

Political Proportionality Rules and Calculations

1. The following table shows the percentages used in producing the calculations which appear later in this document:

	Seats on Fire Authority	Percentage of Seats on Fire Authority (%)
Conservative Group	8	34.78
Labour Group	14	60.87
Independent Member	1	4.35
Total	23	100.00

NB: Independent Member not entitled to any seats on committees etc.

2. The Principles in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 concerned with the 'duty to allocate seats to political groups' that need to be followed as far as reasonably practicable are:

Principle (a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;

Principle (b) that the majority of the seats on the body is allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership;

Principle (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority; and

Principle (d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of the seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the authority.

3. We can ignore Principle (a) as no allocations below contravene that Principle.

4. The table below presents a scenario where the majority Labour group is simply allocated the majority of seats on each body. This complies with Principle (b).

PRINCIPLE (b)							
MAJORITY OF SEATS INITIALLY ALLOCATED TO THE MAJORITY LABOUR GROUP							
BALANCE OF SEATS ALLOCATED TO CONSERVATIVE GROUP							
		No of seats allocated on Policy Committee (10 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Performance and Overview Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Pay and Performance Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Governance and Constitution Committee (6 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Joint Consultative Committee (4 Seats)	Total no of seats allocated
Conservative	Balance of seats on each body	4	3	3	2	1	13
Labour	Majority of seats on each body	6	4	4	4	3	21
Totals		10	7	7	6	4	34

5. The table below shows the allocation taking into account the total number of available seats on all bodies set against the political proportions of the Fire Authority. This complies with Principle (c). It leaves one 'spare' unallocated seat.

PRINCIPLE (c)			
THIS SHOWS THE OVERALL NUMBER OF SEATS ON ALL BODIES ALLOCATED USING THE POLITICAL PROPORTIONS OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY			
APPLYING ROUNDING UP TO FIGURES 0.5 AND ABOVE			
Political Group	%	Calculation – Proportion of 34 Seats	Total
Conservative	34.78	11.82	12
Labour	60.87	20.69	21
Totals	95.65	32.51	33

6. The table below applies the political proportions of the Fire Authority to each individual body.

PRINCIPLE (d)							
SEATS ALLOCATED ON THE INDIVIDUAL BODIES USING THE POLITICAL PROPORTIONS OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY							
APPLYING ROUNDING UP TO FIGURES 0.5 AND OVER AND ROUNDING DOWN IF BELOW 0.5							
APPLYING ROUNDING UP TO HIGHEST OF FIGURES BELOW 0.5 IF BOTH ARE BELOW 0.5							
		No of seats allocated on Policy Committee (10 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Performance and Overview Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Pay and Performance Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Governance and Constitution Committee (6 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Joint Consultative Committee (4 Seats)	Total no of seats allocated
Conservative	%	34.78	34.78	34.78	34.78	34.78	
	Calc	3.48	2.43	2.43	2.09	1.39	
	Rounded	4	3	3	2	1	13
Labour	%	60.87	60.87	60.87	60.87	60.87	
	Calc	6.09	4.26	4.26	3.65	2.43	
	Rounded	6	4	4	4	3	21
Total		10	7	7	6	4	34

7. Taking into account the above Principles, it would appear that seats should be allocated as follows.

	Policy	Perf and Overview	Pay and Performance	Governance and Constitution	Joint Consultative Committee	Total
CONSERVATIVE	4	3	3	2	1	13
LABOUR	6	4	4	4	3	21
TOTAL	10	7	7	6	4	34