

Reference: 567801

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Information Rights Adviser
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Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information where you asked about Ofcom's funding.

This was received by Ofcom on 2 August and it has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked:

I would be very grateful if you could send me information held on how Ofcom's funding is determined including any analysis of what resources are required for Ofcom to carry out its statutory duties and if such resources have then been made available.

Ofcom's duties are to regulate broadband and mobile telecoms, TV, radio, video-on-demand services, post, and the airwaves used by wireless devices (Spectrum monitoring). In addition, Ofcom is responsible for determining and enforcing policy across all areas of communications. Ofcom also collects receipts under the Wireless Telegraphy Act on behalf of the Government.

As set out in the Financial Review section of the 2017/18 Annual Report & Accounts¹, Ofcom was set a budget of £121.7m to carry out its statutory duties. This figure is derived directly from the Annual Plan, which is set each year and can be found on Page 11 of the 2017/18 Annual Report & Accounts. In terms of the sources of these funds, they are in part charged to the companies in the industries that Ofcom regulate e.g. mobile telephone companies, the BBC etc. The fees charged are calculated based on the cost of regulating those sectors, which is based directly upon the amount of resource expended in these areas, collected using the Ofcom time recording system.

With respect to the remaining funding Ofcom receives this relates to receipts from the Government under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 to cover Ofcom's cost in respect of managing Spectrum on behalf of the Government. This is explained more fully on page 46 of the 2017/18 Annual Report & Accounts.

The annual budget is reviewed and approved by the Ofcom Board during February and March of each year, and all spend is governed through formal sign off processes.

¹ https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/115230/annual-report-1718-accessible.pdf

I hope this information is of assistance to you. 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