

Reference: 01536102

Temiloluwa Dawodu
Information Rights Advisor
Information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

1 December 2022

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information in relation to ITV and the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. We received this request on 21 November 2022 and have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request

First of all, when did ITV first buy the television rights for the 2022 Qatar World Cup?

Did ITV purchase these rights before or after it was confirmed that the 2022 World Cup was going to be held in Qatar?

Were any individual journalists/members of ITV opposed to this idea of broadcasting the 2022 Qatar World Cup, how many were in favour?

Were there ever any discussions or plans at ITV to potentially boycott the 2022 Qatar World Cup, or even to show less coverage than the amount currently scheduled?

Our response

By way of background, Ofcom's primary duty in regard to the broadcasting of sporting events is to assess requests for consent to broadcast exclusive live coverage of listed events, which includes the FIFA Men's World Cup Finals, on the basis set out in our [Code on Sports and Other Listed and Designated Events](#).¹ Ofcom is not involved in the process in which broadcasters acquire rights to show coverage of listed events.

In response to your questions of when ITV acquired the rights to broadcast coverage of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, we note that these were agreed as part of a [joint deal with the BBC in 2014](#). We also note that [FIFA announced Qatar as the host of the 2022 World Cup](#) prior to this on 2 December 2010.

You may find it useful to note the [summary of our public consultation](#) considering requests from the BBC and ITV for consent to broadcast exclusive live coverage of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

¹ The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport is responsible for listing events of sports and national interest covered by the Code.

We do not hold information in relation to your questions about journalists and members of ITV and the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, or any plans made at ITV in relation to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. You may wish to [contact ITV](#) to pursue this query.

I hope this information is helpful. 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,

Temiloluwa Dawodu

If you are unhappy with the response you have received in relation to your request for information and/or consider that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law you may ask for an internal review. If you ask us for an internal review of our decision, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom.

The following outcomes are possible:

- the original decision is upheld; or
- the original decision is reversed or modified.

Timing

If you wish to exercise your right to an internal review **you should contact us within two months of the date of this letter**. There is no statutory deadline for responding to internal reviews and it will depend upon the complexity of the case. However, we aim to conclude all such reviews within 20 working days, and up to 40 working days in exceptional cases. We will keep you informed of the progress of any such review. If you wish to request an internal review, you should contact information.requests@ofcom.org.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire

SK9 5AF