

Reference: 2053421

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

27 August 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about the number of sites censored with the Online Safety Act.

We received this request on 28 July 2025 and have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request and our response

1. The total number of websites, domains, or online services that have been subjected to censorship demands (including but not limited to takedown notices, fines, ISP blocks, or payment processor restrictions) under the Online Safety Act 2023 since its enactment.

To date, Ofcom has not concluded any formal enforcement action under the Online Safety Act 2023 ("the Act"). As such, we have not imposed any financial penalties, compliance or remedial steps, or made any applications to court requesting for access to websites to be blocked.

For more information about Ofcom's Enforcement powers and how we use them, please see the [Online Safety Enforcement Guidance](#). Section 9 may be of particular interest as it discusses the business disruption powers that we have been granted under the Act. It is under these powers that we would apply to a court for an 'access restriction order' or 'interim access restriction order' which would require a site to be blocked. We have not used these powers yet. If and when we do use these powers, we will publish a statement on the [Enforcement Bulletin](#) on our website, as mentioned in section 9.27 of the Online Safety Enforcement Guidance.

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/siteassets/resources/documents/online-safety/information-for-industry/illegal-harms/online-safety-enforcement-guidance.pdf><https://www.ofcom.org.uk/enforcement>

2. A breakdown of the categories of content cited in these censorship actions (e.g., 'illegal content,' 'harmful to children,' 'misinformation').

Not applicable – please see response to Question 1.

3. The number of these actions that targeted journalistic, whistleblowing, or public interest content (e.g., police brutality, government corruption).

Not applicable – please see response to Question 1.

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](#).