

Reference: 01566040

Zach Westbrook
Information Rights Advisor
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10 March 2023

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning correspondence relating to Mark Steyn's programme on GB News. Your request was received on 13 February 2023 and we have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'FOI Act').

Your request

I wish to have all internal and external correspondence regarding the Mark Steyn show and the presenter from June 2020 onwards.

Second any correspondence regarding the programme and journalist from the U.K. Government and pharmaceutical companies or their representatives.

Email of a compressed file is acceptable instead of copying and posting.

Our response

Please find attached a PDF containing emails received by Ofcom's Chief Executive's Office regarding the *Mark Steyn* programme. Please note that these emails have been redacted to remove all personal details of the senders.

In addition, I can confirm that we hold correspondence with GB News in relation to investigations and complaints about programmes hosted by Mark Steyn. We are unable to disclose this correspondence as we consider these are exempt under section 44 of the FOI Act. Section 44 exempts the disclosure of information which is prohibited by another enactment. In this case, we are prohibited under section 393 of the Communications Act 2003 from disclosing information which relates to a business (in this case, GB News), which we have obtained in exercising our powers in relation to broadcast standards, unless we have the consent of that business or one of the statutory gateways for disclosure under section 393(2) is met, neither of which applies here. Section 44 is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

In relation to your second query, I can confirm that we do not hold any information within the scope of this request.

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