

Reference: 2204994

Information Requests

information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

23 July 2026

Dear

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about the Online Safety Act 2023 ('the Act') and section 101 and 163.

We received this request on 29 May 2026. We sought clarification of question 3 on 19 June 2026 and received this on 29 June 2026. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the FOI Act').

Your request and our response

Freedom of Information Request - Section 101 and Section 163 Online Safety Act 2023

Pursuant to section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('FOI Act'), we would be grateful for the following information relating to requests made by coroners to Ofcom concerning the exercise of its powers under sections 101 and 163 of the Online Safety Act 2023.

For the period of 1 April 2024 to the date of this request, please provide:

1. The total number of section 101 requests received by Ofcom from coroners

a. by year; and if possible

b. by month; and

c. by request type, namely:

i. requests relating to the preservation or retention of information /documents; and

ii. requests relating to the provision or disclosure of information /documents.

In relation to point c(i) we have interpreted your request to refer to instances where a coroner provides Ofcom with the specific information required under section 101(A1),(B1) and (C1(a) of the Act requesting that Ofcom issue a Data Preservation Notice to the provider of a regulated service.

In relation to point c(ii) we have interpreted your request to refer to instances where Ofcom has received a final Schedule 5 notice from a coroner pursuant to paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 5 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 requesting that Ofcom exercise the powers under section 101(1) of the Act to request information from the provider of a regulated service.

We provide further information on these powers and our processes in our [Online Safety Information Powers Guidance](#) which you may find helpful.

Please see the requested information below. The information provided in relation to requests for data preservation under section 101(C1) of the Act has been provided from 30 September 2025 when these powers first came into force.

We refer to requests relating to the preservation or retention of information/documents as data preservation notice ('DPN') requests and requests relating to the provision or disclosure of information/documents as coroner information notice ('CIN') requests throughout this response.

Year	Month	DPN requests (from 30 September 2025)	CIN requests (from 1 April 2024)
2024	October	n/a	4
2025	July	n/a	1
	August	n/a	1
	October	10	0
	November	13	0
	December	3	0
2026	January	13	0
	February	36	1
	March	44	0
	April	0	1
	May	0	5
TOTAL REQUESTS		2025: 26 requests 2026: 93 requests	2024: 4 2025: 2 2026: 7

2. A breakdown identifying the number of section 101 requests received from each coronial district

a.by year; and

b.by request type, namely:

i.requests relating to the preservation or retention of information /documents; and

ii.requests relating to the provision or disclosure of information /documents;

Year	DPN		CIN	
	Coronial district	Total requests	Coronial district	Total requests
2024	n/a	n/a	Greater Lincolnshire	4
2025	Wiltshire & Swindon	3	South London	1
	Gloucestershire	4	Hertfordshire	1

	Greater Manchester North	7		
	Cheshire	4		
	South Wales Central	3		
	Surrey	2		
	Manchester City	3		
2026	North Wales East and Central	4	Surrey	2
	Kent & Medway	7	Greater Manchester North	3
	West Sussex, Brighton and Hove	3	Manchester City	2
	West London	5		
	Pembrokeshire & Carmarthenshire	13		
	Hertfordshire	17		
	Wiltshire and Swindon	7		
	Berkshire	5		
	Gloucestershire	7		
	Milton Keynes	1		
	Dorset	5		
	Greater Lincolnshire	13		
	East Sussex	6		

3. A breakdown by year of how many section 101 requests made by coroners resulting in the information sought being provided, in full or in part, by the relevant service provider.

The wording set out above is the original wording of the question, for which we sought a clarification in respect of the scope of the request, and whether this question was seeking information about disclosure outcomes or compliance with requests. On 29 June 2026 an updated question was received, as set out below, and we have responded accordingly.

Q3. With respect to requests relating to the:

- i. preservation or retention of information /documents (CIN), a breakdown by year of how many requests made by coroners resulting in the information sought being provided, in full or in part, by the relevant service provider.*

We have interpreted this question as referring to instances where Ofcom has exercised the power under section 101(1) of the Act and issued an information notice to a provider of a regulated service

following receipt of a final Schedule 5 notice pursuant to paragraph 1(2) of Schedule 5 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009

Please see the requested information below. 'Response' indicates that information requested has been provided in full or in part.

- **2024:** Requests in respect of 4 services total resulted in responses being received from 4 services.
- **2025:** Requests in respect 2 services in total resulted in responses being received from 2 services in total.
- **2026:** Requests in respect of 7 services in total have resulted in 7 responses being provided by services.

- ii. *provision or disclosure of information /documents (DPN), a breakdown by year of how many requests resulted in the DPN being complied with by the relevant service provider.*

We have interpreted this question as referring to instances where Ofcom has received the specified information required under section 101(A1),(B1) and (C1(a) of the Act from a coroner and has issued a Data Preservation Notice to the provider of a regulated service.

Please see the requested information below. 'Response' indicates compliance by the relevant service provider.

- **2025 (from 30 September):** 26 requests were made, with 26 DPN responses received from services.
- **2026 (to 29 May):** 93 requests were made, with 93 DPN responses received from services.

In addition:

4. The total number of reports issued under section 163 of the Online Safety Act 2023 by year.

To date, no reports have been issued under section 163 of the Act.

If it is not possible to provide all the information requested above, we would be grateful for any part of the information that can reasonably be provided. For the avoidance of doubt, we are not seeking information concerning the identity of specific service providers.

N/A.

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](#).