

Reference: 02174198

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

15 April 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about the methodology used when assessing BBC local radio compliance.

We received this request on 16 March 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request & our response

- 1. The methodology and criteria used to 'closely scrutinise' the BBC's reported local hours figures for 2024/25;*

The term 'closely scrutinise' referred to our overall assessment of all the information we reviewed in order to determine the BBC's compliance with its Operating Licence conditions. The specific methodology and criteria applied varied depending on the condition being assessed and the nature of the information available.

For the reported local radio hour figures for 2024/25, we requested information from the BBC using our formal information gathering powers. For each local radio station, we asked the BBC to provide:

- the number of hours of original locally-made programming, that were produced and broadcast by that station; and
- the number of hours of locally-made programming shared from a neighbouring station that were broadcast by that station and counted towards meeting the quota.

We reviewed the information provided by the BBC to assess whether each station met the relevant quota. The information provided by the BBC was considered sufficiently complete and reliable for the purposes of our assessment.

- 2. The compliance decision rule / evidential threshold applied.*

Our assessment involved checking whether the figures formally provided by the BBC showed that each local radio station met or exceeded the required number of locally-made hours. As the reported hours for each station met the relevant quota, we concluded that the BBC was compliant with the Operation Licence condition for 2024/2025.

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](#).