

Reference: 02274938

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

23 September 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning Ofcom personnel - the Fabian Society, ex-BBC & GB News.

We received this request on 25 August 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'FOI Act').

Your request

How many Ofcom personnel are members of the Fabian Society ?

How many Ofcom personnel are ex-BBC ?

Are certain "guests" (left leaning) on GBNews promoted by Ofcom ?

I believe that the tax payer are not getting true value for costs incurred by Ofcom - full Audit and Investigation is urgently required.

Our response

We have considered your request as a whole and consider that we are not obliged to comply with it under section 12 of the FOI Act.

Section 12 of the FOI Act provides that we are not obliged to comply with a request for information if we estimate 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 (the "Regulations"), and is, for Ofcom, £450. That sum is intended to cover the estimated costs involved in determining whether Ofcom holds the information requested, 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, which equates to 18 hours of time.

We estimate that it would take more than 18 hours to locate, retrieve and extract information relevant to your request as a whole. In particular, this is because information relating to former BBC employees is not held in a readily accessible format and would require Ofcom to review individual employee records to determine whether employees previously worked for the BBC. Ofcom has over 1,700 employees.

You may wish to consider submitting a narrower, more focused request taking into account our explanation above, and we will consider it under the FOI Act. However, should you decide to make a

further request for information, please note that the appropriate limit may still apply and/or that other exemptions may be relevant.

In case helpful,

- please note that we do not hold information on which staff are in the Fabian Society;
- you can find a previous FOI response relating to former BBC staff [here](#); and
- please note that Ofcom is not funded by taxpayers - you can find information here on [How is Ofcom funded](#);

Please also note that questions seeking opinions, views or commentary, rather than recorded information held by Ofcom, are not valid requests under the FOI Act. You may therefore wish to bear this in mind if drafting any future questions.

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](#).