

Reference: 02209932

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

23 June 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Ofcom correspondence with named external organisations.

We received this request on 10 June 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

Your request

For the period 1 July 2024 to the date you process this request:

- 1. All correspondence (including letters, emails and their attachments, and messages on any messaging platform such as WhatsApp or Signal held on Ofcom systems or work devices) between Ofcom staff and any of the following organisations, or individuals writing on their behalf: a. DeSmog b. Good Law Project c. HOPE not Hate d. Labour Together e. Muslim Council of Britain f. Stop Funding Hate g. Reliable Media*
- 2. A list of any meetings (including video calls) between Ofcom staff and any of the organisations named above, with the date, the Ofcom team or directorate involved, and the stated purpose; together with any agendas, minutes, notes, readouts or briefing documents for those meetings.*
- 3. Details of any membership held by the organisations named above, or their representatives, on any Ofcom advisory group, panel, working group or external reference group, and any submissions they have made to Ofcom consultations where these were not published.*

Our response

In response to the information requested, we consider that this is exempt under section 12 of the FOI Act. Section 12 of the FOI Act provides that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the “appropriate limit”. The appropriate limit is set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, and is, for Ofcom, £450, which is equivalent to 18-hours. That sum is intended to cover the estimated costs involved in determining whether Ofcom holds the information requested, identifying, locating, retrieving and extracting the information from any document containing it. The Regulations provide that costs are to be estimated at a rate of £25 per person per hour.

Ofcom regularly engages with external organisations across all our areas of regulation. In order to respond to your request we would need to ask members of all teams and regulatory areas across

Ofcom to search for information within scope of your request, within the specified time period of two years.

We estimate that we hold thousands of emails between staff and individuals writing on behalf of the named organisations and, for example, we estimate it would take over 24 hours to compile information for one of the organisations from just one regulatory team, noting that this process would need to be completed for all areas of our regulatory functions.

You may wish to consider submitting a narrower, more focused request. For example, correspondence or engagement with organisations in relation to a specific area of our regulation, in a much shorter timeframe. We would then consider this under the FOI Act.

Should you decide to make a further request for information, please note that the aforementioned appropriate limit and/or other exemptions may apply.

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](#).