

## **Party Election Broadcasts: The BBC's criteria for allocation: May elections, 2023.**

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

1. In England – Local government elections (4 May)
2. In Northern Ireland – Local government elections (18 May)

[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:

#### 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 currently estimated that one-sixth will require a minimum of approximately **1350** candidates standing for election across England).

#### Northern Ireland local government elections (Single Transferable Vote)

A registered political party must stand at least one candidate in a minimum of one sixth of the DEAs being contested in the Northern Ireland local government elections (ie a minimum of **14** candidates across **14** different DEAs).

### **Criteria for Additional PEBs**

A registered political party which meets the threshold criteria 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](https://www.bbc.co.uk/contact/sites/default/files/2020-06/BBC_Complaints_Framework.pdf)