidates will contest electorates under their own party names.
37. On 29 May 2014, the interim secretary of the party initially known as the New Freedom Party advised the Commission that the New Freedom Party would now be known and registered as the Internet Party and MANA Movement (abbreviated to Internet MANA). On 3 June 2014, the party secretaries of the Internet Party and Mana confirmed that the party initially named the New Freedom Party will be known as Internet MANA and will be the umbrella party for each of them to contest the party vote leaving the Internet Party and Mana candidates to contest electorates.
38. Each of the New Freedom Party, the Internet Party and Mana are eligible parties for an allocation of time and money. However, section 74A(5) precludes the Commission allocating money to individual parties if the party has received an allocation as part of a group of related political parties. On the assumption that Internet MANA will be registered by the dissolution of Parliament, it has received an allocation of time and money as part of this decision. Accordingly, Internet MANA's component parties (Internet Party and Mana) have not received allocations. If circumstances change, the Commission will consider varying its overall allocations in accordance with section 76A.

Other Parties

39. The Māori Party, United Future and the ACT Party made the Commission aware of the confidence and supply agreements that exist between those parties and the National Party. The Commission does not consider those agreements to be a relevant consideration for the purposes of section 75(2)(d) because they do not involve component party relationships.

Any other indications of public support for a political party such as the results of opinion polls and the number of persons who are members of the party

40. With regard to polls recording the party vote the Commission has taken account of the results of Roy Morgan Research, One News Colmar Brunton and 3 News Reid Research from January 2012 to May 2014. The Commission has also taken into account the polls and analysis of the polls submitted by the eligible parties. The Commission regards those polls as indicators of support for the political parties and notes they have been taken into consideration in previous broadcasting allocation decisions.
41. The Commission sought information from eligible parties on membership which has been furnished, mostly on a confidential basis. This has been taken into account.
42. Some parties (ALCP, The Civilian Party and the Green Party) cited significant social media patronage as indicators of support such as "likes" on Facebook or "followers" on Twitter. The Commission has taken this into account for all of the eligible parties.

43. However, the Commission's view is that it can give little weight to social media support. Opinion polls directly evaluate party support whereas support of a party via social media is less direct. A person may choose to like or follow a party because they support it or for some other reason such as general or journalistic interest. Unlike opinion polls, social media supporters are not required to make a comparative choice between parties when deciding who to 'like' or 'follow'.

The need to provide a fair opportunity for each registered political party to convey its policies to the public by the broadcasting of election programmes on television

44. The Commission's view is that a 'fair opportunity' must be an opportunity which is fair to each eligible party in all the circumstances. The fact that a party is unable to use its own funds to purchase broadcasting is relevant and the overall size of the fund available for allocation is also an important factor.
45. Having considered the amount of time made available by TVNZ and RNZ under section 71A and the money to be allocated to eligible parties under section 74, the Commission's view is that all the parties that have given notice are eligible for an allocation of time and money for broadcasting election programmes in relation to the 2014 General Election. However, as discussed at paragraph 38, Internet MANA's component parties (Internet Party and Mana) have not received allocations.

Categories

46. In the exercise of its discretion, the Commission considers it appropriate to continue the approach taken in previous broadcasting allocation decisions of classifying parties into categories of similar type for the determination of the allocation of broadcasting time and money. In determining the categories and funding available in each category, the Commission has taken into account the written and oral submissions from the parties, and the criteria under section 75(2).

Categories 1 and 2

47. In the Commission's view, for the reasons that follow, the differences between National and Labour under sections 75(2)(a)(b)(c) and (e) of the statutory criteria result in National being placed in its own category. In its 2011 Broadcasting Allocation Decision (2011 Decision), the Commission placed National and Labour in the same category and provided equal funding and time. The 2011 Decision states:

National and Labour are so dominant in terms of polling, parliamentary representation and party membership that they clearly fall into a category of their own.

Though the Commission was urged to differentiate between National and Labour in the time and money allocation the Commission has decided they should be treated equally. Amongst the reasons for that decision are that one of these parties will be at the core of the next government and the Commission believes the New Zealand public would expect them to be treated equally in terms of the opportunity to put their policies before the public.

48. In the 2011 Decision, the Commission (working within the statutory criteria) relied on results from the 2008 general election. In 2008, National obtained around 10.9% more party votes and 10.4% more candidate votes than Labour. National also gained 16 more MPs compared to Labour.
49. In the 2011 General Election, National obtained around 19.8% more party votes and 12.2% more candidate votes than Labour. National gained 25 more MPs than Labour. Between January 2012 and May 2014, National has consistently polled around 41-51%, while in contrast, Labour's polling results for the same period have been around 28-37%.

