

Reference: 01586214

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

17 April 2023

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information in relation to GB News. We received this request on 20 March 2023. We have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the “FOI Act”).

Your request

You asked:

Please provide a copy of any applications and subsequent renewals made for a TV Broadcast license by GB News. To assist in identifying this entity, I refer to the Freeview TV channel 236. Please do redact any personal information that you may not be permitted to share.

Background

By way of background, GB News Ltd holds the following licences for TV broadcasting:

- a television licensable content service licence (TLCS) for its service available via satellite/cable (TLCS103139BA). This was applied for in 2019 by All Perspectives Ltd, and granted on 13 January 2020 before being transferred to GB News Ltd on 8 June 2021.
- a digital television programme service licence (DTPS) for its service available via Freeview (DTPS103140BA). This was applied for in 2019 by All Perspectives Ltd and granted on 13 January 2020 before being transferred to GB News Ltd on 8 June 2021.

Our response

Turning to your request, neither of these licences has an expiry date and so there is no requirement for GB News Ltd to submit applications to renew the licences. The licences incur annual fees which must be paid in order for the licences to remain live.

We are unable to provide copies of the applications for these licences as this information is exempt from disclosure under section 44 of the FOI Act. This exemption provides that information is to be withheld if its disclosure is prohibited under other legislation – in this case section 393(1) of the Communications Act 2003 (the “Communications Act”). Section 393(1) of the Communications Act prevents us from disclosing information about a particular business which we have obtained in the course of exercising a power conferred by, among other legislation, the Communications Act, unless

we have the consent of that business or one of the statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the Communications Act is met, neither of which apply here. Section 44 is an absolute exemption under the Communications Act and does not require a public interest test.

You may find it helpful to refer to a [previous FOI response concerning the licensing of GB News](#).

I hope this information is helpful. 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,

Information Requests

If you are unhappy with the response you have received in relation to your request for information and/or consider that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law, you may ask for an internal review. If you ask us for an internal review of our decision, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom.

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 responding to 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 information.requests@ofcom.org.uk.

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