

Reference: 01516903

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Information Rights Advisor
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21 October 2022

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning Ofcom's definition of 'harmful material'. Your request was received on 12 October 2022 and we have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request

I write regarding the statement on OFCOM's website relating to an investigation into GB News Mark Steyn, specifically, the statement that your investigation 'will consider whether this programme broke our rules designed to protect viewers from harmful material'.

Please provide me with a clear, specific and exhaustive definition of what OFCOM means by 'harmful material'.

Our response

Rule 2.1 (Generally accepted standards) of our [Guidance Notes](#) provides further information about our Harm and Offence guidance.

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. 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