

Reference: 02059090

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

22 August 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Ofcom's definition of the term 'pornography'.

We received this request on 28 July 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request

Do you hold a clear and precise definition of the word "Pornography" in relation to age verification? If so, include that definition in your reply.

Our response

[Section 236\(1\)](#) of the Online Safety Act defines "pornographic content" as "content of such a nature that it is reasonable to assume that it was produced solely or principally for the purpose of sexual arousal."

You may also be interested in the guidance that Ofcom has published to accompany this in our statement on [Protecting Children from Harms Online](#). Further guidance on this topic can be found in our statement on [Age Assurance and Children's Access](#).

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any further queries, then please send them to information.requests@ofcom.org.uk – quoting the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Information Requests

Request an internal review

If you are unhappy with the response you have received to your request for information, or think that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law, you may ask for an internal review. If you do, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom. We will either uphold the original decision, or reverse or modify it.

If you would like to ask us to carry out an internal review, you should get in touch within two months of the date of this letter. There is no statutory deadline for us to complete our internal review, and the time it takes will depend on the complexity of the request. But we will try to complete the review within 20 working days (or no more than 40 working days in exceptional cases) and keep you informed of our progress. Please email the Information Requests team (information.requests@ofcom.org.uk) to request an internal review.

Taking it further

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our internal review, then you have the right to [complain to the Information Commissioner's Office](#).