

Reference: 02003973

Information Requests information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

23 June 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about enforcement actions under the Online Safety Act.

We received this request on 28 May 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request

- 1. How many investigations, enforcement actions, or penalties have been initiated or issued under the Online Safety Act 2024 to date?
- 2. Of these, how many specifically relate: The hosting or amplification of vigilante content (i,e user-generated videos involving public confrontations, accusations, or stings made by unaffiliated individuals or groups)? Failures by platforms (such as Facebook, TikTok, or YouTube) to remove potentially harmful or defamatory user content, especially involving individuals not charged with or convicted of a criminal offence?
- 3. If possible, please provide brief details or descriptions (redacted where appropriate) of any such enforcement activity, including the platform involved and the outcome (e.g. warning, fine, investigation closed etc)

If the information for questions 2 and 3 is not held in a discrete form, I would appreciate a general overview or clarification of Ofcom's current approach to this class of content under the Act.

Our response

Information regarding Ofcom's enforcement programme, including details of all investigations opened in relation to providers' duties under the Online Safety Act 2023 ("the Act"), can be found in our <u>Enforcement Bulletin</u>. Further information regarding our enforcement process can be found in our <u>Online Safety Enforcement Guidance</u>.

We note that some of the content which you refer to may not be in scope of the Act. The types of content which are in scope of the Act are illegal content, as defined by section 59 of the Act, and content which is harmful to children, as defined by section 60 of the Act.

Ofcom's functions and duties under the Act are to make sure that regulated services take appropriate steps to protect their users by improving the systems providers use to prevent harm. We do not require providers to remove particular posts, images or videos. Further information about Ofcom's functions and duties under the Act can be found on our <u>website</u>.

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.