

Reference: 02169219

Information Requests

information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

30 March 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about complaints on the BBC BAFTA broadcast on 22 February 2026.

We received this request on 2 March 2026 and we have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the FOI Act').

Your request and our response

Please provide the following information relating to the BBC broadcast of the BAFTA Awards in which a racial slur was aired:

1. *The total number of complaints received by Ofcom to date.*

A total of 129 complaints were received by 2 March 2026 (the date of this request).

2. *A breakdown by date of receipt.*

Date received	Number of complaints
22 February 2026	2
23 February 2026	80
24 February 2026	34
25 February 2026	5
26 February 2026	5
27 February 2026	2
28 February 2026	1

3. *The complaint categories recorded (including harm, offence, race or discrimination).*

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. We log complaints on our complaints database by category of the complaint issue, with reference to the rules in the Code. While complaints within a case may raise concerns about a range of issues, our complaint management system categorises cases by only one issue, although all relevant issues will be considered during assessment. In this case, the complaints have been categorised under the issue of 'Race discrimination/offence'.

4. The current regulatory status of the matter (assessment, investigation opened, closed, or other).

These complaints have been closed on the basis that complainants should complete the BBC's complaints process first before bringing their complaint to Ofcom for its consideration. Please see [Ofcom's guidance](#) on investigating breaches of content standards.

5. Any decisions or provisional findings made to date. Please provide the information held as of the date of this request. If any information is withheld, please specify the exemption relied upon and the reasons.

Please see Q4 above. We do not hold any information in scope of this question.

Yours sincerely,

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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](#).