

Reference: 02116852

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

29 January 2026

Dear,

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning blocked or restricted website categories.

We received this request on 4 December 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

On 6 January 2026 we informed you that we needed more time to consider the public interest in withholding or disclosing the information requested – we have now concluded our considerations.

Your request

"Please provide aggregated data only; I am not requesting any personal information about individual users.

1. Please provide a list of all website categories that are blocked or restricted on your network filtering system (eg. adult content, gambling, gaming, games, illegal streaming, dating, social media etc).

2. Attempted access to blocked websites

For the period 1st January 2025 to 4th December 2025 (or the present date by which you are searching data), the total number of attempts to access blocked websites, broken down by category (see examples above)

- The top 20 most frequently attempted blocked URLs, showing

- URL/domain name

- Number of attempted visits

If naming specific URLs is not possible, please provide the domain only (eg. "skybet.com")

3. Network Scope

Please clarify if possible whether the figures involve for each data set:

- Staff devices

- Publicly accessible devices (if applies)"

Our response

In relation to your first question, please find below the list of blocked website categories on our network.

Blocked Content Categories
Adult
Cannabis
Encrypted DNS
Extreme
Filter Avoidance
Gambling
Hate Speech
Illegal Activities
Illegal Downloads
Illegal Drugs
Non-sexual Nudity
Online Storage and Backup
Paranormal
Peer File Transfer
Personal VPN
Pornography
Regional Restricted Sites (Germany)
Regional Restricted Sites (Great Britain)
Regional Restricted Sites (Italy)
Regional Restricted Sites (Poland)
Terrorism and Violent Extremism
Weapons

Regarding your second question relating to the top 20 blocked sites, we do not hold a figure for attempts by individuals to access blocked sites, separate from total blocked access to sites (including in relation to such features as automatic pop-ups and background webpage components).

In relation to your third question, the reporting data we hold relates to general access to the network, and we do not have information on whether the network was accessed by staff, visitors or on what devices.

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](#).