50. Seen in the light of the criteria in section 75, particularly section 75(2)(a), (c) and (e), these differences, taken together with National's consistent opinion poll lead over Labour since the 2011 General Election, lead to the conclusion that the two parties should be placed in separate categories for this broadcasting allocation.
51. Although not bound by previous allocation decisions, the Commission notes that in the 2005 Allocation Decision, when there was a similarly significant difference between Labour and National based on the 2002 General Election results, different amounts of funding were allocated to Labour and National.

2002 General Election Results				
Party	% of Total Party Votes	% of Total Candidate Votes	No of MPs	No of MPs as %
<i>Labour Party</i>	41.3%	44.7%	52	43.3%
<i>National Party</i>	20.9%	30.5%	27	22.5%
Difference	20.4%	14.2%	25	20.8%

2005 Broadcasting Allocation to Labour and National			
Party	Money	Opening Time	Closing Time
<i>Labour Party</i>	\$1,100,000	12	6
<i>National</i>	\$900,000	12	6

52. Labour remains well ahead of any party other than National and should be placed in the next category.

Category 3

53. Over a significant period the Green Party, in terms of its party vote, numbers of MPs and polling data, is clearly in a separate category compared with all other parties.

Category 4

54. New Zealand First is in the next category. This is due to its party vote at the 2011 General Election, its numbers of MPs and polling data which has been consistently higher than other smaller parties in Parliament.

Category 5

55. While the Māori Party's polling and party votes are similar to the ACT Party, Mana and United Future, it is placed in its own category because of its three electorate MPs in Parliament and candidate votes in the 2011 General Election.

Category 6

56. The Commission has decided to place the ACT Party, Internet MANA, United Future and NZIC in the same category. This is based on the statutory criteria and the fact that the ACT Party and United Future are parties with one MP in Parliament.

57. As mentioned in paragraph 33 above, Brendan Horan is currently an independent list MP. If Mr Horan is a member of NZIC, and NZIC is registered before the dissolution of Parliament, NZIC would have one MP for the purposes of the criterion in section 75(2)(c) of the Act.

58. Similarly, Internet MANA, once registered, will have one MP for the purposes of the criteria in 75(2)(c).

Category 7

59. While the Conservative Party does not have any current MPs, it gained more party votes in the 2011 General Election than the ACT Party, the Māori Party, Mana and United Future. In addition, it has consistently polled higher than these parties. As such, the Commission has decided to place the Conservative Party in a separate category compared with other parties outside Parliament.

Category 8

60. All other eligible parties are placed in the final category based on the statutory criteria and because they are parties with no representation in Parliament.

Final categories

61. For the purposes of making this decision and in the exercise of its discretion, the Commission has after considering all the above matters and the criteria under section 75(2), decided that the parties fall within the following categories (parties are listed in alphabetical order in each category).

Category 1	National Party
Category 2	Labour Party
Category 3	Green Party
Category 4	NZ First
Category 5	Māori Party
Category 6	ACT Party Internet MANA NZIC United Future
Category 7	Conservative Party
Category 8	Alliance ALCP Civilian Expatriate Party Focus NZ Democrats for Social Credit Truth, Freedom, Justice

Allocation of money

62. The Commission has decided that the requirements of section 75(2) will be met by making the following allocations of money to each of the parties in each category (amounts are inclusive of GST).

Category 1	\$1,053,622	32.09%
Category 2	\$919,829	28.02%
Category 3	\$401,380	12.23%
Category 4	\$200,690	6.11%
Category 5	\$100,345	3.06%
Category 6 (4 parties)	\$76,930	2.34%
Category 7	\$60,207	1.83%
Category 8 (7 parties)	\$33,635	1.02%

63. The Commission's view is that all parties have been allocated amounts that balance the quantitative criteria with the fairness criteria.
64. Applying the statutory criteria, due to the significant gap between National and Labour, National has received the largest allocation. Labour has received the next largest allocation.
65. National and Labour have both received less than in 2011. This reflects the fact the Commission is allocating the same amount of funds to 17 parties compared with 15 in 2011.
66. Parties in category 8 have been allocated more funding than that of similar parties in 2011. The Commission considers that this increase is appropriate in order for smaller parties to have a fair opportunity to disseminate their respective messages. This is because the allocation of funding has remained the same since 2005 resulting in all parties, particularly small parties with less allocation, having significantly less purchasing power since 2005. In addition, the Commission notes the difficulty that small parties have in gaining media attention.
67. Production costs are to be negotiated between the parties and the broadcasters sufficiently far in advance of opening and closing addresses to ensure that their presentations meet all appropriate broadcasting standards. The production costs can be met from their allocation. Eligible parties should note the terms of the production packages offered by TVNZ.
68. The Commission has allocated \$4,012 inclusive of GST as a contribution towards the \$4,500 requested by RNZ for its production costs, in accordance with section 77A(5).

