

Reference: 01974047

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

7 April 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about total legal costs for “failed” and “upheld” judgments relating to television and radio broadcasters (UK only) in the last three years.

We received this request on 17 March 2025. We sought clarification of your request on 17 March 2025 and we received clarification that same day. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

Your request

Please could you provide information on the total legal costs for failed judgements in the last 3 years. It would also be of interest [to]... request the total legal costs for cases upheld over the same period.

Clarified as:

Just Television and radio broadcasters (UK only).

Our response

We have interpreted your request as relating to:

1. Court judgments in the last three years which:
 - a) do not uphold Ofcom broadcasting decisions (“failed judgments”);
 - b) do uphold Ofcom broadcasting decisions (“cases upheld”); and
2. the “total legal costs” in each case that was the subject of the Court judgment, meaning the total legal costs incurred by Ofcom and the other party or parties involved in each case.

In respect of 1a), the only relevant judgment is *The King (on the application of) GB News Limited and Ofcom* [2025] EWHC 460 (Admin).¹ This judgment was handed down by Mrs Justice Collins Rice on 28 February 2025. We do not hold information relating to the total legal costs in this case. However, we note that if held, this information may be exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act. For example, see section 42 legal professional privilege (specifically litigation privilege); section 41 information provided in confidence; and/or section 32 court records.

In respect of 1b), the Courts have issued substantive judgments in four cases upholding Ofcom broadcasting decisions over the last three years. We do not hold information relating to the total legal costs of each case, as we do not hold information about the legal costs of the other parties involved in each case. This is because the unsuccessful party was required to pay Ofcom’s costs in

¹ <https://www.judiciary.uk/judgments/gb-news-v-ofcom/>

addition to their own, and we therefore had no need to be provided with information about the latter.

We hope this information is helpful. 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,

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) 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](#).