

Reference: 01400140

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Information Rights Advisor
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Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning contact between Ofcom and the Radio Society of Great Britain.

Your request was received on 22 December 2021 and we have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'FOI Act').

Your request

Pursuant to s1, FoIA 2000, please provide information as follows:

- (1) information relating to meetings and all other forms of contact between OFCOM and the Radio Society of Great Britain ('RSGB') between January 01 2018 and the date of this request (22/12/2021).*
- (2) 'information' is to be interpreted widely and is expected to include, for example, notes, minutes, recordings and other information relating to meetings and other contacts.*
- (3) In the event that you wish to apply an exemption and/or refusal, you must state explicitly which exemptions you believe apply, and the reasons for such.*
- (4) It has become common practice for public bodies to attempt to prevent onward publication of releases under FoIA, speculatively citing copyright controls. Please note that, pursuant to s30, Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988, such controls may not be applicable, and are not applicable in the case of news reporting. Accordingly, I assert exemption from copyright controls under s30.*
- (5) I do not consent for my personal data to be transmitted outside of OFCOM unless you can show, in writing and with clear reasons, that this is reasonably necessary for the purposes of responding to the request.*

Our response

Ofcom is responsible for managing the radio spectrum in the UK. In relation to amateur radio, Ofcom consequently engages with Radio Society of Great Britain ("RSGB") in various capacities and across different Ofcom teams, including general ongoing engagement, spectrum licensing, spectrum policy projects (such as electromagnetic fields exposure), and specific compliance and operational issues such as VDSL interference. In each of these capacities, there are multiple colleagues within Ofcom who might have contact with representatives of RSGB.

Your request is for a broad range of information and categories of documents and covers information that would have been generated across many teams and groups of colleagues within Ofcom who engage with RSGB in different capacities connected with amateur radio. We are therefore unable to provide this information as a considerable amount of time would be required to locate, retrieve, identify and extract the information specified in your request.

Section 12 of the Act provides that we are not obliged to comply with a request for information if we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the “appropriate limit”. The appropriate limit is set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the “Regulations”), and is, for Ofcom, £450. That sum is intended to cover the estimated costs involved in determining whether Ofcom holds the information requested, locating, retrieving and extracting the information from any document containing it. The Regulations provide that costs are to be estimated at a rate of £25 per person per hour, which equates to 18 hours of time.

We estimate that it would take over 18 hours to identify and extract the information you requested due to the number of filing locations, email accounts and the number of emails we would have to search through.

If you wish to consider submitting a narrower, more focused request, we would be happy to consider this under the FOI Act. For example, you could specify a narrower time frame, specific representatives of the RSGB, or any policy, licensing or compliance issues that you are particularly interested in. Should you decide to make a further request for information, please note that the aforementioned appropriate limit or other exemptions may apply.

I hope this information is helpful. 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

Zach Westbrook

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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF