

Reference: 02066428

Information Requests  
[information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk)

18 September 2025

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about hospitality, gifts or benefits.

We received this request on 26 August 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

### Your request

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*Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request records of hospitality, gifts, or benefits received by senior officials or elected members over the past five years, including:*

- *The nature and approximate value of each gift or hospitality.*
- *The provider or organization offering the gift or hospitality.*
- *Date of receipt and recipient’s role within the department.*

*I would be grateful for any details you can provide.*

### Our response

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We have taken your reference to senior officials to mean data for the Ofcom Board, the Content Board and all Ofcom colleagues of director level or above. We publish gifts and hospitality data on a quarterly basis and in arrears – data is published at the beginning of January, April, July and October. The most recent data was published in July 2025 for the period Jan to March 2025 and is available here:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/annual-reports-and-plans/other-financial-reporting>

It is our policy to keep gifts and hospitality data on our website for one year. Information for previous years is available through the [National Archives](#).

We consider that data for the period April 2025 to the date of your request is exempt under Section 22 of the FOI Act, namely that the information is intended for future publication and that it would be against the public interest to release the information at this time. The attached annex to this letter sets out the exemption in full, as well as the factors Ofcom considered when deciding where the public interest lay.

We do hold some information on the recipient’s role however we consider this to be personal information which is exempt under Section 40 of the FOI Act. Section 40 is an absolute exemption and is not subject to the public interest test.

Please note that our policy of anonymisation aligns with the practice of a number of other regulators.

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

Yours sincerely,

Information Requests

## Annex

<b>Section 22: Information Intended For Future Publication</b>	
<p>Section 22 may apply if there is an intention to publish the requested information at some future date. This ensures that the FOI Act does not force public authorities into premature publication of information.</p>	
<p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Section 22 may apply even if the specific date for publication has not yet been determined but the proposed publication timetable must be <b>reasonable</b> in all the circumstances;</li><li>• Section 22 will only apply if a public authority has decided, before the request is received, to publish the information concerned;</li><li>• Section 22 is subject to a public interest balance.</li></ul>	
<b>Factors for disclosure</b>	<b>Factors for withholding</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Open policy making and public confidence in regulated activities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ofcom intends to publish the requested data on a quarterly basis.</li></ul>
<b>Reasons why public interest favours withholding information</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is in the public interest that Ofcom publishes the data in line with its usual process to ensure it is reviewed and correct.</li></ul>	

**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](mailto: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](#).