

Reference: 01995433

Information Requests  
[information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk)

29 May 2025

Dear,

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about complaints gender discrimination - offence.

We received this request on 8 May 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### Your request

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*For the following years: 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (until as recently as possible):*

- 1) The total number of complaints received by Ofcom.*
- 2) Of those, the number related to "gender discrimination / offence" and a breakdown to indicate complaints about misogyny or misandry.*

### Our response

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By way of background, Ofcom publishes decisions about complaints we have received in the [Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin](#) ("the Bulletin") every fortnight on our website. The Bulletin covers a range of cases, including those which Ofcom has escalated for full investigation, those which Ofcom has decided not to pursue because they did not raise issues warranting investigation, and those which fall outside Ofcom's remit.

Ofcom assesses every complaint it receives, and while a complaint may provide contextual background to a programme, when Ofcom is conducting an initial assessment or investigation, it reaches its own view as to whether there may have been, and then whether there has been, a breach of the [Ofcom Broadcasting Code](#) ("the Code"). Individual complaints received by Ofcom are assigned to cases, and a case is opened when Ofcom is assessing a specific programme or issue. Each case may consist of one or more complaints.

Regarding question 1, details of the total number of complaints received by Ofcom each year are provided in our Annual Reports, which can be found on our [website](#). For our most recent report, which covers the financial period 2023/24, this information can be found on page 162.

Regarding question 2, we log all complaints we receive on our complaints database, and they are categorised by which rules in the Code may have been breached. The Bulletin provides details of complaints received by Ofcom since 2020. These can be filtered by the category of the complaint issue – for example, complaints related to gender discrimination and offence can be viewed by selecting 'gender discrimination/offence' in the 'Issue' filter. For complaints received before 2020, this information can be found in previous issues of the Bulletin which are available on our [website](#).

For ease of reference, please see the table below for the number of complaints received by Ofcom which have been logged under the category of ‘gender discrimination/offence’ on our complaints database. From 2020/21 onwards

There is no specific category used exclusively to identify the individual subject of a complaint such as misogyny or misandry. To provide a breakdown of complaints about misogyny or misandry would require looking at each complaint on a case-by-case basis, which would take us over the permitted timescales for FOI requests. We have, however, run a search for any complaints which contained the words ‘misogyny’ or ‘misandry’ in their description, details of which have been provided in the table below. This may include complaints which have been logged under a different category, such as a broader category of ‘generally accepted standards’.

| Year                         | Complaints/cases logged under ‘gender discrimination/offence’ |       | Complaints/cases containing the word ‘misogyny’ |       | Complaints/cases containing the word ‘misandry’ |       |
|------------------------------|---|-------|---|-------|---|-------|
|                              | Complaints  | Cases | Complaints                                      | Cases | Complaints                                      | Cases |
| 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 | 2530  | 200   | 501   | 5     | 2   | 1     |
| 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 | 365   | 185   | 91  | 40    | 16  | 8     |
| 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023 | 260   | 138   | 896   | 38    | 8   | 8     |
| 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 | 9126  | 121   | 1283  | 39    | 33  | 5     |
| 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025 | 256   | 121   | 255   | 29    | 5   | 3     |

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

### 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](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](#).