

Reference: 02242756

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

11 August 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning Ofcom adopting the Government's definition of anti-Muslim hostility.

We received this request on 15 July 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request & our response

On 9 March 2026 the UK Government published a non-statutory definition of anti-Muslim hostility ("the Definition"), alongside accompanying guidance published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

I request the following information in respect of Office of Communications:

1. Confirmation of whether you have adopted the definition in whole or in part and if so; a. The date of adoption; b. Minutes of any and all meetings at which the adoption was discussed; c. Email and/or other correspondence in which adoption was discussed d. Whether the Definition, or any equivalent formulation of anti-Muslim hostility, has been incorporated or is proposed to be incorporated into any regulator document which could reasonably be considered to constitute policy, strategy, guidance, or training material. For each such document, please provide:

i. its title and date of publication or adoption; and ii. a copy of the document, or, where it is publicly available, a link to its location.

2. Whether any external bodies have sent guidance or recommendations to Office of Communications

3. Whether you are actively considering adoption of the Definition and, if so, please send any review, consultation, or decision-making process currently under way, including anticipated timelines.

In terms of our broadcasting regulation, we have not formally adopted the definition to which you refer. We are guided by the Broadcasting Code and guidance and consider each case on its facts and take into account its context.

In relation to our online safety work, one of Ofcom's general duties under the Communications Act 2003 is to provide 'adequate protection of citizens from harm presented by content on regulated services...'. As part of that duty, Ofcom assesses whether services in scope of the Online Safety Act (OSA) have taken appropriate steps to protect people in the UK from content that is (but not limited

to) illegal in the UK. 'Illegal content' is defined in section 59 of the OSA and includes hate specific offences ([schedule 7 of the OSA](#)).

The responsibility is on platforms to decide whether content is illegal, and they can use Ofcom's [Illegal Content Judgements Guidance](#) when making these decisions.

Our work here is guided by statute, and we have not formally adopted any supplementary definitions.

Yours sincerely,

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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](#).