

Reference: 2195237

Information Requests

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2 June 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about complaints Taskmaster S4 Episode 4.

We received this request on 5 May 2026 and we have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the FOI Act').

Your request and our response

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information regarding a specific broadcast of the programme Taskmaster (Series 4, Episode 4), which originally aired on Dave. Specifically, I am inquiring about the segment where contestant Lolly Adefope used white makeup to portray a different race (her portrayal of Princess Diana during the "most surprising picture of yourself" task). I would like to request the following information:

Complaint Volume: How many complaints did Ofcom receive regarding this specific portrayal or the use of "white-face" in this episode?

Investigation Status: Was a formal investigation launched into whether this broadcast breached the Broadcasting Code (specifically Section 3 regarding Harm and Offence)?

Outcome and Reasoning: If an investigation was conducted, what was the final outcome? If Ofcom decided not to investigate, what was the specific regulatory reasoning for that decision?

Internal Assessment: Please provide any summary or assessment notes recorded by the standards team regarding this incident and its compliance with your standards on race and offensive depictions.

I would like to receive this information in electronic format.

Before responding to your request, 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.

1. Complaint Volume: How many complaints did Ofcom receive regarding this specific portrayal or the use of "white-face" in this episode?

The relevant episode of Taskmaster was first broadcast on Dave on 16 May 2017. We have no record of having received any complaints about that episode, however we did receive three complaints about repeat screenings of that as follows:

Programme	Service	Transmission Date	Issue	Number of complaints
Taskmaster	Dave	03 December 2019	Race discrimination / offence	1
Taskmaster	Dave	26 March 2021	Race discrimination / offence	2

2. Investigation Status: Was a formal investigation launched into whether this broadcast breached the Broadcasting Code (specifically Section 3 regarding Harm and Offence)?

The complaints were assessed under Rule 2.3 of the Ofcom Broadcasting Code. Following assessment, the complaints were not pursued, as the material was not considered to raise issues warranting investigation under the Code.

3. Outcome and Reasoning: If an investigation was conducted, what was the final outcome? If Ofcom decided not to investigate, what was the specific regulatory reasoning for that decision?

Please see our response at Q2.

4. Internal Assessment: Please provide any summary or assessment notes recorded by the standards team regarding this incident and its compliance with your standards on race and offensive depictions.

The Bulletin lists all standards complaints considered by Ofcom with the detail for cases we have not pursued being limited to that provided in the above table.

We are unable to provide additional detail beyond that included in our Bulletin as we consider that its disclosure is exempt under the FOI Act. In particular, under section 44 of the FOI Act, information is exempt from disclosure if its disclosure is prohibited by or under any enactment. In this case, section 393(1) of the Communications Act 2003 (the "Communications Act") prohibits the disclosure of information about a particular business (in this case Channel 4), which we have obtained in the course of exercising a power conferred by, among other legislation, the Communications Act, unless we have the consent of that business or one of the statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the Communications Act is met, neither of which apply here. Section 44 is an absolute exemption under the Communications Act and does not require a public interest test.

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](#).