

Reference: 547333

Jerin John
Information Rights Adviser
Information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

14 June 2018

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information where you asked about Stakeholder levies and Ofcom accounts.

This was received by Ofcom on 1 June and it has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

Please see our responses to each of your questions:

Could you please tell me how much money Virgin Media has paid to Ofcom each year for the last three years?

Ofcom publishes the total amount of Stakeholder levies in the Annual Reports¹. This can be found under 'Stakeholder income' of the Financial Statements. The relevant row with respect to levies from Communications Providers such as Virgin Media is 'Networks & services administrative and application fees'. Charges² for individual stakeholders are determined by each stakeholder's relevant turnover as a proportion of the total relevant turnover for the Networks & Services sector and the applicable charging band³.

However, the actual figure levied on Virgin Media is exempt under section 44 of the Act. This exemption allows information to be withheld when its disclosure is prohibited under other legislation. Section 393(1) of the Communications Act 2003 prevents Ofcom disclosing information about a particular business (e.g. levies from specific Stakeholders). Section 44 is an absolute exemption under the Act and does not require a public interest test.

Could you tell me how much money Utility Warehouse has paid to Ofcom each year for the last three years?

The information you requested is exempt under section 44 – please see our response to your previous question.

Can you please provide me with a copy of Ofcom accounts for the last three years?

¹ <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/annual-reports-and-plans>

² Based on the total costs to be recovered from the Sector.

³ https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/112465/Tariff-Tables-2018_19.pdf (Page 5)

Ofcom publishes an Annual Report every financial year, therefore this is available in the public domain - please see footnote 1. The accounts for the 2017/18 financial year are currently being finalised and should be ready for publication in Summer 2018.

If you have any queries, then please contact information.requests@ofcom.org.uk. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Jerin John

If you are unhappy with the response or level of service you have received in relation to your request from Ofcom, you may ask for an internal review. If you ask us for an internal review of our decision, it will be treated as a formal complaint and will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom. We will acknowledge the complaint and inform you of the date by which you might expect to be told the outcome.

The following outcomes are possible:

- the original decision is upheld; or
- the original decision is reversed or modified.

Timing

If you wish to exercise your right to an internal review **you should contact us within two months of the date of this letter**. There is no statutory deadline for undertaking internal reviews and it will depend upon the complexity of the case. However, we aim to conclude all such reviews within 20 working days, and up to 40 working days in exceptional cases. We will keep you informed of the progress of any such review. If you wish to request an internal review, you should contact:

Steve Gettings
The Secretary to the Corporation
Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF