

Reference: 01960452

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

14 March 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning defamation complaint settlements in relation to BBC broadcast content since 1 May 2020. Your request was received on 17 February 2025, and we have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

Your request

Has Ofcom or British Broadcasting Corporation settled any defamation complaint in relation to broadcast content of British Broadcasting Corporation from 1 May 2020 through currently?

Our response

We do not hold any information about defamation claims against the BBC in the legal sense, as this is outside our remit. Our role is to consider complaints within the scope of the [Ofcom Broadcasting Code](#).

However, [Section Seven](#) of the Code enables Ofcom to consider complaints by individuals/organisations about potentially unfair or unjust treatment in a programme, such as statements made about them in a broadcast which they may consider to be defamatory. Ofcom is not able to consider a fairness complaint if the matter being complained about is the subject of any proceedings in a court of law in the United Kingdom.

All our adjudications are published in our [Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin](#). For ease of reference, please find attached a table showing details of complaints considered by Ofcom against the BBC under Section Seven of the Code, from 1 May 2020 to the date of your request. Please note that we do not hold information about complaints made directly to the BBC, and therefore these are not included in the table.

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](#).