Allocation of time

69. The Commission has decided that the requirements of section 75(2) will be met by making the following allocations of time to each of the parties in each category:

	Opening	Closing
Category 1	15.5	15.5
Category 2	13.5	13.5
Category 3	7.5	7.5
Category 4	4.5	4.5
Category 5	2.5	2.5
Category 6 (4 parties)	2	2
Category 7	1.5	1.5
Category 8 (7 parties)	1	1
Total	60	60

70. The allocation of time follows the Commission's allocation of funding.

Order of opening and closing addresses

71. The Commission invited parties to make submissions on the order of opening and closing addresses.
72. In 2011 the order was determined by following the groups used for time allocation and using random selection within each group. However, in line with past practice, the main government party had the first opening address and the second largest party had the first closing address. The order for closing addresses was the reverse for each group.
73. The same approach has been taken in deciding the order of parties for the 2014 broadcasting allocation.
74. The order for opening addresses on Friday or Saturday 22 or 23 August is:

National, Labour, Green Party, NZ First, Māori Party, United Future, NZIC, ACT Party, Internet MANA, Conservative Party, Focus NZ, Expat Party, ALCP, Democrats for Social Credit, Truth, Freedom, Justice, Alliance, Civilian.

75. The order for closing addresses on Friday 19 September is:

Labour, National, Green Party, NZ First, Māori Party, Internet MANA, ACT Party, NZIC, United Future, Conservative Party, Civilian, Alliance, Truth, Freedom, Justice, Democrats for Social Credit, ALCP, Expat Party, Focus NZ.

Costs of broadcasting election programmes

76. Parties should note that time and money allocated by the Commission does not count as party election expenses under section 206(1)(c)(i) and (ii) of the Electoral Act. However, if a party spends its own funds on production costs, that expenditure is counted as an election expense.
77. The Commission notes that one of the eligible parties is based overseas. An overseas party can broadcast its opening and closing address on TVNZ and RNZ. However, any party may also use its allocation to broadcast outside New Zealand.
78. Electorate candidates may use their own funds for the purchase of broadcasting time, but the cost of those broadcasts is counted towards the candidate's election expenses if published during the regulated period.
79. Parties and broadcasters are reminded that the sums allocated by the Commission include GST.

Conditions

80. The Commission is empowered by section 74A(2) to include in its decision conditions concerning the manner in which any political party or group of related political parties is to expend its allocation.
81. The Commission makes the following conditions, pursuant to section 74A(2):
 - (a) Only registered parties may enter into contractual commitments to use money or time that has been allocated to them in this decision.
 - (b) Eligible parties must comply with the requirements set out in the letters, which have been supplied to eligible parties separately, from TVNZ and RNZ of 17 March, relating to production standards for opening and closing addresses.
 - (c) Opening addresses must be received by TVNZ and RNZ by 5pm on Monday 18 August 2014 and closing addresses must be received by TVNZ and RNZ by 5pm on Monday 15 September 2014.
 - (d) Parties may post their opening and closing addresses and/or other advertisements on social media pages, on-demand television or other internet based mediums after they are broadcast. The expenditure used to post the addresses or advertisements is counted as an election expense if published during the regulated period.
 - (e) TVNZ and RNZ are to ensure that the broadcasts comply with section 77A.

Variation to the allocation

82. Under section 76A of the Act, in specified circumstances the Commission can vary the allocations made without further consultation. Such circumstances include any of:
 - a party not accepting an allocation;
 - a party ceasing to be registered;
 - a party failing to submit a list of candidates pursuant to section 127 of the Electoral Act;
 - the relationship of the party with any other political party changing significantly; and

- a party failing to comply with the conditions imposed in this decision.

83. The Commission notes that experience suggests the allocation may need to be varied.

Further information

84. Details of the allocation process, use of the allocation and the process for payment of invoices can be found on the Electoral Commission's website www.elections.org.nz.

Signed for and on behalf of the Commission.



Hon Sir Hugh Williams QC
Chair



Jane Huria
Deputy Chair



Robert Peden
Chief Electoral Officer

Dated: 6 June 2014