

Reference: 1848317

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

31 July 2024

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Channel 4 and electoral interference.

We received this request on 8 July 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

"Evidence reviewed to find Channel 4 not guilty of electoral interference."

Our response

We understand your request relates to the evidence reviewed by Ofcom in its [decision](#) (published on 3 July 2024) not to investigate an edition of *Channel 4 News* broadcast on 27 June 2024.

By way of background, complaints about broadcast standards are carefully assessed under the [Ofcom Broadcasting Code](#) ("the Code") which sets standards for programme content that all Ofcom licensees must follow. In line with our published [complaints procedures](#), we review every complaint we receive to consider whether it raises potentially substantive issues under the Code which warrant investigation by Ofcom. If we consider that these standards may have been breached, we will investigate. You can find decisions about complaints we have considered in [Ofcom's Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin](#), published every fortnight on our website.

As set out in Ofcom's statement of 3 July 2024, we carefully assessed the complaints received about this broadcast, and concluded that the edition of *Channel 4 News* broadcast on 27 June 2024 did not raise issues warranting investigation under the due accuracy, due impartiality and offence rules in the Code. Any person or organisation directly affected by a programme has 20 working days from the date of broadcast to make a fairness and privacy complaint to Ofcom.

Turning to your request, we consider that information regarding the evidence Ofcom took into account in reaching its decision 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 hope this information is helpful. 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,

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) 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](#).