

Reference: 1955432

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

10 March 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Ofcom's policy, guidance or information on how media groups are required to interact with MPs.

We received this request on 10 February 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request

I'm curious to establish whether Ofcom has any policy, guidance or information on how media groups are required to interaction with MPs, whilst those MPs are subject to criminal investigations.

Could you please provide me with any relevant information.

Our response

We do not hold any information specifically in relation to how media companies should interact with MPs who are the subject of a criminal investigation.

However, it may be useful to note that [Rules 3.5 to 3.7 of the Broadcasting Code](#) provide rules relating to payments by broadcasters to individuals providing a contribution to a broadcast programme, where criminal proceedings are active or foreseeable relating to the information provided by that contributor. Depending on the specifics of any interactions made in the production of a broadcast, any other aspect of [the Code](#) could also apply, including, in particular: the rules under Sections Seven and Eight relating to fairness and privacy, and the due accuracy and due impartiality requirements for news and other types of programmes under Section Five.

We 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](#).