

Reference: 01847278

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

25 July 2024

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about correspondence relating to content contained within the edition of *Channel 4 News* broadcast on 27 June 2024, about the Reform UK Party.

We received this request on 3 July 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

"I'm interested in the very recent Ofcom investigation into the Channel 4 news report about alleged racism in the Reform Party. I have contacted Channel 4, ITN, and Lee Sorrell Media. So far, none of these have answered my questions. Please could you therefore furnish me with ALL correspondence with these organisations, along with any correspondence you may have had with Andrew Parker?"

Our response

We have interpreted your request as relating to correspondence between Ofcom and Channel 4, ITN, Lee Sorrell Media and/or Andrew Parker about content regarding the Reform UK Party contained within *Channel 4 News* broadcast on 27 June 2024.

While we hold information falling within the scope of your request with respect to communications with Channel 4 and ITN, we consider that this information is exempt from disclosure under section 44 of the FOI Act. Section 44 exempts the disclosure of information which is prohibited by another enactment. We are prohibited under section 393 of the Communications Act 2003 from disclosing information which relates to a business, in this case Channel 4 on behalf of itself and ITN, which we have obtained in exercise of our powers, unless we have the consent of that business or one of the statutory gateways for disclosure under section 393(2) of the Act is met, neither of which applies here. Section 44 is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

We do not hold information regarding correspondence with Lee Sorrell Media or Andrew Parker.

You may be aware that Ofcom recently published a statement on this case, which can be found here: [Update on complaints about Channel 4 News' 'Undercover inside Reform's campaign'](#).

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](#).