

Reference: 02013782

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

16 July 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Kiwifarms.st. We received this request on 13 June 2025. We sought clarification of your request on 18 June 2025, and we received clarification from you the same day. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

Your original request:

"I wanted to read an article about a cyber stalker on the above website (kiwsifarms.st).

I was not able to read it however I did read a letter from Ofcom telling the sites owners that citizens of the UK must be protected , therefore Ofcom are banning UK citizens access to it.

Why? Ofcom's letter wasn't clear. In fact the letter could apply to any website anywhere, including Ofcom's.

Would you tell me why and what is Ofcom protecting me from?"

Clarified as:

- "1. Who ie which individual within Ofcom, issued the attached letter and why?*
- 2. What am I and other British citizens being protected from?*
- 3. Please forward all committee/meeting minutes, notes, emails between decision makers relating to the decision to issue the attached letter."*

Our response

- 1. Who ie which individual within Ofcom, issued the attached letter and why?*

Regarding which individual issued the letter referred to in your request, we consider that this is personal information which is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the FOI Act. Section 40(2) of the FOI Act provides that personal information about persons other than the requester is exempt where, among other things, its disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018 including that personal data should be processed lawfully, fairly and transparently. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption under the Act and does not require a public interest test.

2. What am I and other British citizens being protected from?

The Online Safety Act introduces new rules for providers of online user-to-user, search and pornography services, to help keep UK users safe from content which is illegal in the UK, and to protect children from the most harmful content such as pornography, violent content, and suicide and self-harm material.

The duties in the Act come into force throughout 2025: duties on publishers of pornographic material to implement highly effective age assurance came into force from January 2025; and duties for user-to-user and search services to tackle illegal content came into force on 17 March 2025. Duties to protect children from harmful content will come into force from July 2025.

To clarify, Ofcom has not taken any action to ban Kiwi Farms from UK users. Instead, the decision was made by Kiwi Farms to block its services from being accessible to people located in the UK.

If you would like to find out more about our duties under the Online Safety Act and our approach to implementing it, please see [here](#).

3. Please forward all committee/meeting minutes, notes, emails between decision makers relating to the decision to issue the attached letter.

Whilst we hold the information you have requested, we are withholding this as we consider it is exempt from disclosure under section 44(1) of the FOI Act. Under section 44(1) of the FOI Act, information is exempt from disclosure if its disclosure is prohibited by or under any enactment. In this case, section 393(1) of the Communications Act 2003 (the “Communications Act”) prohibits the disclosure of information about a particular business, in this case Kiwi Farms, which we have obtained in the course of exercising a power conferred by, among other legislation, the Online Safety Act, unless we have the consent of that business or one of the statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the Communications Act is met, neither of which apply here. Section 44 is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

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](#).