

Reference: 1965310

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

21 March 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Russia Today and Fox News.

We received this request on 26 February 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

Your request

“Could you please provide detailed reasons, including internal and external communication such as emails / memos / letters which describe the reasons and decisions to censor Russia Today and FoxNews from our media channels in the UK, a country described as supporting Freedom of Expression?”

Our response

I can confirm we hold information in response to your request. Please see the following link for information about the revocation of the RT (formerly Russia Today) licence: [notice of RT revocation](#).

We did not revoke the Fox News licence, rather Fox News ceased to broadcast in the UK on 29 August 2017 and surrendered its Licence to Ofcom on 1 November 2017. You can find reference to this in [Issue 341](#) of Ofcom’s Broadcast Bulletin.

We are unable to disclose any further correspondence on these matters as we consider that disclosure of this information is exempt under the FOI Act. In particular, section 44(1)(a) of the FOI Act exempts disclosure of information if its disclosure is prohibited by or under any enactment. Section 393 of the Communications Act 2003 (the Act) prohibits the disclosure of information about a particular business which has been obtained in exercise of a power conferred by, among other legislation, the Act, so long as that business continues to be carried on, unless we have the consent of that business or one of the statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the Act is met, neither of which applies here. Section 44 of the FOI Act is an absolute exemption and therefore is not subject to a public interest test.

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](#).