

Reference: 02037229

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

13 August 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Ofcom's correspondence with government regarding extremism messaging.

We received this request on 16 July and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

The following information held by Ofcom from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2024:

1. Any internal records, emails, or briefings discussing:

- Government guidance, pressure, or influence regarding UK broadcasters' inclusion of anti-extremism or de-radicalisation themes in programming;*
- Correspondence or meetings with any government department (e.g. DCMS, Cabinet Office, Home Office, RICU) concerning broadcast messaging alignment or narrative coordination around extremism-related topics.*

2. Any policy reviews or internal assessments regarding potential risks to regulatory independence in Ofcom's collaboration with government on public safety or extremism messaging.

To assist with compliance under Section 12 of the Act, I am:

- Narrowing the scope to the theme of extremism only;*
- Limiting the timeframe to October 2022 to March 2024;*
- Requesting digital records only (no hard copies or archived paper records).*

Our response

Whilst we note that the focus has been narrowed from your [previous request](#) on this subject, we still consider that the request is extremely broad such that Section 12 of the FOI Act will apply.

Under Section 12 of the FOI Act, Ofcom is 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. 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. That sum is intended to cover the estimated costs involved in determining whether Ofcom holds the

information requested, identifying, locating, retrieving and extracting the information from any document containing it.

Ofcom estimates that it would take over 18 hours to search for, identify and retrieve any information which may be relevant to this request. As we outlined in our prior response, the broad nature of this request means that a considerable number of employees from various Ofcom teams would have to search through all of their correspondence with government within the requested time period. Whilst we note that this time period has been reduced from your previous request, 18 months is still a considerable period of time that would require many colleagues to search through a vast number of emails to identify any information in scope of your request.

You may wish to consider a narrower, more focused request focusing on a much smaller period (e.g. a month or less), a specific Ofcom team (e.g. our Public Policy team or our Content Standards and Enforcement team) and/or a specific UK broadcaster.

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](#).