

Reference: 534606

Jerin John
Information Rights Adviser
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6 June 2018

Request for Information

Thank you for your request for information made in relation to an Ofcom decision of 9 April 2018. This was received by Ofcom on 10 April and it has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the Regulations).

You asked:

Ofcom recently made a ruling on a Today programme item featuring Lord Lawson. The ruling was reported on 9 April 2018 in the Ofcom Bulletin.

I would like to receive copies of all correspondence with parties outside Ofcom, electronic or otherwise, relating to this inquiry.

Since the information requested is environmental in nature, I believe that the Environmental Information Regulations apply.

Some of the information falling within the scope of your request is exempt from release under section 44 of the Act. This exemption allows information to be withheld when its disclosure is prohibited by other legislation. Section 393 of the Communications Act 2003 prevents Ofcom disclosing, without the consent of the BBC, information which we have obtained in the course of carrying out our regulatory responsibilities, unless releasing that information helps Ofcom to carry out its duties. This situation applies to correspondence with the BBC and other external parties about complaints raised in relation to the *Today* programme.

However, we consider the following information referenced within the correspondence to either fall for release under the Regulations or to be otherwise appropriate for release due to it being information which is already in the public domain:

- **Transcript of interview with Lord Lawson on *Today* programme, 10 August 2018**

The annex to this letter, attached, includes the transcript of the interview with Lord Lawson.

- **BBC News website article of 10 August 2017 about the interview with Lord Lawson**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-40889563>

- **Lord Lawson’s 2016 statement to the House of Lords Economic Affairs Select Committee**

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/economic-affairs-committee/publications/?type=&session=28&sort=false&inquiry=2925>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/economic-affairs-committee/>

<https://www.parliamentlive.tv/Event/Index/687ab42d-5dcc-4980-8384-394d475c525d>

- **Renewables 2016 Report by the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century**

<http://www.ren21.net/>

- Extract from the **Climate Change Committee’s 2017 Report to Parliament: Reducing emissions and preparing for climate change**

It says UK emissions have fallen by over 40% since 1990 while GDP has increased by over 60%. For over a quarter of a century the UK has witnessed falling greenhouse gas emissions alongside rising GDP.

- **Climate Change Committee: Energy prices and bills report 2017**

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Energy-Prices-and-Bills-Committee-on-Climate-Change-March-2017.pdf>

- **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): 2013 Summary for Policy Makers**

http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/wg1/WG1AR5_SPM_FINAL.pdf

- **Datasets published by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) on International domestic energy prices and industrial energy prices (last updated 2017)**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/international-domestic-energy-prices> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/international-industrial-energy-prices>

- **2015 International Monetary Fund Survey: Counting the Cost of Energy Subsidies**

<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2015/09/28/04/53/sonew070215a>

- **2016 World Meteorological Organisation Statement on the State of the Global Climate**

https://library.wmo.int/opac/doc_num.php?explnum_id=3414

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