

Reference: 02065502

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

12 September 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about documents related to the Online Safety Act.

We received this request on 18 August 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request

“All Policy and documentation relating to the online safety act's implementation including but not limited to:

- 1. Policy documentation*
- 2. implementation documentation*
- 3. Any review and objections of the act*
- 4. Meeting notes from all meetings regarding the online safety act*
- 5. Any and all scrapped plans for an actually regulated online safety age check*
- 6. Any & all mentions that maybe parents should step up and actually parent their children instead of wasting tax payer money implementing a pointless unregulated system that allow foreign powers to gleam personal data and ID's from UK citizens”*

Our response

We note that your request makes reference to “tax payer money”. Please note that Ofcom is not funded through taxation.

You may be interested in the following published materials and resources relating to the Online Safety Act and its implementation:

- The [Online Safety landing page](#) on our website;
- An update on [Ofcom's approach to implementing the OSA](#);
- Ofcom's statement on [Protecting children from harms online](#);
- Ofcom's statement on [Protecting people from illegal harms online](#);
- A [Quick guide to implementing highly effective age assurance](#), and
- Ofcom's [research and advice regarding categorisation](#).

Turning to your request, we consider that this is too broad and would take a substantial amount of time to fulfil as the Online Safety Act consists of and intertwines with various workstreams.

Under Section 12 of the FOI Act Ofcom is 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. 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. That sum is intended to cover the estimated costs involved in determining whether Ofcom holds the information requested, identifying, locating, retrieving and extracting the information from any document containing it.

This request would encompass searching through all the correspondence, documents and meeting notes of our entire Online Safety Group. Given the volume of materials in scope of the request, Ofcom estimates that it would take well over 18 hours to search for, locate and retrieve the relevant information. As such the cost of complying with your request will exceed the appropriate limit. We have therefore been unable to fulfil your request taking into account section 12 of the FOI Act (which we set out above).

You can consider submitting a narrower request, for example by requesting information related to a specific aspect of the Online Safety Act and a reasonable period of time (e.g. July 2025).

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](#).