

## **Party Election Broadcasts: The BBC's criteria for allocation: May elections, 2022.**

This document sets out the BBC's eligibility and allocation criteria for PEBs for the following elections on 5 May 2022, in line with Ofcom's Rules on Party Political and Referendum Broadcasts:

1. In Northern Ireland – Assembly elections
2. In England – Local government elections
3. In Wales – Local government elections
4. In Scotland – Local government elections

[https://www.ofcom.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0035/99188/pprb-rules-december-2020.pdf](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0035/99188/pprb-rules-december-2020.pdf)

### **Threshold Criteria for PEBs**

In line with Rule 15 of Ofcom rules, to qualify for one PEB in the relevant nation, a political party must be registered with the Electoral Commission and satisfy the following criteria:

#### Northern Ireland Assembly elections (Single Transferable Vote)

A registered political party must stand at least **12** candidates across a minimum of six constituencies. Qualification entitles a party to a PEB in Northern Ireland.

#### English local government elections (First Past the Post)

A registered political party must stand candidates in a minimum of one sixth of the seats being contested in the English local government elections. Qualification entitles a party to a PEB in England. (Nb It is estimated that one-sixth will require **727** candidates across England).

#### Welsh local government elections (First Past the Post)

A registered political party must stand candidates in a minimum of one sixth of the seats being contested in the Welsh local government elections. Qualification entitles a party to a PEB in Wales. (Nb provisional estimate is that one-sixth will require **206** candidates across Wales).

## Scottish local government elections (Single Transferable Vote)

A registered political party must stand candidates in a minimum of one sixth of the wards (ie **60** out of 355) being contested in the Scottish local government elections. Qualification entitles a party to a PEB in Scotland.

## **Criteria for Additional PEBs in England, Wales, Scotland & Northern Ireland**

In line with Rule 16 of Ofcom Rules on Party Political and Referendum Broadcasts, a registered political party which meets the threshold criteria in the relevant nation may qualify for additional PEBs if it can demonstrate substantial levels of past and/or current electoral support in that nation.

## **Electoral Commission**

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

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/41/section/11>

Representations regarding the provisional allocation should be made to the Chief Adviser, Politics, as soon as possible.

[ric.bailey@bbc.co.uk](mailto:ric.bailey@bbc.co.uk)

Complaints from political parties regarding the final allocation of party election broadcasts are referred to Section 5 of the BBC Complaints Framework and Procedures. [https://www.bbc.co.uk/contact/sites/default/files/2020-06/BBC\\_Complaints\\_Framework.pdf](https://www.bbc.co.uk/contact/sites/default/files/2020-06/BBC_Complaints_Framework.pdf)