

Reference: 01601203

Information Requests  
[information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk)

17 May 2023

### Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your follow-up request for information concerning minutes and letters between Ofcom, broadcasters and Government regarding misinformation, Covid and lockdowns. Your follow-up request was received on 17 April 2023 and we have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

#### Your request

You asked:

- 1. Please provide copies of all recorded minutes and letters (NOT EMAILS and not public broadcasting complaints) between OFCOM and any representatives or employees of any public service broadcasters during the period June 2020 to June 2021 (all months inclusive) where covid misinformation, covid lockdowns or covid vaccines was discussed.*
- 2. Please provide all recorded minutes and letters SENT or RECEIVED (suitably redacted) (NOT EMAILS and not public broadcasting complaints) between OFCOM and ANY government department, MP or minister during the period January 2020 to February 2022 (all months inclusive)*

#### Our response

In relation to your first question, Ofcom does hold information in scope of your request, which is enclosed with our response. These documents are copies of the letters we sent to broadcasters, which incorporate the statements included in our published [Covid Notes to Broadcasters](#). We did not find any other documents in scope of your request.

Regarding your second question for information between Ofcom and any other government department, MP or minister, as we stated in our responses to you on 13 March and 14 April 2023, we do not hold any information in scope of your request. Ofcom is independent from Government, and Government departments and official agencies are not involved in any way in our regulation of broadcasting standards.

If you have any further queries, then please send them to [information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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