

Reference: 1991275

Information Requests  
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20 June 2025

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about broadcast guidance on social cohesion and tackling extremism and radicalisation.

We received your request on 27 April 2025 and asked for clarification on 12 May 2025, which was received on 22 May 2025. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

### Your request

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*"With regard to Broadcast media, both factual and fictional programming, script supervision, writing, television composition and production, and online content*

*1. What advice does Ofcom offer to production companies and broadcasters with regard to*

*a) maintaining social cohesion*

*b) tackling extremism and radicalisation*

*Is any advice offered on scripts, storylines and other content in order to maintain social cohesion and tackle extremism?*

*2. What internal definitions are in place at Ofcom, whether in training for staff, in guidelines, or documentation, for extremism and extremist or radicalising content?*

*Can you please provide any internal guidance on what constitutes extremism or extreme content for Ofcom, the warning signs of extremism, examples of beliefs, viewing habits, reading in habits or stated opinions that would constitute extremism*

*Could you, in particular, provide any material in which Ofcom sets out (either for staff internally or [for] its partners) what Ofcom views as far-right extremism*

*Could you provide any information on how Ofcom advises, internally or externally, tackling far-right extremism*

*For example - what behavioural insights or nudge theory methods are advised for tackling extremism?"*

Clarified on 22 May 2025 as:

*The main focus for this is for televisual output, so actual programming of all kinds.*

*However, if possible, for those broadcasters that web news output, could the request also apply to that output as well.*

## **Our response**

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Ofcom is a post-broadcast content regulator. Ofcom does not provide editorial guidance or input on programme content prior to transmission and we therefore do not hold information in this regard. Ofcom's role is to set and enforce standards for the content of television and radio programmes best calculated to secure the standards objectives set out in the Communications Act 2003. These standards are contained in [The Ofcom Broadcasting Code \(with the Cross-promotion Code and the On Demand Programme Service Rules\) - Ofcom](#).

In particular, please refer to [Section Three](#) of the Broadcasting Code, which deals specifically with content relating to crime, disorder, hatred and abuse, including matters concerning extremism. We have published accompanying [Guidance notes](#) which set out Ofcom's approach to identifying and assessing 'extreme' content. This Guidance also highlights the responsibilities of broadcasters to consider community sensitivities when airing potentially controversial material. However, the Code does not prohibit individuals or organisations from appearing on Ofcom-regulated television and radio solely because their views or actions may cause offence. Restricting such appearances would unduly limit broadcasters' freedom of expression and the audience's right to receive information. This is particularly relevant to news and current affairs programming, where covering or interviewing individuals with extreme or controversial views may be essential to reporting on significant stories—such as the activities of terrorist groups posing threats at home or abroad. However, when such views are broadcast, it is the broadcaster's responsibility to ensure they are appropriately challenged and placed in context, in line with the Code.

To support our work in this area, Ofcom has a dedicated team of specialists with deep expertise in the regulation and analysis of extremist content, including far-right extremism. This team stays fully informed of current developments and maintains a robust understanding of emerging trends and challenges within the field. However, we do not provide formal specific training, guidance or general advice to internal staff or external stakeholders on issues of extremism beyond the Section Three Guidance notes referred to above; nor do we use "internal definitions" on these matters. We therefore do not hold any further information in this regard.

In response to your clarified request, Ofcom does not regulate broadcasters' web content under the Broadcasting Code. We do regulate BBC online material (see the relevant [Procedures](#)), and providers of On-Demand Programme Services are required to comply with our [ODPS rules](#).

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any further queries, then please send them to [information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk) – quoting the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Information Requests

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](mailto: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](#).