

Reference: 02245653

Information Requests
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18 August 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about correspondence with USA authorities.

We received this request on 20 July 2026, and you provided clarification on 21 July 2026 and again on 22 July 2026. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

In a recent update here,

[Ofcom update: Online suicide forum investigation and review of enforcement powers](#)

you wrote that

"If a company does not have assets in the UK, the process is more complex. It may involve engaging enforcement agencies and private specialists in other countries, and can depend on whether a court in another country will [recognize] a UK judgment, and whether we can identify individuals on whom we can serve proceedings.

The suicide forum's provider is based in the US, and we have initiated work regarding the pursuit of this debt, as we have done with all companies that have not paid their fines by their deadlines. "

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request that you 1) provide information with respect to the "work" you have initiated and 2) provide all of your correspondence with US Senators, US Members of Congress, US officials, US federal or state agencies, or US NGOs from 1 Jan 2026 to today regarding

- the extraterritorial enforcement of the Online Safety Act (OSA) 2000,*
- the pursuit of debts and fines arising under the OSA,*
- any concerns regarding the conflict between the OSA and the protections afforded by the First Amendment.*

You clarified the request on 22 July 2026:

By "information" I mean any recorded information held by Ofcom that relates to the steps you have taken so far to pursue the debt from the US-based suicide forum provider, as referenced in your update—recognizing that these steps target a platform operating under a legal system with robust free speech guarantees and one that functions as a forum for individuals in acute distress.

This includes, but is not limited to, internal emails, briefings, meeting minutes, legal advice, engagement with third-party enforcement agencies, and any planning documents regarding the recovery action.

Our response

In response to question one, while we hold information in scope of your request, we are unable to disclose this information as we consider that its disclosure is exempt under the FOI Act. In particular, under section 44 of the FOI Act, information is exempt from disclosure if its disclosure is prohibited by or under any enactment. The enactment that prohibits the disclosure of this information is section 393(1) of the Communications Act 2003 ("the Communications Act"). Under this section, we are prohibited from disclosing information with respect to a particular business that has been obtained in the exercise of our regulatory functions, unless that business consents or one of the statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the Communications Act is met, neither of which apply here. Section 44 of the FOI Act is an absolute exemption and therefore is not subject to the public interest test.

In response to question two, we can confirm that we do not hold this information.

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](#).