

Reference: 02277939

Information Requests
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21 September 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Ofcom's engagement with online platforms on political content.

We received this request on 1 September 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

Definitions

- **Period:** 5 July 2024 to the date this request is received.
- **Platforms:** TikTok Information Technologies UK Limited / ByteDance; X Corp / X UK; Meta Platforms (Facebook and Instagram); Google / YouTube. Please treat each separately.
- **Political / statistical content:** user-generated content criticising UK Government policy; content that quotes, cites or analyses official statistics (including crime, immigration or nationality statistics); and content labelled by a platform as "misinformation", "disinformation", or a community-guideline violation where the subject is UK politics or official data.

A. Comparative engagement (all Platforms)

1. A schedule of meetings during the Period between Ofcom staff or Board/committee members and representatives of each Platform. For each meeting: date; format; Ofcom attendees by job title (names may be withheld under section 40); the Platform; a one-line description of the topics discussed; and whether a note, minute or readout was produced.
2. A quarterly count, by Platform, during the Period, of: (a) statutory information notices issued; (b) enforcement cases opened; (c) penalties imposed.

B. TikTok-specific correspondence

3. Correspondence (emails, letters, meeting notes) between Ofcom and TikTok during the Period that specifically references political content, misinformation/disinformation labelling, community-guideline enforcement, or takedown decisions relating to political or statistical content.
4. Any guidance, informal advice, or code-of-practice material that Ofcom has issued or shared specifically with TikTok during the Period concerning the moderation or removal of political/statistical content, as distinct from illegal content or content harmful to children.

C. Comparator check (other Platforms)

5. *Does Ofcom hold any correspondence with X, Meta, or Google equivalent in subject matter to question 3 (i.e. referencing political content, misinformation/disinformation labelling, or takedown decisions) during the Period? If so, please confirm, by Platform, how many such items exist. I am not requesting the documents themselves at this stage — only confirmation of existence and volume, so that I may make a further targeted request if appropriate.*

D. Arrangements

6. *Confirmation of whether any memorandum of understanding, trusted-flagger arrangement, priority-reporting channel, secondment, or dedicated relationship-manager arrangement exists between Ofcom and TikTok that does not exist on equivalent terms with X, Meta, or Google. If none exist, please confirm that. If any exist, please provide a copy.*

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 meets and corresponds with a wide range of stakeholders on a regular basis, including those specified in your request. We would therefore need to ask many different Ofcom colleagues from different teams and departments to conduct extensive manual searches covering a period of more than two years through emails, calendars, and other saved documents to identify any information within the scope of your request. We would then need to manually extract and review the relevant information, including any email chains, agendas, minutes and briefing notes, assess and identify any information that is relevant to the specific matters mentioned in your request and compile the specific details requested. This would take us beyond the 18-hour limit of complying with a request.

You may wish to consider submitting a narrower, more focused request, for example, a much narrower timeframe of less than one year, and limiting the scope to a single concern and/or platform. We would then consider this under the FOI Act. However, 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](#).