

Reference: 1430208

Gloria Akinyemi
Information Rights Adviser
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4 April 2022

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about communications with Freeview, Freesat and Sky related to RT.

We received this request on 7 March 2022 and have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

Your request

You asked: *"Can you publish any communications you have had Freeview, Freesat and Sky about the decision to remove RT?"*

Background

On 18 March 2022 Ofcom announced its decision to revoke RT's broadcasting licence¹. Further information can be found here: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/latest/bulletins/content-sanctions-adjudications/decision-ano-tv-novosti>

Our response

We understand your request as relating to Ofcom's decision to revoke RT's broadcasting licence.

We can confirm we do hold information in response to your request. This comprises email correspondence with Sky dated 18 March 2022 and Freeview and Freesat, on the same day. Please find these emails attached. Personal information has been redacted under section 40 of the Act which provides that such information is exempt for the purposes of the Act.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption under the Act and does not require a public interest test.

We may have received one or more acknowledgements of receipt from Freeview, Freesat and Sky but we can neither confirm nor deny this because the information is held by us subject to section 393 of the Communications Act 2003.

¹ On 2 March 2022, following the imposition of sanctions by the EU which affected the ability of third parties to provide services to the licence holder for the RT service, RT ceased to broadcast on regulated platforms in the UK.

Section 44(1)(a) of the FOI Act exempts disclosure of information if its disclosure is prohibited by other legislation. In this case, we are prohibited under section 393 of the Communications Act 2003 from disclosing information which relates to a business which we have obtained in exercise of our powers, unless we have the consent of that business or one of the statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the Communications Act 2003 is met, neither of which applies here. Section 44 is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

If you have any further queries, then please send them to information.requests@ofcom.org.uk quoting the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Gloria Akinyemi

If you are unhappy with the response you have received in relation to your request for information and/or consider that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law you may ask for an internal review. If you ask us for an internal review of our decision, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom.

The following outcomes are possible:

- the original decision is upheld; or
- the original decision is reversed or modified.

Timing

If you wish to exercise your right to an internal review **you should contact us within two months of the date of this letter**. There is no statutory deadline for responding to internal reviews and it will depend upon the complexity of the case. However, we aim to conclude all such reviews within 20 working days, and up to 40 working days in exceptional cases. We will keep you informed of the progress of any such review. If you wish to request an internal review, you should contact information.requests@ofcom.org.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Further information about this, and the internal review process can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office [here](#). Alternatively, the Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF