

Reference: 02245925

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

4 August 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about ID verification statistics.

We received this request on 21 July 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

Can you please provide me with the following information

- any stats relating to the number of individuals in the UK who have submitted their ID to adult sites to verify their age and use access content, in either a simple numerical figure or percentage

If you do not have these stats at hand, any estimates of the number of people in the UK who have done so

Our response

Ofcom holds some information in relation to your request. A summary of this information has been published in our recent [Report on the use of age assurance](#), in particular on pages 25-27, under the section titled "Analysed pornography services have deployed age assurance methods that we recommended in our HEAA guidance". This information is formed from a sample of 19 analysed pornography services and from our Proving Age to Access Online Pornography Survey. You may find our [Proving age to access online pornography](#) publication of interest, which provides self-reported data on pornography usage in the UK.

We are unable to confirm or deny if we hold further information in relation to your request. By virtue of section 44(2) of the FOI Act, the duty to confirm or deny holding information does not arise if the confirmation or denial that would be given in itself reveals information that falls under the exemption in 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 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.

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](#).