



What % of UK law that comes from Brussels?

Political salience: Shows degree of EU interference in UK, it came up in the EU Clegg v Farage debate and could easily come up again.

Suggested Line to take: EU laws and regulations make up **over 50%** of the laws and regulations in force in the UK. These include some of the most costly and ones in politically sensitive areas such as data retention, criminal justice and policing.

Caveats: The % of EU law is not a good measure of the degree of UK involvement in the EU, some laws are vastly more important than others, may relate to relatively minor aspects of trade standards, the CAP etc while others (say on criminal justice, VAT etc) have huge implications for sovereignty.

What % of UK law comes from the EU also depends on what you count. You can count UK Acts of Parliament and get a low number or add in all regulations and statutory instruments and get a high number. You can also count the 'burden' of EU law to UK business as a proportion of all 'burdens' and get a high figure.

Low Figure: 7%

If you only count the % of UK primary law you can get a low figure as Nick Clegg quoted in the Nigel v Nick debate.

Medium range: 50% - 64.7%

Nick Clegg in 2003 believed that 50%+ of UK law emanates from Brussels. If you count all EU regulations and UK statutes that are EU influences BfB came up with 64.7%. Fullfact has also come up with 2/3 of law.

High figure: 70 – 80%

Ironically the highest credible figure comes from the then European Commissioner Viviane Reding who has argued the % was between 70% and 80%, although she latter half qualified the statement. Hans-Gert Pöttering a former President of the European Parliament has also claimed the % was 75%. <http://openeuropeblog.blogspot.co.uk/2014/02/when-ukips-recruitment-sergeant-number.html>

Other methodologies:

British Chambers of Commerce Burdens barometer 2010:

The BCC used to do a series of EU/UK regulations taken from the Impact Assessments, that includes the designation (on the IA) of whether they are EU or UK. [Open Europe did something similar in the "still out of Control" report.]

BCC 2010, <http://www.thamesvalleychamber.co.uk/uploads/Policy/BurdensBarometer2010.pdf>

100 most costly regulations

Open Europe found that the 100 most costly EU regulations cost £27.4bn a year.

Related issue: Being in the EEA means that we would be signed up to all of it anyway?

In Norway 'IN' campaigners like to argue that such a high 75% of Norwegian law comes from Brussels they may as well join the EU in order to avoid 'Fax democracy'. The 'Remain Out' campaign by contrast claim a small 9% - a mirrored debate to the UK. <http://www.capx.co/how-norway-beats-the-eu/>

For a discussion of this please see here:

Sources:

Open Europe Fact Check, 27 March 2014: <http://openeuropeblog.blogspot.co.uk/2014/03/fact-checking-clegg-v-farage-eu-debate.html>

Open Europe, 4 November 2013, How many laws come from the EU?
<http://openeuropeblog.blogspot.co.uk/2013/11/9-43-50-60-84-how-many-domestic-laws.html>

Open Europe blog, "So, Nick, how many laws come from Brussels?"
<http://openeurope.org.uk/intelligence/britain-and-the-eu/100-most-expensive-eu-regulations/>

Business For Britain, <http://forbritain.org/percentagelaws.pdf>

House of Commons Library, 13 October 2010,
<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/RP10-62/RP10-62.pdf>
<http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/RP10-62>

Full Fact, 19 March 2015: <https://fullfact.org/factcheck/law/two-thirds-uk-law-made-EU-40167>
and <https://fullfact.org/europe/eu-make-uk-law-29587>

"About 2/3 of UK law comes from EU or 13% of UK only law."

Open Europe, Cost of 100 most costly EU regulations (£27.4bn a year),
<http://openeurope.org.uk/intelligence/britain-and-the-eu/100-most-expensive-eu-regulations/>

Open Europe, 8 May 2014, Nick Clegg how many laws:
<http://openeuropeblog.blogspot.co.uk/2014/05/so-nick-how-many-laws-come-from-brussels.html>