

Reference: 01559420

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20 February 2023

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning MPs hosting News TV shows. Your request was received on 26 January 2023 and we have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request

I would like to confirm if any discussion / investigation was carried out into the following politicians to have their own TV show on news channels: Esther McVey, Jacob Rees-Moggs. If so, I would like to understand the 'editorial justification' for the show, as per Section 5.3 of the Ofcom Broadcasting Code.

Our response

We do not hold this information.

Ofcom has had no direct involvement with any decision making around these individuals appearing as presenters and there are no current or past investigations by Ofcom into this matter.

Ofcom is a post transmission regulator and compliance decisions are a matter for the broadcasters in the first case, mindful of the rules of the Ofcom Broadcast Code or other relevant licence condition. Therefore, although it has been reported that Mr Rees-Mogg is to start presenting a programme on the channel GB News, this has yet to happen, and so we are not able to assess whether any such programme complies with our rules until it has been broadcast. In this context, Rule 5.3 of the Ofcom Broadcasting Code would not prohibit an MP from presenting non-news programming outside of election periods in which they were a candidate, though other rules around due impartiality would still apply. Ms McVey has been presenting a non-news programme, *Saturday Morning with Esther and Philip*, along with her fellow MP, Philip Davies on GB News.

You may find the following, recently-published article of use: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/news-centre/2023/ofcoms-rules-on-politicians-on-tv-and-radio>.

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

Zach Westbrook

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