

Reference: 02107673

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

10 December 2025

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about complaints received by Ofcom regarding a BBC broadcast which featured edited footage of Donald Trump, which we understand relates to the episode of *Panorama - Trump: A Second Chance* broadcast on 28 October 2025.

We received this request on 12 November 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

### Your request and our response

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*Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting disclosure of all information held by Ofcom regarding the recent BBC broadcast which featured edited footage of former U.S. President Donald Trump.*

*Please provide:*

*1. Any complaints received by Ofcom concerning the BBC's editing, contextualisation, or presentation of Trump-related footage.*

By way of background, complaints about broadcast standards are carefully assessed under Ofcom's [Broadcasting Code](#) ("the Code") which sets standards for programme content that all Ofcom licensees must follow. Individual complaints received by Ofcom are assigned to cases, and a case is opened when Ofcom is assessing a specific programme or issue and each case may consist of one or more complaints. In line with our published complaints [procedures](#), we review every complaint we receive to consider whether it raises potentially substantive issues under the Code which warrant investigation by Ofcom. If we consider that these standards may have been breached, we will investigate. You can find decisions about complaints we have considered in [Ofcom's Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin](#), published every fortnight on our website.

For complaints about the BBC, under the [BBC procedures](#) Ofcom can normally only consider complaints about BBC programmes where the complainant has already complained to the BBC, and the BBC has reached its final decision.

We received 48 complaints all ahead of the BBC first process. We are unable to disclose further detail about the complaints as we consider this is exempt from disclosure under section 44 of the FOI Act. In particular, section 44(1)(a) of the FOI Act exempts disclosure of information if its disclosure is prohibited by or under any enactment. Section 393 of the Communications Act 2003 ("the Act") prohibits the disclosure of information about a particular business which has been obtained in exercise of a power conferred by, among other legislation, the Act, so long as that business continues to be carried on, unless we have the consent of that business or one of the

statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the Act is met, neither of which applies here. Section 44 of the FOI Act is an absolute exemption and therefore is not subject to a public interest test.

*2. All internal Ofcom correspondence, meeting notes, or email exchanges that reference this broadcast.*

This information is exempt from disclosure under section 44 of the FOI Act – please see under Question 1.

*3. All communications between Ofcom and the BBC about this incident, including any oversight, review, or compliance discussions.*

This information is exempt from disclosure under section 44 of the FOI Act – please see under Question 1.

*4. Any internal briefings, assessments, or reports which evaluate whether the BBC complied with the Broadcasting Code in this matter.*

This information is exempt from disclosure under section 44 of the FOI Act – please see under Question 1.

*5. The name and position of the Ofcom official(s) responsible for political and international news compliance who oversaw or reviewed this issue.*

Ofcom had no involvement in the editorial content of the programme, which is a matter for the BBC. Our role is limited to assessing the programme's compliance under the Broadcasting Code, in line with the BBC procedures, once the BBC's Executive Complaints Unit has reached a final decision in respect of any complaints received about a BBC broadcast. Please see our [BBC procedures](#) for further information.

*6. Details of any decision made not to investigate or pursue further action, along with the rationale or guidance relied upon.*

We can neither confirm nor deny if we hold this information as to do so would fall under the exemption in section 44 of the FOI Act, as explained in our response to Question 1.

It is likely that other exemptions would also apply to this information, if held.

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](#).