

Reference: 02081257

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

14 October 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request concerning complaints regarding broadcasting bias in favour of Reform UK.

We received this request on 22 September 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

The number of complaints made to Ofcom regarding alleged biased broadcasting in favour of the political party Reform UK.

Please provide this information for the period from 12 December 2019 (the date of the last UK General Election) to the present.

If Ofcom does not record complaints in a way that allows for filtering specifically by "bias in favour of Reform UK," then please instead provide:

The number of complaints received in the same period relating to due impartiality or bias where Reform UK was mentioned or identified as relevant in the complaint.

I would also appreciate clarification on how such complaints are categorised within Ofcom's complaints logging system (e.g. under "due impartiality").

Our response

By way of background, complaints about broadcast standards are carefully assessed under the [Ofcom 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.

We log complaints on our complaints database by category of the complaint issue (with reference to the rules in the Code). Complaints related to “bias” would be logged under the categories “Due impartiality/bias” or “Elections/Referendums”. There is no specific category used exclusively to identify the individual subject of a complaint such as whether a complaint relates to bias towards or against a particular political party. In addition, although Ofcom publishes all complaints it considers in the Bulletin, we only hold searchable information on our complaints database for assessment cases from 2020 onwards.

From 1 January 2020 to 22 September 2025, we received a total of 478,569 complaints, of which 45,181 were logged against the categories “Due impartiality/bias” or “Elections/Referendums”. A keyword search to identify any complaints referring to “Reform” listed 1,346 complaints.

If you have any further queries, then please send them to 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) 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](#).