

## **Party Election Broadcasts**

### **The BBC's criteria for allocation of PEBs at the following elections on 6 May 2021**

1. In Scotland - Scottish Parliament
2. In Wales – the Senedd – Welsh Parliament
3. In England (outside London) – Local government
4. In London – Greater London Authority

### **Ofcom's Rules on Party Political and Referendum Broadcasts state:**

#### **Rule 13:**

*PEBs and PPBs may only be allocated to political parties registered by the Electoral Commission....*

#### **Rule 15:**

*Registered parties should qualify for a PEB if they are contesting one sixth or more of the seats up for election in the case of first-past-the-post, multi-constituency elections such as a General Election.*

*For proportional representation systems of election (such as the European Parliamentary Elections), the minimum qualifying requirement for the allocation of one PEB should be set, reasonably and fairly for each election, according to criteria which have regard to the particular system of voting, the number of seats available for election, the number of constituencies/regions, and the number of candidates nominated by the party.*

### **BBC Threshold Criteria for PEBs in Scotland and Wales:**

To qualify for one PEB in the relevant nation:

**In Scotland**, a registered political party must stand:

- a minimum of 4 candidates in each of the 8 regional lists; **or**
- constituency candidates in a minimum of one sixth of the total seats being contested in the election (ie **22** constituency candidates)

**In Wales**, a registered political party must stand:

- a minimum of 4 candidates in each of the 5 regional lists; **or**
- constituency candidates in a minimum of one sixth of the total seats being contested in the election (ie **10** constituency candidates)

**BBC Threshold criteria in England (Local government elections outside GLA)**

A registered party must stand candidates in a minimum of one-sixth of the seats being contested in the English local elections outside the GLA\*.

(\* it is estimated there will be approximately 4650 seats contested, so the qualification threshold is approximately 775 candidates).

### **BBC Threshold criteria in London (GLA election)**

A registered political party must stand:

- (i) a candidate for Mayor  
AND
- (ii) a full slate of candidates in all constituencies OR a full slate of candidates for all list seats.

Exceptionally, a PEB may also be offered to:

- (i) a Mayoral candidate who can demonstrate evidence of significant past and/or current electoral support in London; but is not representing a party standing sufficient candidates for the Assembly  
or
- (ii) a registered political party without a Mayoral candidate but which is:
  - (a) standing a full slate of candidates in all constituencies OR a full slate of candidates in all list seats;  
AND
  - (b) can demonstrate evidence of significant past and/or current electoral support in London.

### **Criteria for Additional PEBs**

**Ofcom Rule 16:** *Relevant Services should consider making additional allocations of PEBs to registered parties (which satisfy the criteria at Rule 15) if evidence of their past electoral support and/or current support at a particular election or in a relevant nation/electoral area means it would be appropriate to do so.*

For a party meeting the criteria for one PEB in the relevant nation (or area in the case of the London election), the BBC may allocate one or two additional PEBs if the party can demonstrate substantial levels of past and/or current electoral support in that nation (or area).

### **BBC Services which will broadcast PEBs (Ofcom Rules 10 & 11).**

On BBC One in England, Scotland and Wales.

On BBC Radio Scotland, BBC Radio Nan Gaidheal (broadcast in Gaelic), BBC Radio Wales and BBC Radio Cymru (broadcast in Welsh language);

In London on BBC London (Radio).

#### PEBs for London and English local elections

Where parties meet criteria for both the London election and English local government elections (and broadcasts were allocated for simultaneous transmission), they could deliver:

- either a single PEB for England including London; or
- alternate PEBs – one for London and one for the rest of England.

#### **Notes**

A party may be deemed to be standing a full list, or have met the relevant minimum, if it is clear that it intended to stand a full list but at a late stage failed to do so, for example, because a candidate had to withdraw.

All PEBs will be available online via iPlayer from first transmission at least until polling day.

No PEBs will be allocated for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections, because they do not align with relevant transmission areas.

#### **Electoral Commission**

As is required by section 11(3) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, the proposed criteria for the allocation of PEBs are sent to the Electoral Commission for comment.