

Reference: 1582369

Information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

13 April 2023

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about news media reporting restrictions.

We received this request on 14 March 2023 and have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request

You asked: *'Are TV and Radio News Media outlets under any current restrictions regarding discussion of, or reporting on, the WHO Pandemic Preparedness and Response Treaty?'*

Our response

Ofcom has set no specific restrictions on the reporting or discussion of the Treaty. Broadcasters licensed by Ofcom may broadcast discussions or reports on issues relating to the Treaty, provided these broadcasts comply with the [Broadcasting Code](#).

You may also find it useful to view our webpage on [broadcast standards during the Coronavirus pandemic](#), which contains guidance issued to broadcasters which outlines our approach to enforcement of their regulatory obligations during the Coronavirus pandemic, and highlights issues which may arise in broadcast content relating to the Coronavirus. This guidance does not include instructions to broadcasters regarding how they should report on the Coronavirus, generally or in relation to specific subject matter. It is an editorial decision for the individual broadcaster as to what content it broadcasts and how to ensure it complies with the Code, consistent with broadcasters' right to freedom of expression.

I 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

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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