

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information dated 4 July about Ofcom's information technology team spend and suppliers. This has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act').

Please find below our response to each of your questions.

1. How much OFCOM has budgeted to spend on IT in the years 2016,

We are unable to disclose any figures as this is exempt from disclosure under Section 43 of the Act. This part of the Act deals with the exemption of information that would prejudice the commercial interests of a person or company. In applying this exemption we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing the information. The attached annex A to this letter sets out the exemption in full, as well as the factors Ofcom considered when deciding where the public interest lay.

2. List of OFCOM's suppliers of IT products and services.

We are unable to disclose the information you have requested as we consider it is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1)(a) of the Act - crime prevention - on the grounds that the information may aid malicious parties to attack the IT systems concerned. Release of this information will prejudice the prevention of crime by facilitating the possibility of a criminal offence being carried out. Hacking into an IT system is a criminal offence.

In applying this exemption we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing the information. In Annex B I have set out the exemption in full, as well as the factors Ofcom considered when deciding where the public interest lay.

It is likely that other exemptions under the Act would also apply.

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

