

ADVICE ON PARTY BALANCE IN THE CONVENTION

1. COSLA is a body comprising 32 individual councils. Its membership reflects the composition of individual councils rather than attempting to reflect the national strength of party politics in Scotland.
2. This advice applies solely to the membership of the Convention.
3. The advice follows on the advice given by the Convention to member councils about the need for party balance to be reflected in the membership of their committees, sub-committees, joint committees and joint boards.
4. The advice is based on the following formula.

Where the opposition parties in a council which is run by a political group have, collectively, more than $1/x$ of the seats of the council - where x is the number of places on the Convention to which that council is entitled - then one of the places on the Convention should be allocated to the largest opposition party.

For example, if a council has three places on the Convention, $x = 3$. If the opposition parties on that council have collectively more than one-third of the seats on the council, then the largest opposition party would be entitled to one of the three places on the Convention.

5. The COSLA formula is silent on the instance of minority parties who have the same numerical strength. In such instances it is up to the council to make a decision as to how the place is allocated.
6. The analysis does not include councils likely to have minority or joint administrations. In these cases it is a matter for each council to determine their representation having regard to their particular circumstances and the spirit of this advice.
7. This advice should not be taken as to prohibit any council (if it considers there were good reasons for so doing) in adopting a scheme of representation which goes beyond the advice offered by the Convention.