



Cabinet Office

Room 405
70 Whitehall
London, SW1A 2AS

foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk
www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Garry Richardson

By email: request-757356-3fc24c82@whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: FOI2021/11543
21/06/2021

Dear Garry Richardson

I refer to your request where you asked:

*"Dear Cabinet Office,
Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to respectfully request the following information:*

- i) Can you please confirm the date the conferences started.*
- ii) Can you please confirm how many have taken place.*
- iii) Can you please confirm how many conferences have been televised on the BBC1 channel.*
- iv) Can you please confirm how many conferences have been televised on the BBC News channel."*

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information you requested is partially held by the Cabinet Office.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has launched a national public information campaign providing information, guidance and reassurance to the general public. The full range of communication channels have been deployed through publication on gov.uk, public addresses and press conferences from the Prime Minister and Chief Medical and Scientific Officers, through to paid-for media, stakeholder, partnerships and influencer and PR communications.

You have asked i) *Can you please confirm the date the conferences started* and ii) *Can you please confirm how many have taken place.*

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government began broadcasting press conferences on the 3rd March 2020. As of the 15th June 2021, the Government had held 169 press conferences. Further information on the Government's Press Conferences can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/slides-and-datasets-to-accompany-coronavirus-press-conferences#history>

You have also asked iii) *Can you please confirm how many conferences have been televised on the BBC1 channel*, and iv) *Can you please confirm how many conferences have been televised on the BBC News channel.*

This information is not held by the Cabinet Office. You may wish to submit an FOI to the BBC in order to attempt to obtain this information. Information on how to do so can be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/foi/requesting-information>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the FOI Team quoting the reference number above.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request or wish to request an internal review, you should write to:

Rachel Anderson
Head of Freedom of Information
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

email: foi-team@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued. If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Cabinet Office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane

Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Brown', written over a light blue horizontal line.

FOI Team
Cabinet Office