

Reference: 2134741

Information requests

information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

19 February 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about the total number of complaints for airings of Big Brother on Channel 4 since 2000.

We received this request on 22 January 2026 and we have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the FOI Act').

Your request and our response

Please provide the total number of complaints received for airings of Big Brother on Channel 4, since it's first airing in July of 2000.

If it is not unduly burdensome please may this data be organized by complaints per year?

Big Brother was broadcast by Channel 4 from 2000 to 2010 before moving to Channel 5 and then ITV2. In line with our data retention policies, we only retain searchable records on our database for complaints assessments closed within the past 5 years, though all complaint decisions are published in the [Broadcast and On Demand Bulletins](#) and you can search on this bulletin for the information.

Although we are therefore unable to run reports on our system for periods older than 5 years, we do hold a spreadsheet of the top complained about programmes each year which contains some information relating to Big Brother and Celebrity Big Brother on Channel 4. We have set out the information from this spreadsheet below:

Year	Big Brother	Celebrity Big Brother
2004	608	Did not air
2005	1148	No complaints statistics on record
2006	2488	328
2007	2083	45159
2008	4546	Did not air
2009	1,111	414

2010	192	177
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Please note the absence of complaints for Celebrity Big Brother in 2005 does not necessarily mean none were received, but rather that none were received to a level to be included in the top complaints spreadsheet.

Additional detail of complaints about Big Brother considered by Ofcom since it was established in 2003 and up to 2010, when Big Brother left Channel 4, are available in the [pre-2020 bulletins](#). Complaints considered from 2000 prior to the start of Ofcom were handled by the Independent Television Commission (ITC), and details can be viewed [in the ITC archive reports](#).

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](#).