

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

1. The American news channel Fox News was started in 1996 and I'd like to find out when it received Ofcom's license to start broadcasting in the UK?
 - a. Fox News Network LLC's licence for Fox News was issued by Ofcom on 14 September 2001.
2. Does the license have to be renewed at regular intervals? What is the duration for such a license?
 - a. The licence held by Fox is a Television Licensable Content Service licence which has no end date. Provided that a TLCS licensee complies with the terms of their licences including paying an annual licence fee to Ofcom, such licence remain in force.
3. It was reported yesterday that Fox News has decided to "cease providing a feed of Fox News Channel in the UK" as quoted in the Guardian. <<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/aug/29/sky-to-stop-broadcasting-rightwing-us-channel-fox-news-in-uk>> I want to understand if that means that they will cease to have a license in the UK? Or does their license remain, even though they are stopping the feed?
 - a. The licence for Fox News is a Television Licensable Content Service ("TLCS") licence. A TLCS licence does not require the licensee to broadcast the service.

If a licensee wishes to surrender a TLCS licence it should notify Ofcom and we will send documentation confirming that the licence has been surrendered.

Ofcom publishes a monthly licensing update which includes a list of licences that have been surrendered in the previous month.
4. As a follow up, has Fox notified Ofcom about terminating its license?

In an earlier email you had told me that they started broadcasting in the UK on 14 September 2001. Is their annual fee payment coming up soon then?

- a. I'm afraid I can't answer your first question one way or the other because to do so would breach a statutory disclosure prohibition. Because I cannot provide the information, I need to give you some further details about our thinking and your rights under the Freedom of Information Act, so I have put that at the end of this email. As stated in my email of 30 August, Ofcom publishes a monthly licensing update which includes a list of licences that have been surrendered in the previous month.

On your second question, Fox News Network LLC holds a Television Licensable Content Service licence. We invoice the fees for all such licences in April each year, not on the anniversary that the licence was granted.

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

Ofcom
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London SE1 9HA

Switchboard: +44 (0)20 7981 3000
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