

Reference: 01977494

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

2 April 2025

Dear,

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about complaints about Red Nose Day 21 March 2025.

We received this request on 26 March 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

"I'd like to know how many people put in a complaint about the BBC Red Nose Day, specifically the simulated sex act".

Background

By way of background, Ofcom assesses every complaint it receives. Based on an initial assessment of the complaint and a consideration of the related content, Ofcom will consider whether there may have been a breach of the Broadcasting Code (or other Ofcom codes or licence conditions). In cases where Ofcom considers there may have been a breach, it will launch an investigation. The possible outcomes of an investigation are that we judge an issue is in breach, resolved or not in breach of our rules.

For complaints about the BBC, as outlined in our [published procedures for investigating breaches of content standards on BBC broadcasting services](#). Ofcom can normally only consider complaints where the complainant has already complained to the BBC and the BBC has reached its final decision.

Ofcom's [Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin](#) (the 'Bulletin'), published every fortnight on our website, includes decisions about the complaints we have considered. The Bulletin covers a range of cases, including those which Ofcom has escalated for full investigation, and those which, after careful assessment, Ofcom has decided not to pursue because they did not raise issues warranting investigation. The Bulletin can be accessed on our website.

The volume of complaints received may be a consideration in assessing general audience reactions, but 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 programme.

Our response

Ofcom received two complaints about Red Nose Day programming, both of which related to sexual content in *Comic Relief: More Funny For Money*, broadcast on BBC2 at 22:00 on 21 March. Both complaints had not completed the BBC first process so were referred to the BBC.

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](#).