

Reference: 01985021

Information Requests information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

14 May 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning Ofcom staff expenses.

We received this request on 11 April 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

This is an information request relating to staff expenses.

Please include the following information for the last four financial years, 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24:

* The total amount claimed in expenses by senior staff annually.

* A breakdown of expenses by category (e.g., travel, accommodation, meals, hospitality, subsistence, training, etc.).

* The total amount claimed by the most expensive individual claimant (job title only) in each of those years.

* If available, a breakdown of expenses for members of the senior leadership team (e.g. Chief Executive, Directors), including job titles and total expenses per individual per year.

Our response

The information we hold in scope of your request is provided via our <u>website</u>. The data relating to 2024/2025 is going through our internal governance and will be published in due course – expected by the end of June this year. We consider that this information is exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the FOI Act on the grounds that it is held with a view to its publication and since publication will take place shortly, it is reasonable in all the circumstances to withhold it from disclosure. The attached annex to this letter sets out the exemption in full, as well as the factors Ofcom considered when deciding where the public interest lay.

If you have any further queries, then please send them to <u>information.requests@ofcom.org.uk</u> – 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 (<u>information.requests@ofcom.org.uk</u>) 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.

Annex A

Section 22: Information intended for future publication

Section 22 may apply if there is an intention to publish the requested information at some future date. This ensures that the FOI Act does not force public authorities into premature publication of information.

Key points:

- Section 22 may apply even if the specific date for publication has not yet been determined but the proposed publication timetable must be **reasonable** in all the circumstances;
- Section 22 will only apply if a public authority has decided, before the request is received, to publish the information concerned;
- Section 22 is subject to a public interest balance.

Factors for disclosure	Factors for withholding
The general desirability that Ofcom's activities as the UK's communications regulator are transparent.	 Release of the information in advance of finalisation and formal publication could lead to confusion or misinformation in the public domain, as the information is not finalised and is subject to change. Ofcom intends to publish the requested information when the documents have gone through the appropriate approval process.
Reasons why public interest favours withholding information	
• We have concluded that it is not in the public interest to release this information at this stage, taking into account that the information requested is still to be confirmed and finalised.	