

Reference: 01775539

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

6 March 2024

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information as set out below.

We received this request on 7 February 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

Your request & our response

Please can you provide me with copies of correspondence, meeting minutes and instructions between Ofcom and the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) specifically relating to the amateur radio exam syllabus, exam conduct, and amateur radio training since 1st January 2023, as well as all available correspondence, minutes and documentation resulting from Ofcom's role as a representative on the Exam Standards Committee.

We have searched for the information requested and can confirm that while we do hold information that is in scope of your request, this information is being withheld as we consider it is exempt from disclosure under section 44(1) of the FOI Act. Section 44(1) of the FOI Act provides that information is exempt from disclosure if its disclosure is prohibited by or under any enactment. The enactment that prohibits the disclosure of this information is section 393(1) of the Communications Act 2003 (“the Communications Act”). Under this section, we are prohibited from disclosing information with respect to a particular business (in this case, RSGB) that has been obtained in the exercise of our regulatory functions, unless that business consents or one of the statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the Communications Act is met, neither of which apply here. Section 44 of the FOI Act is an absolute exemption and therefore is not subject to the public interest test.

Finally, under the Schedule of Terms between Ofcom and the Radio Society of Great Britain dated 17 September 2015, there is a requirement for an independent audit of the exam system annually. Please can you provide the date of the last independent audit, a copy of that report, and any related communications regarding the most recent audit.

We do not hold this information. You may wish to contact the RSGB whose board is responsible under the Schedule of Terms (Annex F) for appointing the Examinations Audit Committee (EAC) and receiving EAC reports.

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,

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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) 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](#).