

Ofcom ref: 00342398, Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your e-mail of 22 September 2016 in which you requested details of complaints made to Ofcom about coverage of Jeremy Corbyn in each month since September 2015. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

For your information, Ofcom's Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin, published every fortnight on our website, includes decisions about the complaints we have received as well as a summary of the complaint. Issues of the Bulletin are available via the following link to our website:

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/enforcement/broadcast-bulletins>.

We log complaints on our complaints database by category of the complaint issue (with reference to the rules in our codes). There is no specific category (or rule) used exclusively to identify the individual subject of a complaint, such as Jeremy Corbyn.

For your request, we have therefore searched for all complaints logged between 1 September 2015 and 22 September 2016 under the categories "Due accuracy", "Due impartiality/bias" or "Elections/Referendums" (which would capture complaints relating to political bias), and identified any that specifically referred to Jeremy Corbyn in the description field of the complaint. There were 139 complaints, all of which alleged bias against Jeremy Corbyn.

A number of these complaints related to BBC services and issues outside our current remit. These complaints were therefore not assessed, and were reported as outside our remit in the section of the Bulletins titled "Complaints outside of remit" from Bulletins 287 to 314.

In all other cases, after careful assessment of the complaints and the broadcast material, Ofcom did not identify any issues which warranted further investigation under its rules. These outcomes were published in the back pages of the Bulletins titled "Complaints Assessed, not Investigated" from Bulletins 287 to 314.

I will now respond to your questions in turn.

1. How many complaints has Ofcom received about coverage of Jeremy Corbyn in each month since September 2015 to the date of this request?

Month	Complaints in remit	Complaints out of remit
September 2015	18	23
October 2015	4	3
November 2015	4	2
December 2015	5	1
January 2016	1	16
February 2016	1	0
March 2016	3	0
April 2016	3	0
May 2016	2	6
June 2016	10	2
July 2016	4	8
August 2016	10	3
September 2016	7	3

2. How many of the complaints listed in question one accused the BBC of bias against Mr Corbyn?

Ofcom received 68 complaints alleging bias against Jeremy Corbyn. As you are aware complaints about bias on BBC services fall outside Ofcom's current remit and we do not therefore assess such complaints,

3. How many of the complaints listed in question one accused the BBC of bias towards Mr Corbyn?

None.

4. How many of the complaints listed in question one accused ITV of bias against Mr Corbyn?

12 complaints.

5. How many of the complaints listed in question one accused the ITV of bias towards Mr Corbyn?

None.

6. How many of the complaints listed in question one accused Channel 4 of bias against Mr Corbyn?

23 complaints.

7. How many of the complaints listed in question one accused the Channel 4 of bias towards Mr Corbyn?

None.

8. How many of the complaints listed in question one accused Sky News of bias against Mr Corbyn?

31 complaints.

9. How many of the complaints listed in question one accused Sky News of bias towards Mr Corbyn?

None.

10. How many of the complaints listed in question one related to BBC Political Editor Laura Kuenssberg?

7 complaints specifically referenced Laura Kuenssberg in alleging bias against Jeremy Corbyn.

11. How many of the complaints listed in question one relate to Channel 4's Dispatches broadcast on 19 September?

6 complaints.

12. How many of the complaints listed in question one relate to the BBC's Panorama broadcast on 19 September?

1 complaint.

13. Please provide a table showing the number of times each of the top ten repeat correspondents complained about coverage of Jeremy Corbyn.

No complainants raised multiple complaints.

14. How many of the complaints listed in question one came from A. Jeremy Corbyn or his team, B. The Momentum Campaign, C. the Jeremy For Labour campaign?

We can neither confirm nor deny whether we hold the information you requested, as to provide such information would fall under the exemption in [Section 44 of the Act](#). Disclosure of whether we hold such information is prohibited under section [Section 393 of the Communications Act](#). Section 44 is an absolute exemption under the Act and does not require a public interest test. It is likely that other exemptions will apply.

I hope this information is of assistance. If you have any queries then please contact information.requests@ofcom.org.uk. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

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