

Reference: 02062458

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

9 September 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning online safety FOIs and the use of Section 44.

We received this request on 11 August 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request & our response

Please could you confirm, for each of the last 3 financial years, how many of those requests which were refused in reliance on s.44 pertained to information which Ofcom considered itself to have obtained in exercise of a power conferred by the Online Safety Act?

The Online Safety Act received Royal Assent on 23 September 2023. Since this date, we have had 19 requests under which information was withheld in reliance on section 44 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the “FOI Act”), in relation to the Online Safety Act. Of these, in 2023 we responded to 1 case withholding information under Section 44, 7 in 2024 and 11 between January – March 2025, which is the end of Ofcom’s financial year.

In order to respond to your question, we searched our data management system for responses in the relevant period containing the terms “safety”, “online safety” and “harm”. This search included all areas of Ofcom’s work and was not limited to requests which were classified as relating to Online Safety.

Between 23 September 2023 and 21 March 2025, we received 37 Freedom of Information Requests which have been classified as relating to Online Safety. Our responses to all Freedom of Information requests can be found on our website: [published responses to FOI requests](#).

For requests which were refused in reliance on s.44, and which pertained to information which Ofcom considered itself to have obtained in exercise of a power conferred by the Online Safety Act, please could you provide details of how many of these requests:

- * Sought information relating to companies headquartered in the United Kingdom*
- * Sought information relating to companies headquartered in the United States*
- * Sought information relating to to companies headquartered in China*

We do not hold information relating to the headquarters of each company in relation to which information was sought.

For requests which were refused in reliance on s.44 and which pertained to information which Ofcom considered itself to have obtained in exercise of a power conferred by the Online Safety Act, please could you confirm how many of these requests sought information relating to companies reporting global annual revenue over \$100 billion dollars.

We do not hold information relating to the revenue of each company in relation to which information was sought.

You may wish to refer to our [published responses to FOI requests](#), which contains our published responses to all FOI requests, including the original request setting out the information sought.

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](#).