

Reference: 1909076

Information Requests  
[information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk)

18 November 2024

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about complaints relating to comments referring to “Farage riots” in the James O'Brien programme.

We received this request on 21 October 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

### Your request

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*Approximately 10am James Obrien referred to the recent riots as the Farage Riots', it was not a slip he repeated the accusation three times. The accusation is untrue, misleading and incites hatred & violence toward an elected politician by James Obrien unreasonably labeling Mr Farage MP as responsible for 'Farage Riots'*

...

*Regarding my complaint forwarded to you below could you please tell me:*

- 1) If OFCOM investigated the complaint?*
- 2) The outcome of any investigation?*
- 3) How many similar complaints were made about this issue?*

### Our response

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We assessed your complaint in line with [our published complaints procedures](#), and after careful assessment did not consider the material raised issues warranting investigation under the Ofcom Broadcasting Code. In accordance with our procedures, that decision was published in the Standards section for complaints assessed and not pursued on [our website](#), in Bulletin issue 506 on 23 September.

In relation to your third question, we have conducted a search for complaints about the James O'Brien programme which were received between June and October 2024, and which contained the phrase “Farage riot”. A table containing these results is below.

Programme	Service	Transmission or Accessed Date	Number of complaints	Issues
James O'Brien	LBC 97.3 FM	06/08/2024	23	Materially misleading
James O'Brien	LBC 97.3 FM	08/08/2024	1	Materially misleading
James O'Brien	LBC 97.3 FM	09/08/2024	1	Materially misleading
James O'Brien	LBC 97.3 FM	19/08/2024	1	Materially misleading
James O'Brien	LBC 97.3 FM	20/08/2024	2	Materially misleading
James OBrien	LBC 97.3 FM	21/08/2024	1	Materially misleading

James O'Brien	LBC 97.3 FM	23/08/2024	2	Materially misleading
James O'Brien	LBC 97.3 FM	30/08/2024	2	Generally accepted standards
James O'Brien	LBC 97.3 FM	09/09/2024	2	Materially misleading
James O'Brien	LBC 97.3 FM	10/09/2024	2	Generally accepted standards
James O'Brien	LBC 97.3 FM	19/09/2024	22	Generally accepted standards

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any further queries, then please send them to [information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk) – quoting the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

## Information Requests

### 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](mailto: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](#).