

Reference: 01795256

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

4 April 2024

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about ex BBC employees employed by Ofcom.

We received this request on 19 March 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

### Your request

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*Can you provide me with information on how many of your current employees are ex BBC employees.*

### Our response

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While we may hold information falling within the scope of your request, we are unable to comply with your request for this information. This is because employment history data for colleagues joining Ofcom prior to 2022 is stored in such a way that the information you have requested is not readily accessible and would require a considerable amount of time to locate, retrieve, identify and extract for the whole organisation comprising over 1,500 colleagues.

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 us more than 18 hours to locate, retrieve, identify and extract all the information specified.

You may wish to consider submitting a narrower, more focused request, such as a request for this information as it relates to a specific team within Ofcom, and we would be happy to consider this under the FOI Act.

Should you decide to make a further request for information, please note that previous employer information is provided by colleagues joining Ofcom on a voluntary basis and, where we do hold this information, it is in respect of colleagues’ most recent previous employment only, therefore the information we hold is unlikely to provide an accurate number of colleagues who have ever worked for the BBC prior to joining Ofcom.

You may find it helpful to know that, from the data we are able to readily access from 2022 onwards, we can confirm we have one colleague who worked at the BBC immediately prior to joining Ofcom.

However, we do know that we employ other colleagues who have previously worked for the BBC. The BBC is a major employer in the media space and it is common for people working in the sector to have spent time working at the broadcaster.

I hope this information is helpful. 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

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### **Request an internal review**

If you are unhappy with the response you have received to your request for information, or think that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law, you may ask for an internal review. If you do, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom. We will either uphold the original decision, or reverse or modify it.

If you would like to ask us to carry out an internal review, you should get in touch within two months of the date of this letter. There is no statutory deadline for us to complete our internal review, and the time it takes will depend on the complexity of the request. But we will try to complete the review within 20 working days (or no more than 40 working days in exceptional cases) and keep you informed of our progress.

Please email the Information Requests team ([information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk)) to request an internal review.

### **Taking it further**

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our internal review, then you have the right to [complain to the Information Commissioner's Office](#).