

Note to Broadcasters

Monitoring of broadcasters' compliance with harm rules

To ensure that audiences are adequately protected from harmful broadcast content, and given ongoing public concern about harm¹, we will shortly be launching a new programme of targeted monitoring of television and radio services. The monitoring will focus on identifying any harmful content relating to:

- health or wealth advice and claims;
- hate speech;
- abusive or derogatory treatment of individuals, groups, religious or communities; and/or
- incitement to crime or violence.

Ofcom's rules related to these areas are found in Sections 2 (Harm and Offence) and 3 (Crime, Disorder, Hatred and Abuse) of the Code.

The targeted monitoring will focus on services which carry religious, viewer or listener advice and/or discussion programming as the majority of recent breaches concerning harmful content have occurred in these types of programming.

If we identify a potential issue which warrants further investigation, then we will normally follow [our published procedures for investigating breaches of content standards](#).

We take this opportunity to remind broadcasters that:

- Ofcom is likely to consider breaches involving harm to be serious and these may result in us taking further regulatory action, such as imposing a statutory sanction.
- We may request recordings from broadcasters for the purpose of this monitoring programme. Failures to retain or produce recordings, as required by broadcasters' licences, may also result in us taking further regulatory action.
- In addition to this monitoring programme, we will continue ongoing ad hoc and reactive monitoring of any of our licensed services as required, for example after specific global, political or societal events, or after imposition of a sanction.

¹ Ofcom's [Audience expectations in a digital world](#) research and our [Minority Ethnic Audience research](#) found that participants placed particular importance on the regulation of harmful content on television and radio.