

Reference: 1789585

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

4 April 2024

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about complaints against GB News and campaigns. We received this request on 7 March 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request and our response

I am aware that OFCOM has several ongoing investigations into GB News. I am concerned that there may be a concerted effort by some groups/organisations/individuals to undermine GB News and some of its presenters. This is a social media technique commonly known as a "pile-on" where participants are "encouraged" to complain. Some oppose alternative opinions and will do whatever they can to suppress them. I'm sure that some are genuine. Can you please provide me with the following information:

1. A list, with brief summary, of all current investigations into GB News. If this is available on your web site can you please provide me with links.

Notice of investigations on all these cases has been published in the Investigations List of the [Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin](#). For ease of reference, we have provided the below chart containing open investigations into GB News broadcasts as of the date of your request.

Bulletin	Type	Programme Name	Service Name	Transmission Date
477	Standards	Jacob Rees-Mogg's State of the Nation	GB News	09/05/2023
479	Standards	Jacob Rees-Mogg's State of the Nation	GB News	13/06/2023
479	Standards	Friday Morning with Esther and Philip	GB News	12/05/2023
479	Standards	Saturday Morning with Esther and Philip	GB News	13/05/2023
482	Standards	Britain's Newsroom	GB News	05/07/2023
482	Standards	Breakfast with Eamonn and Isabel	GB News	06/07/2023
482	Standards	Patrick Christys	GB News	11/07/2023
482	Standards	The Live Desk	GB News	17/08/2023
482	Standards	Britain's Newsroom	GB News	11/07/2023
484	Standards	Friday Morning with Esther and Philip	GB News	23/06/2023
485	Fairness and Privacy	Dan Wootton Tonight	GB News	18/07/2023
492	Standards	People's Forum: The Prime Minister	GB News	12/02/2024
493	Standards	Farage	GB News	17/01/2024

2. Does OFCOM have any process in place to identify when complaints are maliciously motivated and part of an organised campaign. If so, may I please have details.

We take an independent view on issues raised in a complaint regardless of any particular motivation or co-ordinated campaign by complainants. Ofcom assesses every complaint it receives, and while the volume of complaints may be a consideration in assessing general audience reactions, 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 broadcast.

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

Request an internal review

If you are unhappy with the response you have received to your request for information, or think that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law, you may ask for an internal review. If you do, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom. We will either uphold the original decision, or reverse or modify it.

If you would like to ask us to carry out an internal review, you should get in touch within two months of the date of this letter. There is no statutory deadline for us to complete our internal review, and the time it takes will depend on the complexity of the request. But we will try to complete the review within 20 working days (or no more than 40 working days in exceptional cases) and keep you informed of our progress.

Please email the Information Requests team (information.requests@ofcom.org.uk) to request an internal review.

Taking it further

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our internal review, then you have the right to [complain to the Information Commissioner's Office](#).