

Reference: 01765708

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

12 February 2024

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about whistleblowing reports of sexual misconduct in broadcasting.

We received this request on 15 January 2024. We sought clarification of your request on 16 January 2024 and this was received on 17 January 2024, clarified as “whistleblowing within broadcasting”. We have interpreted your request to mean misconduct in the broadcasting industry reported to Ofcom as a whistleblower disclosure case. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”).

Your request & our response

I would like to know for the calendar year 2023:

1. How many reports have you received of “sexual misconduct” and/or “sexual harassment”?

None.

2. Please provide a breakdown, either by percentage or numerically, of how reports of sexual misconduct and/or sexual harassment compare with other recorded categories of misconduct, both financial and non-financial.

None. Please see the information under our response to question 5.

3. How many reports of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment have resulted in cases being opened (broken down by percentage or numerically)?

None.

4. What number or percentage of allegations and cases were reported by individuals and what number by firms?

None.

5. What number of the reports led to an investigation, no action, or further action (i.e. regulatory sanction or other enforcement action) broken down by percentage or numerically?

None.

As a prescribed body, Ofcom’s regulatory remit in relation to broadcasting services does not generally cover sexual misconduct complaints. Unless these issues were raised in relation to matters for which we have regulatory responsibility, for example, the compliance of broadcast content with

our Broadcasting Code, we would not investigate such issues as whistleblower disclosures. Where such cases do not fall to Ofcom to investigate, where appropriate, we may refer the complaint on to the relevant body - in this example - the police. We do publish a yearly report on the whistleblowing disclosures we receive. Please see our [Whistleblowing webpage](#) for further details.

If you have any further queries, then please send them to information.requests@ofcom.org.uk – quoting the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

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Request an internal review

If you are unhappy with the response you have received to your request for information, or think that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law, you may ask for an internal review. If you do, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom. We will either uphold the original decision, or reverse or modify it.

If you would like to ask us to carry out an internal review, you should get in touch within two months of the date of this letter. There is no statutory deadline for us to complete our internal review, and the time it takes will depend on the complexity of the request. But we will try to complete the review within 20 working days (or no more than 40 working days in exceptional cases) and keep you informed of our progress.

Please email the Information Requests team (information.requests@ofcom.org.uk) to request an internal review.

Taking it further

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our internal review, then you have the right to [complain to the Information Commissioner's Office](#).