

Complaints to the BBC

This fortnightly report for the BBC complaints service¹ shows for the periods covered:

- the number of complaints about programmes and those which received more than 100² at Stage 1 (Audience Services);
- findings of subsequent investigations made at Stage 2 (by the Executive Complaints Unit)³;
- the percentage of all complaints dealt with within the target periods for each stage.

NB: Figures include, but are not limited to, editorial complaints, and are not comparable with complaint figures published by Ofcom about other broadcasters (which are calculated on a different basis). The number of complaints received is not an indication of how serious an issue is.

Stage 1 complaints

Between 27 July – 09 August 2026, BBC Audience Services (Stage 1) received a total of **2,286** complaints about programmes. **5,122** complaints in total were received at Stage 1.

BBC programmes receiving more than 100² complaints during this period:

Programme	Service	Date of Transmission	Main Issue(s)	Number of Complaints
Newsnight	BBC Two	28/07/26	Inappropriate that Nick Watt read out messages from an anonymous Reform source criticising Zack Polanski.	189
BBC News	News Channel	31/07/26	Jeremy Bowen's report contained factual inaccuracies and was biased towards Israel.	166 (after invitations to complain were posted online)

94% of all complaints dealt with between 27 July – 09 August 2026 received an initial response within the stage 1 target period of 10 working days.

Recent BBC public responses to significant complaints at Stage 1 are published at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/complaints/complaint/>

Stage 2 complaints – Executive Complaints Unit (ECU)

¹ Full details of the service are in the [BBC Complaints Framework and Procedures](#) document.

² As defined in the [BBC Complaints Framework and Procedures](#) and regulated under [Ofcom's Broadcasting Code](#).

³ Excluding investigations of online material outside Ofcom's remit.

The Executive Complaints Unit made 9 findings at Stage 2 between 27 July – 09 August 2026. Highlighted text links to published findings⁴. Other recently published findings can be found here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/complaints/comp-reports/ecu/>

Programme	Service	Date of Transmission	Issue	Outcome
Assume Nothing: The Stormont Spy Ring	Radio Ulster, BBC Sounds	Various	Inaccuracy about circumstances preceding murder of Denis Donaldson	Upheld
Gardeners' Question Time	Radio 4	06/02/2026	Antisemitic comment	Not upheld
BBC News (6pm)	BBC One	10/03/2026	Pro-Israel bias	Not upheld
Today	Radio 4	28/04/2026	Bias against Sir Keir Starmer	Not upheld
Today	Radio 4	01/05/2026	Pro-Israel bias	Not upheld
Morning Live	BBC One	14/05/2026	Biased treatment of disabled parking issues	Not upheld
The Future with Hannah Fry	BBC Two	20/05/2026	Inaccurate about whether pigs experience emotions x2	Not upheld
Have I Got News for You	BBC One	22/05/2026	Nudity without appropriate warning	Not upheld

78% of complaints (7 out of 9) dealt with between 27 July – 09 August 2026 received a response within the target time.

⁴ These include all upheld, partly-upheld and resolved findings, all not-upheld findings concerning impartiality and accuracy and all findings where there were more than 100 complaints about the same issue at Stage 1.