

Reference: 02283782

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

2 October 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about correspondence with BitChute.

We received this request on 14 September 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

1. *Please provide a copy of the letter, email, information request or other written communication sent by Ofcom to BitChute on or about 1 May 2025 concerning BitChute's UK access arrangements and/or its compliance with the Online Safety Act 2023.*
2. *Please provide copies of any subsequent substantive written correspondence sent by Ofcom to BitChute between 1 May and 31 May 2025 concerning any of the following:*
 - a) whether BitChute remained within scope of the Online Safety Act after restricting access for UK users;*
 - b) BitChute's UK IP-address blocking or geoblocking arrangements;*
 - c) its illegal-content risk assessment;*
 - d) its children's access assessment; or*
 - e) compliance or possible enforcement action arising from those matters.*
3. *Please provide copies of any substantive written replies received by Ofcom from BitChute, or representatives acting on BitChute's behalf, between 1 May and 31 May 2025 concerning those matters, including any response to Ofcom's communication of approximately 1 May 2025.*

For clarity, I am not requesting internal Ofcom emails, internal deliberations, drafts, meeting notes or general correspondence unrelated to BitChute.

This request is deliberately limited to external correspondence with one service over a period of one month.

If any information within a document is exempt from disclosure, please provide the remainder of the document with the exempt information redacted rather than withholding the document in full.

If Ofcom considers section 44 of the Freedom of Information Act and section 393 of the Communications Act 2003 applicable to information obtained from BitChute, please consider separately whether Ofcom-authored outgoing correspondence can nevertheless be disclosed in whole or in part, with any information genuinely covered by section 393 redacted where necessary.

If any documents are withheld in whole, please identify, insofar as the information itself is

not exempt, the date and general nature of each document and the statutory exemption relied upon.

If any requested document is already publicly available, please provide the direct location at which it can be accessed.

Our response

While we hold information in scope of your request, we are unable to disclose this as we consider that its disclosure is exempt under the FOI Act. In particular, 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. To be clear, this includes correspondence sent by Ofcom if it contains or would otherwise reveal information about a particular business that we have obtained in the exercise of our regulatory functions.

Section 44 of the FOI Act is an absolute exemption and therefore is not subject to the public interest test.

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](#).