

Reference: 02134255

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

11 February 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Meta's children risk assessments.

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

Your request

Please can you confirm if you have received children's risk assessments from Meta Platforms? If so, please can I request any information mentioned in their assessments regarding their safety features on WhatsApp, particularly the group privacy settings options that lets users control who can add them to group chats?

Our response

Whilst we hold information within the scope of this request, we are withholding this as we consider it is exempt from disclosure under section 44(1) of the FOI Act. 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.

We can however confirm that Ofcom has not issued any penalties to Meta for failure to comply with their duty to complete a children's risk assessment. Please be aware that the completion of a risk assessment is mandatory under the Online Safety Act, however it is not mandatory to submit a completed risk assessment to Ofcom unless we formally request it.

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.

Ofcom, Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA

Switchboard: 0300 123 3000 or 020 7981 3000

www.ofcom.org.uk

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](#).