

Reference: 01501002

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28 September 2022

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information asking for correspondence between Ofcom executives and Ian Paisley Jr in relation to tobacco or e-cigarettes. We received this request on 31 August 2022 and have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "FOI Act").

Your request

You asked:

Please provide a copy of all correspondence (sent and received) between members of the executive team of your agency and Ian Paisley Jr concerning tobacco or e-cigarettes.

Please limit this request to electronic searches of department email accounts, including any letters sent in electronic form, except for your chief executive and chairman.

For your chief executive and chairman, please also search any instant messaging accounts (departmental or private) and any private emails used for government business. Please confirm in your response in writing that you have completed these searches as required under ICO guidelines.

Please also list the titles of attachments to emails or messages within the scope of this request.

Please provide a record of all meetings and calls between members of the executive team of your agency and Ian Paisley Jr concerning tobacco or e-cigarettes.

Please provide

- A list of these meetings, including topics.*
- A copy of the minutes recorded of these meetings*
- A copy of briefings prepared ahead of these meetings for the minister concerned.*
- A list of the titles of any documents considered at these meetings.*

I am happy to limit my request to electronically held records.

Please provide information held from 1 January 2020 to date.

Our response

We have searched for the information requested and Ofcom does not hold this information. There has been no contact with Ian Paisley Jr concerning tobacco or e-cigarettes since 1 January 2020 to date.

If you have any queries, then please contact 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.

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