

Reference: 01991680

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

13 May 2025

Dear,

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning fines for posts advertising illegal knives.

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

Your request

1. *The number of times 'tech bosses' or companies whose platforms failed to remove content which 'advertises deadly and illegal knives and other offensive weapons to young people - or which glorifies or incites violence' have received fines. Please provide me with this data broken down by year, for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025. Please also break the data down by the entity or person which was fined in each year (e.g., in 2021, Facebook received 3 fines; Amazon UK's CEO received 4; etc., for other years and companies/executives).*

2. *The value of the fines levied in each year. As before, please provide me with this data broken down by year, for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025. Please also break the data down by the entity or person which was fined. (e.g., in 2021, Facebook received total fines worth £20,000; Amazon received fines worth £40,000; etc., for other years and companies/executives).*

Our response

The sanctions referred to in your request relate to a proposed amendment to the Crime and Policing Bill. This is separate to Ofcom's duties under the Online Safety Act 2023 ('OS Act') and therefore we do not hold the information requested.

However, based on the information that you requested, you may find the following information of interest.

On 16 December 2024, Ofcom published our final Illegal Harms Statement - [Statement: Protecting people from illegal harms online - Ofcom](#). This includes an overview of illegal harms, which provides more detail on the definition of illegal content and the offences that are relevant to knives. Our guidance about illegal knives and other offensive weapons related content can be found in our [Illegal Content Judgements Guidance \(ICJG\)](#), and primarily relates to the exposure of such weapons for sale or trade.

On 24 April 2025, Ofcom published our final Protection of Children Statement - : [Statement: Protecting people from illegal harms online - Ofcom](#). The Protection of Children Codes and Guidance build on the rules that we have already put in place to protect all users, including children, from

illegal harms. Providers of online services that are likely to be accessed by children in the UK are now legally required to protect children from content that is harmful to them. Content that promotes or glamourises the carrying of weapons and content which promotes, glamourises, glorifies, romanticises or normalises violence are just two types of such content. Our guidance on Violent Content can be found here: [Guidance on content harmful to children](#).

I 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](#).