

Reference: 01492228

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05 September 2022

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information asking about the Broadcasting Standards Council (the 'BSC'), its Code of Practice and complaints received during the year 1989. We received this request on 5 August 2022 and have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "FOI Act").

Your request

You asked for:

- 1. The day and month the Broadcasting Standards Council ('BSC') was established and operational in 1988;*
- 2. The day and month the BSC ceased operating in 1997;*
- 3. A copy of the Code of Practice in force for the BSC from 1 January 1989 - 31 December 1989;*
- 4. A copy of the Code of Practice (or equivalent principal document) governing the Broadcasting Complaints Commission in force from 1 January 1989 - 31 December 1989; and*
- 5. Any information held by Ofcom related to complaints received between 1 January 1989 - 31 December 1989.*

Our response

I can confirm Ofcom holds information in scope of your request and is detailed in response to each question below.

- 1. The day and month the Broadcasting Standards Council ('BSC') was established and operational in 1988*

The BSC was established and operational from 16 May 1988.

2. *The day and month the BSC ceased operating in 1997*

The BSC ceased operating on 1 April 1997.

3. *A copy of the Code of Practice in force for the BSC from 1 January 1989 - 31 December 1989*

The Code of Practice is attached in Annex 1, pages 49-101.

4. *A copy of the Code of Practice (or equivalent principal document) governing the Broadcasting Complaints Commission in force from 1 January 1989 - 31 December 1989*

Please see attached Annex 2. This contains the Broadcasting Complaints Commission annual report for 1989 which refers to the procedural arrangements. We don't hold any further information relating to your request.

5. *Any information held by Ofcom related to complaints received between 1 January 1989 - 31 December 1989*

Please see attached Annex 1, pages 1-47. The annual report includes an overview of the types of complaints, but the BSC did not start publishing a complaints bulletin until 1991.

If you have any queries, then please contact information.requests@ofcom.org.uk. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Katherine Childs

If you are unhappy with the response you have received in relation to your request for information and/or consider that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law you may ask for an internal review. If you ask us for an internal review of our decision, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom.

The following outcomes are possible:

- the original decision is upheld; or
- the original decision is reversed or modified.

Timing

If you wish to exercise your right to an internal review **you should contact us within two months of the date of this letter**. There is no statutory deadline for responding to internal reviews and it will depend upon the complexity of the case. However, we aim to conclude all such reviews within 20 working days, and up to 40 working days in exceptional cases. We will keep you informed of the progress of any such review. If you wish to request an internal review, you should contact information.requests@ofcom.org.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Further information about this, and the internal review process can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office [here](#). Alternatively, the Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House

Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire

SK9 5AF