

Reference: 01795196

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

11 April 2024

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Ofcom's Board members and Ofcom's running of terrestrial tv news output.

We received this request on 19 March 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

"I would like to know, specifically, who sits on the board of OFCOM and who is redd as possible for overall running and decision making in OFCOM over terrestrial tv news output. Who makes the decisions given as 'findings' in what is appropriate or non appropriate 'output'.

I am aware OFCOM is a government funded/ run organisation."

Our response

The Ofcom Board provides strategic direction for the organisation and consists of a non-executive Chair, executive members (including Ofcom's Chief Executive), and non-executive members. Details of the Ofcom Board membership and functions are available [here](#).

We have interpreted your question about decisions on what is 'appropriate' or 'non-appropriate' terrestrial tv news 'output' to mean decisions about whether broadcast television news content is in breach, or not in breach, of the Broadcasting Code.

It is important to note that Ofcom is a post-broadcast regulator. Therefore, decisions on what content is broadcast, including news, are editorial decisions which are the responsibility of the relevant broadcaster. However, all broadcasters are required to adhere to [the Broadcasting Code](#).

Ofcom's 'findings' in relation to whether or not broadcast content was in breach of the Broadcasting Code are made as a result of an investigation, whether initiated on Ofcom's own initiative, or in response to complaints. Both types of investigation are carried out in accordance with the same procedures which are published on our website, in addition to separate published procedures for complaints relating to fairness and privacy issues in broadcast content and for complaints relating to the BBC. All the procedures are published on our website [here](#), and provide information about who is responsible for decision making at each stage of the process.

You will note from the procedures above that a panel of Ofcom's Content Board members provide their advisory opinion at various stages of the decision-making process. Details of Ofcom's Content Board membership and functions are available on our [website](#).

As stated on our [website](#), Ofcom is independent and funded by fees paid to Ofcom by the companies that it regulates.

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](#).