

Reference: 362192

6 December 2016

Julia Snape  
Information requests

[information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk)

### **Freedom of Information: Right to know request**

Thank you for your request for information dated 18 November which we have considered under the Freedom of information Act 2000 ('the Act').

You asked:

- o Are you running any SQL Databases or other RDMS?*
- o If so, what versions are you currently running (Oracle, Microsoft Sql Server , Mysql etc)?*
- o What applications are being run on these Databases?*
- o Are you planning another Database upgrade in the next 12-18 months?*

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 the annex 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.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Julia Snape

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

**Section 31 (1): Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice -**

- (a) the prevention or detection of crime;
- (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

<b>Factors for disclosure</b>	<b>Factors for withholding</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open policy making and public confidence in regulated activities</li> </ul>	<p>Disclosure of detailed information about Ofcom’s IT systems 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.</p>
<b>Reasons why public interest favours withholding information</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disclosure of detailed information about Ofcom’s IT systems could be used by offenders to hack into our systems. It is in the public interest for this not to happen to protect Ofcom against a potential cyber-attack so that Ofcom can carry on its work. The more specific any information is, the more useful it may be to an attacker.</li> </ul>	