

Reference: 1656669

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

24 August 2023

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information in relation to datasets. We received this request on 4 August 2023 and have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "FOI Act").

Your request

Please can you share redacted versions of all datasets held by Ofcom that contain (a) dates of birth, (b) age, (c) postcode, and/or (d) date of incorporation

Our response

We are unable to process your request as the information is not readily accessible as a considerable amount of time would be needed to locate, retrieve, identify and extract any relevant information. Under section 12 of the FOI Act, public bodies are not obliged to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates 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, and is, for Ofcom, £450. That sum is intended to cover the estimated costs involved in determining whether Ofcom holds the information requested, identifying, 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. Ofcom estimates that it would take at least 18 hours to identify, locate and extract the information you require and as such the cost of complying with your request will exceed the appropriate limit.

Datasets are held by a number of Ofcom departments, in a variety of systems and for various time periods and include information on staff and Ofcom's remit. You can submit, and we will be happy to consider, a narrower request, however, it is likely that certain exemptions to disclosure of the information would apply under the FOI Act, most notably section 40 which relates to personal information¹. You may wish to look at our website to help you narrow your request to a subject matter concerning an aspect of Ofcom's work: [Home - Ofcom](#).

¹ Section 40(2) provides that personal information about persons other than the requestor is exempt where its disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data

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,

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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

Protection Act 2018. This includes the principle that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40 is an absolute exemption under the FOI Act and does not require a public interest test.