

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

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.

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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