

5 mys-Est 2004

Party Political Broadcasting Consultation
Broadcasting Policy Division
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
LONDON SW1Y 5DH

A Serys Ker,

RE: RIGHT TO BROADCAST FOR 'MEBYON KERNOW'

In Cornwall the political party 'Mebyon Kernow' is demanding the right for a party political broadcast at the next election. I am writing to give my own support for their request. I know I am not anyone of importance except as a British citizen and voter but I would hate it if your Department ever said no-one ever wrote in to support Mebyon Kernow's request. I must stress that I am not a member of Mebyon Kernow but as a believer in democracy I am horrified at the unjustness of the situation that they find themselves in.

The facts are the matter are perfectly clear: to obtain a broadcast a party needs to fight 110 seats but there are only 5 in Cornwall. You can hardly expect Mebyon Kernow to stand in 105 English constituencies just to gain a broadcast.

Furthermore there is already a well-established precedent of flexibility in this matter elsewhere in the country: for example the parties standing in the 18 constituencies of Northern Ireland are allowed broadcasts and likewise Wales at 40 constituencies.

At the last election there was further 'insult to injury' when parties such as Pro-Life, Socialist Labour and Socialist Alliance had party political broadcasts transmitted in Cornwall even though they had absolutely no candidates standing in the area.

In conclusion may I call upon you to give Cornwall equal treatment to Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. For the sake of democracy Mebyon Kernow must be given fair access to media.

Gans gorhemmyadow a'n gwella,


Russell Bennett