

Reference: 02092937

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

17 November 2025

Dear,

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning websites and/or online services that shut down or geoblock the UK related to the Online Safety Act.

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

Your request

"...I would like to request a list of websites and/or online services that have chosen to shut down or geoblock the UK related to compliance with the Online Safety Act (OSA), to the extent that Ofcom holds a record of that information.

Notes:

- 1. The scope of this request is not limited to sites or services that have shut down or geoblocked the UK as a result of Ofcom enforcement action against them in particular, or as a result of notifications or other correspondence from Ofcom, and is not limited to sites or services that Ofcom has identified as "risky" or with a significant number of UK users.*
- 2. By "related to compliance with the Online Safety Act" I mean where the provider is known or considered by Ofcom to have linked the decision to shut down or geoblock the UK to OSA, whether or not the provider has articulated a specific reason.*
- 3. I understand that information held by Ofcom within scope of my request will not necessarily be complete or comprehensive or held in the form of a single list.*
- 4. If Ofcom considers that the cost of compliance with my information request exceeds statutory limits, please prioritise information held by Ofcom about sites or services that have shut down or geoblocked the UK since the start of 2025.*
- 5. I appreciate that many individual providers have published statements about their decisions to shut down or geoblock UK users. However, the main purpose of my request is to understand to extent to which Ofcom, as the regulatory authority, is keeping track of and recording the effects of OSA's implementation. For this reason I do not think that, in the context of my request, those statements from individual providers constitute information accessible to me by other means within the meaning of the exemption in section 21 of the FOI Act."*

Our response

We can confirm that we do not currently hold a list of websites and/or online services that have chosen to shut down or geoblock the UK related to compliance with the Online Safety Act (OSA).

However, as part of our enforcement work, and as explained on this page: [Ofcom issues update on Online Safety Act investigations](#), we are aware of providers of services that have taken steps to prevent people in the UK from accessing their sites – such as by ‘geoblocking’ access from UK IP addresses – instead of implementing the safety measures under our codes.

Examples of the services that took this approach include [Krakenfiles](#), [Nippydrive](#), [Nippyshare](#) and [Nippyspace](#). Additionally, in July 2025, an online suicide forum implemented a block to restrict users with UK IP addresses from accessing the service, however as reported in [the investigation update on 7 November 2025](#), we now have reason to believe, from evidence provided to us by Samaritans on 4 November 2025, that the service is available to UK users. We are therefore now progressing our investigation as a priority.

Our enforcement bulletin will have further information.

If you have any further queries, please send your query 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](#)