

Ofcom Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin

Note to Broadcasters

Offensive Language Breaches

On 22 September 2021, Ofcom published a new research report on [Public attitudes towards offensive language on TV and Radio](#). This research, which was conducted by Ipsos MORI, provided an update on our previous research on this subject that was published in 2016¹.

In the seven cases in this Bulletin concerning offensive language, we took account of the 2016 research which was applicable at the time of the relevant broadcasts. Licensees should continue using the updated 2021 research that is now available for compliance purposes.

We indicated in September 2021² that we would be reviewing our existing [guidance](#) and this review will be completed in due course. We will be updating stakeholders in due course on our work in this area through a further Note to Broadcasters. As we said in September 2021, we do not consider that the findings of the new research will fundamentally change our approach to applying the offensive language rules in the Code.

If any licensees have any queries arising from how the research has been applied, they should contact OfcomStandardsTeam@ofcom.org.uk.

¹ [Attitudes to potentially offensive language and gestures on TV and radio](#).

² [Ofcom Note to Broadcasters](#), 22 September 2021.