

Reference: 2110310

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

16 December 2025

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about VPN usage.

We received this request on 19 November 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

### Your request

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*I'd like to know exactly how Ofcom is monitoring VPN usage in the UK along with the name and description of any tools aiding in this investigation. I'd also like to know how long this exercise is going to take and its ultimate aim*

### Our response

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We have recently published a response to another Freedom of Information request which provides some information relevant to your request: [VPN Internet Monitoring Tools](#)

As set out in the linked request, we can confirm that our analysis of VPN usage has been undertaken through data provided by Apptopia.

As the UK's online safety regulator, part of our role is to understand how people use the internet so we can ensure platforms are putting appropriate measures in place to protect UK users. The information we collect on VPN adoption is part of this work, and does not include any personal data, only aggregate data on market trends and traffic volume. Separately, we are using surveys to help us understand children's level of usage and familiarity with VPNs as part of our ongoing work on children's online experiences.

We 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](#).