

Reference: 02130754

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

10 February 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Correspondence with STV.

We received this request on 15 January 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

During her opening statement to the Scottish Parliament's Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee - Group Director, Cristina Nicolotti Squires, referenced a "back and forth" with STV regarding their proposed changes to their licence agreement and regional news output.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I request:

All correspondence relating to this "back and forth" with STV - including all emails, letters, texts, Whatsapp exchanges and logs of phone-calls.

I also request the dates, lengths and meeting notes of all meetings between STV and Ofcom regarding this issue.

Our response

We can confirm we hold information in scope of your request, however, we have an obligation not to disclose this under section 44(1) of the FOI Act. This section prevents Ofcom from disclosing information that must be withheld under any other enactment. The enactment that prohibits the disclosure of this information is section 393(1) of the Communications Act 2003 ("the Communications Act"). Under this section, we are prohibited from disclosing information with respect to a particular business (STV) that has been obtained in the exercise of our regulatory functions, unless that business consents or one of the statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the Communications Act is met, neither of which apply here. Section 44 of the FOI Act is an absolute exemption and therefore is not subject to the public interest test.

We consider that other exemptions may also apply such as section 36 of the FOI Act.

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](#).