

Reference: 02123877

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

22 January 2026

Dear,

### Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning locally made programming on BBC local radio.

We received this request on 22 December 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

#### Your request

---

*“Please provide the final version(s) only (excluding drafts, duplicates and internal email chains) of any Ofcom documents that were provided to, or used by, the decision-maker(s) when setting the BBC Local Radio-related conditions in the first BBC Operating Licence (2017), limited to documents that directly address either:*

- 1. the requirement(s) for BBC Local Radio locally-produced / locally-made programming (including any decision not to protect extant levels or not to set a particular requirement); and/or*
- 2. the setting, removal, or omission of any BBC Local Radio target audience requirement (including any decision to remove an existing target audience requirement).*

*Timeframe: 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017.*

*Document types (to keep this within the cost limit): final submissions/briefings to the relevant Ofcom decision forum; final minutes of the meeting(s) at which these matters were agreed; and any final analysis/impact/monitoring papers expressly referenced in those submissions.”*

#### Our response

---

We do not hold the information requested.

As noted in our [consultation document](#) for the setting of the first operating licence (see paragraphs 1.14-1.19), our proposals followed a general approach of retaining the previously-existing BBC Trust conditions or amending these conditions where we considered it would assist the BBC in delivering its public purposes, with most of the quantifiable conditions being retained and carried over from the BBC Trust conditions. As such, final, internal documents concerning our decisions for the setting of the first operating licence reflected this general approach and were drafted on this basis, except where significant amendments were being proposed. As our proposals regarding the setting of local radio conditions followed this general approach of retaining the previously-existing BBC Trust

conditions (except as noted below), our internal documents for consideration by decision-makers do not contain information specifically addressing or analysing our proposals within the scope of your request.

In relation to your question 1, however, it may be worth noting at paragraph 4.112 of the consultation document that we proposed new conditions covering the news provision on BBC local radio stations, which were confirmed in our [statement](#) at paragraph 3.33. In addition, in response specifically to a point regarding the reduction of news and current affairs output (on page 43, at [Annex A4](#) – “The Licence: setting the high-level objectives and regulatory conditions”), we noted the following:

*“In relation to requirements for local news and current affairs on local radio, we have strengthened requirements by setting an enforceable condition for the first time that will require BBC Local Radio to provide ‘news and information of particular relevance to the area and communities it serves at intervals throughout the day’ (regulatory condition 2.74.1).”*

In relation to your question 2 on target audience requirements, it may also be worth noting that at paragraph A2.15 of Annex A2 (“Our approach to setting the licence”) to our statement, we noted our general approach to qualitative conditions:

*“We have retained many of the BBC Trust’s service licence targets, in most cases updating or strengthening them into regulatory conditions. We have consciously not replicated all of the qualitative requirements, as in our view these served more of a governance or strategic function – for example, setting the remit for, or target audience of, a service – which the BBC Board now has to perform.”*

Accordingly, we did not retain the BBC Trust conditions on target audiences in the first operating licence, including with respect to local radio, in line with this general approach.

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](#).