

Reference: 02253174

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

18 August 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about fines under the Online Safety Act for overseas providers. We note this is a refined request following your previous request [Fines Collected from Outside the UK](#).

We received this request on 30 July 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request & Our response

This request is limited to:

- *financial penalties imposed under the Online Safety Act 2023;*
- *providers whose registered office or principal place of business was outside the United Kingdom; and*
- *the period 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2026.*

Please provide the following aggregate recorded figures:

1. *The number of overseas providers upon which Ofcom imposed a financial penalty during this period.*

Ofcom imposed financial penalties under the Online Safety Act 2023 ("the Online Safety Act") on nine companies during this period that are either not based in the United Kingdom or do not state in which jurisdiction they are based.

2. *The number and total face value of those penalties.*

The total value of penalties imposed by Ofcom under the Online Safety Act on the companies mentioned in our response to question 1 is £6,100,000, excluding any applicable daily penalties.

In addition, Ofcom publishes a list of financial penalties issued here: [Other financial reporting](#). From 1 April 2026, this table includes the sector which each penalty relates to.

[Section 400 Licence Fees and Penalties Accounts 2025-26](#) contains details of overall financial penalties received by Ofcom in 2025/26. Page 17 provides specific information on overall penalties received in relation to Online Safety. Details of penalties received by Ofcom subsequent to 31 March 2026 will be published in our next licence fees and penalties accounts covering the 2026/27 financial year when these are published.

3. *As at 30 June 2026:*

- *the aggregate amount received by Ofcom;*
 - *the aggregate amount outstanding;*
 - *the aggregate amount formally written off, waived, reduced or otherwise determined not to be recoverable; and*
 - *the number of penalties represented in each category.*
4. *The number of these penalties for which Ofcom had commenced or instructed any formal recovery action, broken down only into:*
- *ordinary payment demands;*
 - *debt-recovery or enforcement agents;*
 - *UK court proceedings; and*
 - *proceedings or assistance sought outside the UK.*
5. *Any aggregate amount already recorded for external legal or debt-recovery expenditure directly attributable to recovering these overseas penalties.*

For item 5, I request only an existing aggregate, ledger total or readily extractable figure. I do not require Ofcom to conduct a manual review of invoices or create a new calculation.

I am not requesting:

- *information identifying the payment status of any particular provider;*
- *individual invoices or contracts;*
- *internal correspondence;*
- *legal advice;*
- *investigation files;*
- *staff-time calculations; or*
- *information from teams other than Online Safety Enforcement and Finance.*

The requested information is deliberately aggregated. If Ofcom considers that an exact aggregate would identify a particular business and therefore engage section 44 of the FOI Act, please provide the information in the following value bands where held or readily ascertainable:

- *£0;*
- *£1–£10,000;*
- *£10,001–£100,000;*
- *£100,001–£1 million; and*
- *over £1 million.*

If any individual item would exceed the appropriate limit, please respond to the remaining items and provide advice and assistance under section 16 explaining how the problematic item can be refined.

For requests 3-5, we consider that although we hold this information, it is exempt from disclosure under section 44(1) of the FOI Act. Section 44(1) of the FOI Act provides that 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 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 in relation to the Online Safety Act, unless that business consents or one of the statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the 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.

Ofcom does not hold an estimate of the total cost or an aggregate cost of the enforcement action. To provide a reliable estimate or aggregate cost would require us to compile and review timesheets for all colleagues involved in the enforcement process, and this is therefore not information we hold in the format requested.

Any further updates, including if we were to conclude an investigation and impose any additional penalties, will be published in our [Enforcement Bulletin](#). You can also subscribe to email updates for the areas/sectors you are interested in.

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](#).