

Reference: 01565408

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

9 March 2023

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information in relation to complaints regarding the *Mark Steyn* programme on GB News. We received this request on 9 February 2023. We have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Background

By way of background, Ofcom assesses every complaint it receives. Based on an initial assessment of the complaint and a consideration of the related content, Ofcom will consider whether there may have been a breach of the Broadcasting Code (or other Ofcom codes or licence conditions). In cases where Ofcom considers there may have been a breach, it will launch an investigation. The possible outcomes of an investigation are that we judge an issue is in breach, resolved or not in breach of our rules.

Ofcom's Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin, published every fortnight on our website, includes decisions about the complaints we have considered. The Bulletin covers a range of cases, including those which Ofcom has escalated for full investigation, and those which, after careful assessment, Ofcom has decided not to pursue because they did not raise issues warranting investigation. The [Bulletins](#) can be accessed on our website.

Where there is a serious breach of the Code we may impose a statutory sanction such as a financial penalty. Statutory sanctions are a very serious matter and often result in financial penalties, or even revocation of a broadcaster's licence. Ofcom's Broadcasting [Standards Adjudications](#) are available on our website.

The volume of complaints received may be a consideration in assessing general audience reactions, but it is not determinative as to whether Ofcom will proceed to investigate any given case. Rather, it is the particular issues which have been raised by the complainant(s) which are of primary concern in Ofcom's assessment of a programme.

Your request and our response

How many complaints have been made to Ofcom regarding the Mark Steyn show on GB News?

We have received 717 complaints about this programme.

How many complainant's were there?

There were 680 complainants – we received multiple complaints from 21 of these complainants.

How many of the complaints have resulted in a fine?

On 6 March 2023, we announced that an episode of the *Mark Steyn* programme, which aired on GB News on 21 April 2022, was [in breach](#) of our broadcasting rules. There was no fine for this breach. We had received four complaints about this broadcast.

An additional investigation into an episode of *Mark Steyn*, which aired on 4 October 2022, remains ongoing.

I hope this information is helpful. 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,

Information Requests

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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF