

Reference: 02145528

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

4 March 2026

Dear,

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning complaint correspondence Y Byd ar Bedwar, which we received on 6 February 2026.

You also sent a separate email to the complaints team on the same date. We have considered your requests in both emails under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

Your request & our response

Message sent to Information Requests

This request relates to Ofcom's handling and assessment of a complaint concerning the programme Y Byd ar Bedwar, broadcast on S4C on 10 November 2025 - Ofcom Standards Complaint Reference 02124834

Please provide copies of, or extracts from, the following information held by Ofcom:

1. All records created or used at the complaint assessment or triage stage which record, summarise, or evidence the reasoning for the decision not to open an investigation into the complaint. This includes (but is not limited to) internal case notes, assessment summaries, triage forms, decision logs, or outcome records.

We consider all materials including those generated internally in relation to individual complaints to be exempt from disclosure under s44 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. Any documents, templates, checklists, or internal guidance applied by Ofcom staff when assessing whether the complaint raised issues under the Ofcom Broadcasting Code sufficient to warrant investigation.

We assessed the complaint in line with our [complaints procedures](#) and the relevant rules under the [Ofcom Broadcasting Code](#) and associated guidance. We do not hold any internal guidance.

3. Records showing which sections of the Ofcom Broadcasting Code were considered during the assessment of this complaint, including any indication of whether Sections 5 (Due Impartiality and Due Accuracy) and 7 (Fairness) were considered or excluded at a threshold stage.

See our response under question 4. Full records are exempt from disclosure – see our response under question 1.

4. The date(s) on which the complaint was assessed and the functional role(s) (for example, complaints assessor, senior reviewer) of the Ofcom staff involved in the decision-making process.

The complaint was assessed between 6 and 13 January 2026 respectively by Senior Executives on the Fairness and Privacy Team (Section 7 of the Code) and the Standards Team (Section 5 and Rule 2.2).

Message sent to complaints team

I would be grateful if you could clarify the following points:

1. **Code Provisions Considered**

Please confirm which sections of the Ofcom Broadcasting Code were assessed in reaching the decision (in particular Sections 5 and/or 7), and whether each was considered substantively or excluded at a threshold stage.

See response to Q4 above.

2. **Identifiability Assessment**

Please confirm whether Ofcom undertook an assessment of identifiability for the purposes of fairness, and if so:

- whether identifiability was considered capable of arising through context, footage, contributor appearances, and location notwithstanding the absence of explicit naming; and
- on what basis it was concluded that the fairness provisions were not engaged.

See response to Q1 above.

3. **Consideration of Submitted Evidence**

Please clarify whether the specific examples of alleged misleading omission, editing, and juxtaposition (submitted with timestamps and supporting material) were reviewed substantively, or whether the decision not to investigate was reached without detailed consideration of those points.

Ofcom assessed the complaint on the basis of the information you submitted, and the programme as broadcast. The body of your complaint was as set out below with no additional attachments, and did not include any of the detail described above.

"I wish to complain about Y Byd ar Bedwar on grounds of due accuracy, due impartiality, and fairness under the Ofcom Broadcasting Code. The programme materially misrepresented the position of a local community group involved in protests in Mold through editorial omission and framing. Significant contextual material and factual clarifications were provided to the production team in advance, including clear statements that the group was not anti-refugee and could not be held responsible for the actions of individual attendees. This material was omitted, resulting in a misleading impression.

S4C asserts the group was not identified and therefore fairness provisions do not apply. However, members were filmed, interviewed, and identifiable within a local protest context.

Ofcom guidance recognises that identifiability can arise from context rather than naming alone.

Concerns regarding editorial independence were dismissed despite acknowledgement of a connection between a production team member and a contributor, without explanation of safeguards applied. Specific inaccuracies and misleading juxtapositions were raised with timestamps but not substantively addressed. I ask Ofcom to assess compliance with Sections 5 and 7 of the Code.”

4. Reliance on Broadcaster Representations

Please indicate whether Ofcom relied primarily on representations made by the broadcaster in determining that no issue was raised warranting investigation, or whether any independent evaluative assessment was undertaken.

Ofcom carried out an independent assessment of the complaint, and aside from requesting a recording of the programme from the broadcaster, had no dialogue externally in reaching our decision.

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](#).