

Political Proportionality Rules and Calculations

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

Group	Seats on Fire Authority	Percentage of Seats on Fire Authority
Labour	13	56.522%
Conservative	7	30.435%
Independent	3	13.043%
Total	23	100%

2. The Principles in Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 that need to be followed so far as reasonably practicable are:
- (a) that not all the seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
 - (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;
 - (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
 - (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.

Principle (a)

3. We can ignore Principle (a) as no options are presented with the Labour Group having all of the seats on any body.

Principle (b)

4. The table below presents a scenario where the Labour Group is initially given the majority of seats on each body and then the other seats are allocated using the proportion calculations. A seat is allocated to one of the other groups wherever the calculations return 0.51 and above. This complies with Principle (b) but produces an unsatisfactory result. There are 34 seats allocated when there are only 33 available (one extra seat on the Joint Consultative Committee).

		No of seats allocated on Estates and Property Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Performance and Overview Committee (8 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Pay and Performance Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Governance and Constitution Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Joint Consultative Committee (4 Seats)	Total no of seats to allocate (33)
Conservative	%	30.435	30.435	30.435	30.435	30.435	9
	Calc	2.13	2.43	2.13	2.13	1.22	
	Rounded	2	2	2	2	1	
Labour	Majority	4	5	4	4	3	20
Independent	%	13.043	13.043	13.043	13.043	13.043	5
	Calc	0.91	1.04	0.91	0.91	0.52	
	Rounded	1	1	1	1	1	
Totals		7	8	7	7	5	34

Principle (c)

6. The table below shows the allocation taking into account the total number of available seats set against the proportions on the Fire Authority. A seat is allocated wherever the calculations return 0.51 and above. This complies with Principle (c). It is these figures which the allocations to the bodies should seek to achieve (see Principle (d) table).

Political Group	%	Calculation – Proportion of 33 Seats	Total
Conservative	30.435	10.04	10
Labour	56.522	18.65	19
Independent	13.043	4.30	4
Totals	100	32.96	33

Principle (d)

7. The table below applies the proportions on the Fire Authority to each body. A seat is allocated wherever the calculations return 0.51 and above. It produces an unsatisfactory result as the Labour Group does not have the majority on all committees.

		No of seats allocated on Estates and Property Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Performance and Overview Committee (8 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Pay and Performance Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Governance and Constitution Committee (7 Seats)	No of seats allocated on Joint Consultative Committee (4 Seats)	Total no of seats to allocate (33)
Conservative	%	30.435	30.435	30.435	30.435	30.435	9
	Calc	2.13	2.43	2.13	2.13	1.22	
	Rounded	2	2	2	2	1	
Labour	%	56.522	56.522	56.522	56.522	56.522	19
	Calc	3.96	4.52	3.96	3.96	2.26	
	Rounded	4	5	4	4	2	
Independent	%	13.043	13.043	13.043	13.043	13.043	5
	Calc	0.91	1.04	0.91	0.91	0.52	
	Rounded	1	1	1	1	1	
Totals		7	8	7	7	4	33

Achieving the Principles

8. The Labour Group will have the majority on the Joint Consultative Committee provided that a Labour member chairs the meetings and has a casting vote. Labour members will, therefore, need to be appointed to the roles of Chair and Deputy Chair for this committee.
9. The allocations using Principle (c) and Principle (d) are shown below:

Political Group	Number of Seats	
	Allocations Overall (Principle (c))	Allocations per Body (Principle (d))
Conservative	10	9
Labour	19	19
Other	4	5
	33	33

10. In order to achieve the seat allocation in Principle (c) (i.e. 10 seats to the Conservative Group and 4 seats to the Independent Group) the Independent Group must give up one seat to the Conservative Group. The Independent Group has chosen to give up a seat on the Joint Consultative Committee.