

References: 1621330, 1621331, 1621332

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

9 June 2023

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your requests for information as detailed below. Your requests were received on 16 May 2023 and we have considered them under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the FOI Act').

Your requests

- 1. Please provide a list of all sectors, departments or persons under which Ofcom and Nominet are likely to have communicated and the time costs associated with performing a FOIA search within each of these.*
- 2. Please provide all information (documentation and process) associated with Ofcoms FOIA response process and policy.*
- 3. In my initial request for communications between Nominet and Ofcom you alluded that the time period was too wide and subject to section 12.*

I complied with your request and narrowed the scope of my enquiry to 1/12 the time period, but you again say the scope is too wide and subject to section 12.

You have to date provided no calculation or explanation of the costs involved beyond a division of the cost limit by an arbitrary hourly rate, this calls into questions the suitability and efficacy of your FOIA and IT systems.

Further to section 16 of FOIA I am now requesting your reasonable assistance in narrowing the scope of this request so as to provide all communications between Ofcom and Nominet. If there are departments which do not communicate with Nominet, please advise so these can be removed from the scope of the request. If there are departments which frequent communicate with Nominet and subject to higher costs, please advise so these can be split into their own unique requests.

Our response

In order to provide assistance, we thought it might be helpful to firstly explain why your previous requests have been considered to be too broad in scope before advising on how you may narrow the scope of future requests. We note you have asked for reasonable assistance under request 3 which we have treated as a request for information rather than an internal review.

We note that you have been requesting for 'all communications' or 'all data' relating to Nominet. The scope of this is wide as it does not identify a specific matter or subject within a specific timeframe. This results in needing to search information held in various locations by various teams whose work may have involved/mentioned Nominet, as far back as we hold records. We note that in your December 2022 FOI request, you asked for information relating to a specific email that related to Nominet and that we managed to search for, and supply, information in scope (taking into account the disclosure exemptions under the FOI Act). This was a good example of where a request was more focused and therefore more manageable.

With regards to your request at 1) above, we do not hold this information/list in a readily available format however given the topic of the disclosed correspondence mentioned above and that Nominet responded to these consultations in [2016](#) and [2019](#), we believe that our Networks and Communications team and Spectrum team might have information relating to Nominet. In order to narrow the scope of your request, we think the best way to proceed is to consider the particular subject matter/area/team you are interested in (in addition to it being about Nominet) and frame your request around this subject, giving a specific timeframe, where applicable.

Information about Ofcom's FOI response process and policy can be found on our website: [Freedom of information and data protection – Ofcom](#).

I hope this information is helpful. 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. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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