

Reference: 01468997

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18 July 2022

### Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request asking for information Ofcom has received and circulated to its employees regarding a "Living with Covid" policy from Government. We received this request on 20 June 2022 and have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "FOI Act").

### Your request

You asked:

*Please disclose, preferably by PDF:*

- (1) a copy of any request/instruction etc. received by Ofcom from Government to follow its "living with Covid" policy;*
- (2) whether Ofcom has received from Government a copy of that policy;*
- (3) whether Ofcom has received from Government a copy of part of the policy and, if so, which part;*
- (4) any information circulated internally by Ofcom to its staff or many of its staff or across a team/much of a team asking/requiring etc. them to follow the "living with Covid" policy or forwarded onto them in a way that might suggest they need to do so and details of which teams have received the information or the fact it was across Ofcom;*
- (5) if the information in (4) asks/requires etc. any Ofcom staff to follow the policy only in certain circumstances or to a limited extent, please disclose what those circumstances/extent are;*
- (6) any general communication (that is not one sent to an individual in a specific circumstance related to themselves) where staff have being told that we are living with Covid or otherwise to live with Covid.*

*Government is the UK Government. The UK Health Security Agency is to be treated as part of Government, but any request/instruction etc. does not have to have come from it but may do so or may also come from elsewhere in Government.*

## Our response

In response to your questions please note the following:

1. Ofcom has not received any request/instruction from Government to follow a "living with Covid" policy.
2. Ofcom has not received such a policy.
3. Ofcom has not received a part of any such policy.
4. For the reasons above no such information exists.
5. For the reasons above no such information exists.
6. Aside from our guidance to colleagues on staying safe, no information has been communicated where we have told staff that we are living with Covid or otherwise to live with Covid.

If you have any queries, then please contact [information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk). Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Katherine Childs

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](mailto: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