

Reference: 02271763

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

11 September 2026

Dear,

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning risk assessments under Section 9 of the Online Safety Act.

We received this request on 21 August 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request & our response

"This is a Freedom of Information request about the risk assessments that sites have to complete under section 9 of the Online Safety Act, covering 17 March 2025 to the date of your response."

1. Do you hold a figure for how many regulated sites have actually completed a risk assessment? Yes or no. If yes, please give the number and the date it's accurate to. If no, please confirm clearly that you don't hold this figure in any form.

We do not hold the requested information. Only services categorised by Ofcom as Category 1 or 2A services are required to provide us with a copy of the illegal content risk assessment they have completed in accordance with section 9 of the Online Safety Act 2023 ("the Act"). However, section 9 requires providers of all regulated user-to-user services (as defined by the Act) to carry out an illegal content risk assessment. We therefore do not hold an overall figure for how many regulated services have completed such an assessment.

2. If you don't hold that figure, how are you able to judge whether the risk assessment duty is working as intended? Do you use any other evidence or data to check this? Yes or no. If yes, please say what. If no, please confirm that you don't.

Ofcom's [Risk Assessment and Risk Profiles](#) document sets out more detail on the illegal content risk assessment duties under the Act and what happens if providers do not carry out a suitable and sufficient risk assessment.

Ofcom launched an [enforcement programme](#) in relation to illegal content risk assessments in March 2025 to assess and monitor industry compliance with these duties. This included requiring providers of a number of services - including the largest social media platforms, as well as smaller but risky sites - to submit records of their risk assessments to us.

In December 2025, Ofcom published a [report](#) setting out our analysis of risk assessment records from the first year of the duties being in force and the improvements we expect to see this year.

You may also find section 4.3 of the [Online Safety Business Survey](#) research summary we published in September 2026 useful. This includes indicative data on the proportion of services that reported having completed illegal content risk assessments. However, please note the caveats on interpreting these results at section 3.4 of the summary, including the small sample size of the survey and the fact that it was not designed to be statistically representative of regulated services overall.

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](#).