

Reference: 2163166

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

17 February 2026

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about costs to enforce age verification, costs of prosecuting 4Chan and legal documents about 4Chan.

We received this request on 20 January 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### Your request

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*Please send me the overall costs, how much you have so far up to current day, spent to enforce the age verification in regards to the complete scope of the Online Safety act.*

*Please also send me a detailed excel file, where you list, every single expense, you had from start of the online safety act 2023 in 2023 to current day, on how much you spent, for who, what on prosecuting 4chan.*

*I also require you to hand over every single bit of documents, you received from the legal counsel of 4CHAN COMMUNITY SUPPORT LLC and LOLCOW, LLC, d/b/a KIWI FARMS, Preston Byrne.*

### Our response

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In response to the information you have requested, we consider that this is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act. Section 12 of the FOI Act provides that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates 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, and is, for Ofcom, £450, which is equivalent to 18-hours. 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. The Regulations provide that costs are to be estimated at a rate of £25 per person per hour.

In order to satisfy your request and consider providing the required information, we would need to review documents held by a large number of colleagues across multiple workstreams relevant to your request. We would then need to extract the relevant information and consider whether any exemptions to disclosure apply. This would take us beyond the 18-hour limit of complying with a request. You can consider submitting a narrower request, such as narrowing the request to a specific topic and shorter timeframe, however, please note that, should you decide to make a further request for information, exemptions may apply.

You may find it helpful to refer to Ofcom's Annual Report which contains information on Ofcom's costs: [The Office of Communications Annual Report and Accounts 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025](#)

In addition, the following previous FOI response may be of interest:

[Costs of implementing the Online Safety Act](#)

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](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](#).