

Reference: 02107156

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

2 December 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Department official communications with the BBC about Covid-19.

We received this request on 11 November 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I request copies of all recorded information (emails, meeting minutes, briefing notes, letters, attachments, and text/WhatsApp messages if held on official accounts) between your department and the BBC (including its senior executives, editorial staff, or communications team) that relate to messaging, coverage, or guidance about COVID-19 vaccines, vaccine injuries, adverse events, or vaccine-related deaths.

Please include:

- *All records of meetings and minutes between Department officials (including ministers and special advisers) and BBC staff that discussed COVID-19 vaccine messaging (1 Jan 2020 – 31 Dec 2023).*
- *Copies of any written guidance, suggested lines, recommended wording, or requests sent to the BBC about how to cover vaccine safety, adverse events, Yellow Card reports, or vaccine-related deaths in news and programming.*

If the volume is large, please prioritise material from Jan 1 2020 – Dec 31 2021. If any information is withheld under an exemption, please provide the specific exemption(s) and the public interest reasoning.

Our response

We note your request refers to meetings and minutes between Department officials (including ministers and special advisers) and BBC staff. We think your request is directed to Government departments rather than Ofcom and we would suggest you redirect it accordingly.

In case helpful, please note the following page lists Ofcom's guidance to broadcasters, including the BBC, about broadcast standards during the Coronavirus pandemic: [Broadcast standards during the coronavirus pandemic](#)

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](#).