

Reference: 01618270

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

9 June 2023

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning the investigation into GB News, relating to Mark Steyn's programme and interview with Dr Naomi Wolf, on GB News on 4 and 5 October 2022. Your request was received on 12 May 2023 and we have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

Your request & our response

Request the full cost of the investigation into GB News, relating to Mark Steyn's programme and interview with Dr Naomi Wolf, on GB News on 4th and 5th October 2022; including the cost of producing

Ofcom's Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin. Issue 473, 9 May 2023. Mark Steyn, GB News, 4 October 2022, 20:00; 5 October 2022, 02:00.

We do not hold, and are not able to provide, a figure for the amount we spend investigating broadcast cases for a particular period or on a case-by case basis.

The Ofcom colleagues who are primarily responsible for investigating broadcasting complaints will often handle multiple cases, at a variety of stages, at the same time. These employees are also likely to be involved in other work, such as developing broadcasting standards policy. Cases may involve colleagues from other parts of Ofcom such as legal, licensing, or market research, for example.

Furthermore, while we operate a timesheet system to track employees' work and working hours, policy and investigation work are intrinsically linked and are therefore normally logged together. In addition, while we record financial expenditure by individual sector in our [Annual Report and Accounts](#), there is no specific business need to record expenditure on individual investigation cases.

Given these factors it is not possible for us to provide the costs for individual broadcasting complaints.

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

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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