

Reference: 02059876

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

1 September 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Section 179 of the Online Safety Act 2023.

We received this request on 6 August 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information regarding the use of Section 179 of the Online Safety Act 2023, , since it came into force in 2025 "Secretary of State's directions in special circumstances."

Specifically, I request:

Whether Ofcom has received any directions from the Secretary of State under Section 179 since the Act received Royal Assent.

The number of such directions received, and the dates they were issued.

A general description of the subject matter or purpose of each direction (e.g., content regulation, misinformation, platform compliance, etc.).

The actions taken by Ofcom in response to each direction.

Whether Ofcom raised any objections or concerns regarding the use of Section 179, and if so, whether any correspondence exists relating to this.

Copies or redacted summaries of any such directions and internal memos relating to their implementation or impact.

If full disclosure is not possible, please provide redacted or summary documents where feasible, and cite the exemptions relied upon for any withheld material.

I would prefer to receive this information electronically via email.

Our response

We note you refer to Section 179 of the Online Safety Act. However, we think you mean Section 175 of the Online Safety Act.

We have not had any directions from the Secretary of State under Section 175 of the Online Safety Act. Therefore, we do not hold any further information in response to your request.

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](#).