

Reference: 01742891

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

25 January 2024

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning CIA, MI5 and MK Ultra. This request was received on 2 January 2024 and we have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "FOI Act").

Your request & our response

1. Does Ofcom have any knowledge of the CIA and UK's MK ULTRA program being carried out here in the UK?

We do not hold this information.

2. Are the Ofcom aware of any artificial intelligence projects being used or being carried by the security services (MI5) here in the UK, namely within the media - TV, radio and other streaming platforms?

We do not hold this information.

3. Does Ofcom have any ties with the Home Office or with the security services (MI5), if so please state the nature of this relationship.

Ofcom is the UK's independent communications regulator, operating under a number of Acts of Parliament and other legislation. With the passing of the Online Safety Act, Ofcom is now formally the regulator for online safety in the UK. The Home Office, supported by law enforcement, lead on certain policy matters, within Government, related to the Online Safety Act. In exercising its functions under the Act, Ofcom must engage with Government in relation to such matters from time to time.

4. What relationship does Ofcom have with BBC News and where this relationship exists how long has this been?

As stated on our website, Ofcom regulates the BBC, acting to ensure that the BBC is delivering for audiences, and holding the BBC to account for fulfilling its Mission and Public Purposes. We also regulate the BBC's editorial standards and complaints, and work to protect fair and effective competition.

For further information on how Ofcom regulates the BBC please see the [Operating Framework](#) for the BBC. We also publish an [annual report on the BBC](#) that sets out how we have carried out our function as the BBC's independent regulator and assesses the BBC's compliance with the requirements of our Operating Framework and associated documents.

Ofcom became the BBC's first external independent regulator in 2017.

5. Who has the final say on what is broadcasted to the public - who is the director of service for Ofcom?

We have statutory powers to act only after the broadcast of programmes, and programming decisions rest with individual broadcasters in the first instance who will determine the content of the programmes, mindful of their duty to ensure programmes comply with the Ofcom Broadcasting Code. Consequently, it is up to the broadcasters themselves to decide what is broadcast to the public.

Ofcom does not have a 'director of service' position. Details about our Senior Management Team are available on our [website](#).

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any further queries, then please send them to information.requests@ofcom.org.uk quoting the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Information Requests

If you are unhappy with the response you have received in relation to your request for information and/or consider that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law, you may ask for an internal review. If you ask us for an internal review of our decision, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom.

The following outcomes are possible:

- the original decision is upheld; or
- the original decision is reversed or modified.

Timing

If you wish to exercise your right to an internal review **you should contact us within two months of the date of this letter**. There is no statutory deadline for responding to internal reviews and it will depend upon the complexity of the case. However, we aim to conclude all such reviews within 20 working days, and up to 40 working days in exceptional cases. We will keep you informed of the progress of any such review. If you wish to request an internal review, you should contact information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Further information about this, and the internal review process can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office [here](#). Alternatively, the Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF