

Reference: 01579286

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

20 April 2023

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning dates & minutes of meetings with government departments. Your request was received on 8 March 2023. We sought clarification of your request on 22 March 2023 and this was received on 27 March 2023. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'FOI Act').

Your request

Please provide dates, departments & minutes for all meetings held between Ofcom & government departments between January 2020 & April 2021.

Clarified as

Please provide meetings between Ofcom & DCMS, DHSC, PHE & UKHSA.

Our response

We are unable to provide this information as we consider that disclosure of this information is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act. Section 12 of the FOI 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 locate, retrieve and extract the information you have requested due to the number of different email accounts and documents on our data management system we would have to search through.

You may wish to consider submitting a narrower, more focused request, for example, a specific meeting with a specific governmental department, or perhaps about a specific subject. We would then be happy to consider this under the FOI Act. However, should you decide to make a further request for information, please note the aforementioned appropriate limit and/or that other exemptions may apply.

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

Information Requests

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