

Reference: 2119832

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

12 January 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Ofcom meetings with a US delegation.

We received this request on 10 December 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

I would like to make a request under the UK's Freedom of Information Act for any document connected to a meeting between Ofcom's Melanie Dawes and a US House Judiciary Committee delegation led by Chairman Jim Jordan this summer. This is meant to include minutes of the meeting, e-mail exchanges before and after the meeting, materials shared, etc.

The fact that the meeting was held was published here:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/freedom-of-information/foi-responses>

Our response

We note that your request references our previous freedom of information response of 2 July 2025. This response related to a request for information in relation to a meeting in March 2025 between the US state department's Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labour (DRL), and Ofcom. However, your request asks for information relating to a different meeting between Ofcom and Representative Jim Jordan and the House Judiciary committee, which took place in July 2025. We have understood your request for information to relate to the latter meeting of July 2025.

While we do hold information connected to your request we consider that disclosure of this information is exempt under the FOI Act. In particular, under sections 27(1)(a) and (c) of the FOI Act. Sections 27(1)(a) and (c) provide that information is exempt from disclosure if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice relations between the United Kingdom and any other State, or the interests of the United Kingdom abroad.

Section 27 is a qualified exemption, which means that Ofcom is required to consider whether or not the public interest in disclosing the information you have requested outweighs the public interest in withholding the information. In this case, we consider that the public interest favours withholding the information for the reasons set out in Annex A to this letter.

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](#).

Annex A

Sections 27(1)(a) and (c) Prejudice to relations between the United Kingdom and any other State, or to the interests of the United Kingdom abroad

Sections 27(1)(a) and (c) exempts information which the disclosure of would, or would be likely to, have any of the following effects:

- Prejudice relations between the UK and any other State; or
- Prejudice the interests of the United Kingdom abroad.

Key points:

- In this case, it is considered that disclosure would prejudice relations between the UK and the United States of America, and the United Kingdom’s interests abroad. It is also considered that the information requested includes information which is confidential information obtained from the United States of America.
- The application of section 27 is subject to a public interest balancing test.

Factors for disclosure	Factors for withholding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ofcom recognises that its approach to its duties under the Online Safety Act 2023 is a matter of interest to the wider public. Releasing such information could be said to increase transparency in our work and allow for discussion in a public forum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The documentation in relation to which the exemption is claimed is documentation reflecting discussions between Ofcom, a UK Public Authority, and government officials from the United States of America. The documentation contains information which was provided to Ofcom in confidence. • The disclosure of these documents could affect Ofcom’s ability to effectively discuss such matters and to engage with the United States of America, or other States, going forward as it may undermine foreign officials’ confidence that they can have free, frank and open exchanges about bilateral issues with Ofcom, other UK public authorities, and/or the UK Government if details of such discussions are released publicly. • In order to fulfil its regulatory functions effectively, Ofcom needs to be able to

	<p>engage with other States by way of frank discussions and exchange of opinions. The disclosure of information about such discussions would, or would be likely to, inhibit free and frank discussions in the future for the reasons set out above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the above, disclosing such communications would prejudice relations between the UK and the United States of America and would also likely prejudice the interests of the United Kingdom abroad.
Reasons why public interest favours withholding information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofcom is withholding the requested information. The public interest test has been applied on the basis of disclosing information which would reveal details of discussions with the United States of America in relation to the matters set out, and details of information which was provided in confidence. We consider that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosure. This is because the disclosure of this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice relations between the UK and the United States of America, and the United Kingdom's interests abroad. Whilst there may be some weight attached to the public interest in disclosing to enable the public to understand how Ofcom is carrying out its role as the independent online safety regulator, we consider that significant prejudice would be caused by such a disclosure. 	