Party Election Broadcasts

The BBC's criteria for allocation of PEBs at the following elections on 7 May 2026:

1. In Scotland - Scottish Parliament

2. In Wales – Senedd, the Welsh Parliament

3. In England – Local government

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 Scottish Parliament, Welsh Parliament and Northern Ireland Assembly 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 **one** candidate in all **16** constituencies….

OR

- a total of **32** candidates across at least **4** constituencies.

In England a registered party must stand:

- candidates in a minimum of one-sixth of the total seats being contested in the English local elections*

(* current estimate is that the qualification threshold will be approximately 850 candidates).

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.

BBC Allocation

For a party meeting the criteria for one PEB in the relevant nation, 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.

BBC Services broadcasting PEBs (Ofcom Rules 10 & 11).

BBC One in England, Scotland and Wales.

BBC Radio Scotland, BBC Radio Nan Gaidheal (broadcast in Gaelic),

BBC Radio Wales and BBC Radio Cymru (broadcast in Welsh language);

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

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