

Reference: 1769721

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

22 February 2024

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Postal Services Act Requirement 7.

We received this request on 25 January 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

### Your request and our response

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*The Postal Services Act includes several items in the Universal Service Obligation (USO) of Royal Mail (RM). Amongst them, it includes:*

*Requirement 7: legislative petitions and addresses*

*A service of conveying free of charge qualifying legislative petitions and addresses.*

*Please provide:*

*1.- Any internal memorandums, discussions, research notes, etc. that detail the reasoning for Requirement 7. In other words: what was the motivation for this Requirement?*

Ofcom does not hold any data relating to this request. Ofcom gained responsibility and powers to regulate the postal services once the Postal Services Act 2011 came into force in October 2011. The UK Government and Parliament were responsible for the design of the Postal Services Act and the requirements included within it.

*2.- Any research regarding the uptake, usage, general statistics etc. about the service of conveying, free of charge, qualifying legislative petitions and address. This includes qualitative and quantitative studies.*

We do not hold any information falling within the scope of this question.

*3.- Any communications from Royal Mail to Ofcom where the main purpose or ultimate objective is to remove Requirement 7 from the USO#.*

We do not hold any information falling within scope of this question. As the minimum requirements of the USO are set in legislation, only Government and Parliament would be able to make amendments to those requirements – it is not within the scope of Ofcom’s powers.

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](#).