

Reference: 01985050

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

14 May 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning spend data for transactions over £25,000.

We received this request on 11 April 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

I'd like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for all of your entity's transactions over £25,000 for January 2016 to March 2025.

Please provide the data in a machine-readable format (preferably CSV). As a minimum, please make sure to include the date, value, and recipient of each transaction. Please also provide details on the procurement category of each transaction if you have it.

Our response

We have interpreted your request to mean £25,000 excluding V.A.T.

We can confirm that we do hold some information falling within the scope of your request. However, we are unable to provide this information as we consider that disclosure of this information is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act. Section 12 of the FOI Act provides that we are not obliged to comply with a request for information if we estimate that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the "appropriate limit". The appropriate limit is set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (the "Regulations"), and is, for Ofcom, £450. That sum is intended to cover the estimated costs involved in determining whether Ofcom holds the information requested, locating, retrieving and extracting the information from any document containing it. The Regulations provide that costs are to be estimated at a rate of £25 per person per hour, which equates to 18 hours of time.

We have identified 4255 transactions in scope of this request, however in order to provide all the information in the granular detail that you have requested (date, value, recipient and procurement category for each transaction), we estimate that it would take more than 18 hours to identify and extract that information as it will be a manual process to review each and every transaction. . We therefore consider that in order to fully answer your request and provide all the information requested, section 12 of the FOI Act is engaged on this occasion.

We may be able to provide the information if the request was for a narrower date range, for example, one year. Please note that due to our data retention policy we would not hold data pre-2019.

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](#).