

Reference: 01792354

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

04 April 2024

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Ofcom's flights and carbon emissions.

We received this request on 11 March 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

### Your request

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*Under the Freedom of Information Act I want to know the following information about your organisation's travel arrangements and how you take account of overall carbon emissions:*

*For each of the last 5 full calendar years, and 2024 to date, provide*

- 1. Total number of flights for Ofcom employees on Ofcom business*
- 2. Of that total, how many flights were*

- \* Domestic flights within Great Britain*
- \* Domestic flights to/from Northern Ireland*
- \* Flights within Europe (not including domestic flights)*
- \* Flights to destinations outside Europe*

- 1. The total carbon emissions of the flights*

*Where possible, specify and quantity the country/region destination of the flights.*

*Share copies of any internal policy(ies) you have about air travel for Ofcom business which explain when it is or isn't acceptable.*

*And share any internal policy(ies) about how you consider the overall carbon emissions of flights on Ofcom business.*

*Share anything which shows how Ofcom employees factor carbon emissions into travel decisions e.g. a carbon budget or decision framework which references carbon emissions. And show any evidence you have that people follow the policy e.g. an example of how the carbon emissions less to a different decision about flying somewhere. I don't care about details of individuals or destinations - just evidence that your policy is being followed.*

## Our response

Our five year sustainability performance is published in the [Ofcom Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23](#) (page 67 – 68). This includes the cost and relevant carbon emissions relating to business travel. This Report is updated on a yearly basis and future reports are published on our website [here](#).

Please find below the breakdown of the business travel data:

		2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
<b>Tonnes CO2e</b>	Business Travel	<b>555</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>330</b>
	Air	449	477	0	28	254
	Domestic	160	185	0	12	70
	Short haul	160	136	0	0	83
	Long haul	129	156	0	15	100
	Rail/bus/tube	67	73	1	17	33
	Car/Motorbike/Cycle	36	41	6	12	41
Taxis	2	3	0	0	2	
<b>Cost £</b>	Business Travel	<b>£742,876</b>	<b>£837,982</b>	<b>£5,458</b>	<b>£139,275</b>	<b>£660,125</b>
	Air	£367,844	£402,945	-£7,579	£39,601	£370,680
	Domestic	£112,530	£122,986	-£956	£13,721	£87,767
	International	£255,314	£279,959	-£6,623	£25,880	£282,913
	Rail/bus/tube	£273,338	£315,574	£2,136	£70,737	£191,288
	Car/Motorbike/Cycle	£57,428	£66,212	£8,923	£21,054	£66,612
	Taxis	£44,266	£52,421	£1,977	£7,884	£31,546

With regards to the number of flights and the breakdown by destination, Ofcom does not hold this information.

Our policy on business travel and associated rates are published on our website [here](#), and our overall environmental policy is published [here](#). The business travel policy clearly states that “Colleagues must consider cost and Ofcom’s carbon footprint by evaluating the need to travel and the potential of using other less expensive and lower carbon travel alternatives such as virtual meetings.”

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

### 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](#).