



## **BBC'S INTERNATIONAL SERVICES ANNOUNCE COMPREHENSIVE UK ELECTION PLANS**

**Coverage on BBC World News, World Service and [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) make BBC the 'go-to place' for up-to-the-minute news and analysis**

**Sydney, April 13<sup>th</sup> 2015.** As the United Kingdom prepares to elect a new government, the BBC's international news services will offer a one-stop-shop for audiences around the globe. Whether they are listening to the World Service, watching BBC World News or exploring the online offer at [BBC.com/ukelection](http://BBC.com/ukelection), audiences will receive the latest updates and analysis as the campaign gains momentum and moves towards the all-important polling day and count on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

The coverage will recognise the significance of the general election, not just in the United Kingdom, but internationally right across the world. Audiences can rely on the BBC's trusted team of journalists for reports on all the major milestones.

### **Online at [BBC.com/ukelection](http://BBC.com/ukelection)**

At [BBC.com/ukelection](http://BBC.com/ukelection) there will be a wealth of content, covering the latest news from the campaign trail with a minute-by-minute news tracker, video explainers, opinion poll trackers and reports offering insight into what the results mean for the UK and beyond. In addition, there will be opportunities for the audience to get involved via social media.

The team will also use the BBC's network of journalists across the world to provide global context around the content. In the US, Anthony Zurcher, the BBC's North America Reporter, will travel across the pond with his new political blog 'Campaignspotting' to cover the UK elections with an American take on the politics and pageantry.

### **On BBC World News TV**

As 2015 marks the 750th anniversary of the first elected Parliament at Westminster, a place associated around the world with democracy at work, BBC World News will take viewers behind the scenes in a new series 'Inside the Commons' by award-winning film maker Michael Cockerell. The four-part documentary goes deep inside the corridors of the Palace of Westminster in the year preceding this election to reveal what really goes on. With exclusive access, never before granted, the series offers a glimpse into the weird and wonderful world of Westminster - with its 2,000 rooms, 110 staircases and miles of corridors - and asks whether Parliament is fit for purpose in the 21st century.

Also on the international TV news channel, BBC World News presenters Matthew Amroliwala and Philippa Thomas, along with correspondent Christian Fraser, will guide viewers through the parties and their policies whilst also providing daily round ups, explainers and the key statistics as the campaign moves around the UK.

Other key programming includes a special BBC Question Time hosted by David Dimbleby. To be broadcast on BBC World News on April 30<sup>th</sup>, just one week before the vote, it will feature individual

interviews with the three main party leaders; David Cameron, Ed Miliband and Nick Clegg, undertaken in front of a studio audience.

Then on election night, May 7<sup>th</sup>, as the exit polls come in, World News will be coming together with the BBC's domestic news channel to bring **Election 2015** to viewers around the world. The flagship TV results programme will be hosted by David Dimbleby alongside a team of specialist correspondents and will include innovative state of the art graphics depicting the all-important results. As dawn breaks in the UK on May 8th, Huw Edwards takes over until the final results become clear. Once the count is done, the World News team will be on hand to help global audiences understand who will be forming the UK's next government.

### **On BBC World Service English**

For radio audiences around the world, World Service English will explore issues which not only matter in Britain but resonate internationally: the increasing electoral strength of smaller parties, disenchantment with mainstream politics, the challenges posed by immigration, arguments about austerity and tackling the global economic crisis, and, with continuing calls for Scottish independence, the rise of regionalism.

In 'Who will govern Britain?' Mary Ann Sieghart explores how the parties are planning to form a government if there is no clear winner. Like much of Europe, Britain's traditional two-party system is fragmenting and smaller parties are gaining significant ground. However, the British first-past-the-post, winner-takes-all model is not designed for this new politics. Mary Ann Sieghart speaks to key players in the negotiations over a coalition government after the last general election, and hears how the parties are planning for what might happen this time around.

American writer and satirist PJ O'Rourke often travels the world – from war zones to Washington DC - writing about the stranger side of politics and foreign affairs. In "Your ridiculous election", he travels across Britain trying to work out why party politics in the UK are being shaken up. From the Tory heartlands of the South to Labour's battle for Scotland, PJ meets the politicians, pundits and the people who get to decide – the voters.

Then on election night, World Service English will broadcast an eleven hour special. Presenters Tim Franks, Philippa Thomas, Karin Gianonne and Julian Keane will guide the BBC's global radio audience through what is expected to be the most unpredictable British election night in decades, with continuing coverage until the outcome is clear.

Announcing the comprehensive coverage promised by the BBC's international services, Richard Porter, Editorial & Digital Director for BBC World News and [BBC.com/news](http://BBC.com/news) said: "Election 2015 is a landmark event for Britain and audiences around the world can expect BBC World News to give it the full coverage it deserves. As ever our reporting will reflect the values our global audiences expect from us – covering all sides of the stories, challenging the leading politicians on their policies, giving clarity on the most complex issues. That, combined with respecting and reporting the traditions of Parliament, whilst using the latest technology to help bring clarity to the issues, is what makes the BBC's coverage so distinctive. I hope our audiences will stay with us right the way through to May 7th, and beyond."

Controller of World Service English, Mary Hockaday added: "The World Service will be examining the issues that affect the UK and its place in the world. There is heated debate between the parties about relations with the EU, how to deal with the crisis in Iraq and Syria, the Foreign Aid budget and the UK's role as an international tax haven. The domestic agenda of austerity, debt reduction, job

creation and healthcare are familiar themes around the world. We'll be hearing from the very best BBC and other British political commentators as well as getting global perspectives. As always, our audiences can rely on the BBC World Service to deliver clear, authoritative and impartial coverage of what looks set to be a dramatic election.”

-Ends-

### **Notes to Editors**

**BBC World Service Group** includes BBC World Service, BBC World News television, [bbc.com/news](http://bbc.com/news) (the BBC's international-facing online news site), BBC Monitoring and BBC Media Action – the BBC's international development charity.

The BBC attracts a weekly global audience of 265 million people to its international news services including **BBC World Service**, **BBC World News** television channel and [bbc.com/news](http://bbc.com/news).

**BBC World News and BBC.com**, the BBC's commercially funded international 24-hour English news platforms, are owned and operated by BBC Global News Ltd. BBC World News television is available in more than 200 countries and territories worldwide, and over 385 million households and 1.8 million hotel rooms. The channel's content is also available on 178 cruise ships, 53 airlines and 23 mobile phone networks. BBC.com offers up-to-the minute international news and in-depth analysis for PCs, tablets and mobile devices to more than 80 million unique browsers each month.

**BBC World Service** is an international multimedia broadcaster, delivering a wide range of language and regional services on radio, TV, online and via wireless handheld devices. It uses multiple platforms to reach its weekly audience of 191 million globally, including shortwave, AM, FM, digital satellite and cable channels. Its news sites include audio and video content and offer opportunities to join the global debate. BBC World Service offers its multilingual radio content to partner FM stations around the world and has numerous partnerships supplying content to news websites, mobile phones and other wireless handheld devices as well as TV channels. For more information, visit [bbc.com/worldservice](http://bbc.com/worldservice).

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