

Reference: 01888370

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

20 September 2024

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about party election broadcasts correspondence and complaints.

We received this request on 27 August 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

Your request & our response

“I am looking to find out about your policy towards party election broadcasts (PEBs), with reference to ‘Ofcom rules on Party Political and Referendum Broadcasts’ (2020).

1. Copies of any correspondence related to PEBs between Ofcom and representatives of either PEB producers or Relevant Services between 22 May and 4 July 2024.

Whilst we can confirm that we do hold information falling within the scope of your request, we consider that disclosure of this information is exempt under section 44 of the FOI Act. Section 44 exempts the disclosure of information which is prohibited by another enactment. In this case, we are prohibited under section 393 of the Communications Act 2003 from disclosing information which relates to a business (in this case, the relevant services), which we have obtained in exercising our powers in relation to broadcast standards, unless we have the consent of that business or one of the statutory gateways for disclosure under section 393(2) is met, neither of which applies here. Section 44 is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

2. Copies of any complaints about the Relevant Services from PEB producers received by Ofcom this year, and full copies of Ofcom’s decision(s).”

Ofcom received one complaint from a PEB producer relating to Party Election Broadcasts for the 2024 General Election period. We note a copy of this complaint has been made available on the [Alba Party website](#). In relation to this complaint, Ofcom published a response, which may be found [here](#).

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](#).