

Reference: 01762336

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

26 January 2024

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning Licensee/Broadcaster PTV Global Sky Channel 735. This request was received on 9 January 2024 and we have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the "FOI Act").

Your request & our response

1) Does PTV Global have a postal address in the UK? What address is utilized for the submission of yearly accounts, as they are required for audit and tax purposes?

You sent a further request by email on 18 January 2023 as follows:

*'...Previously, they were operating from the address provided below: Name: [REDACTED]
Correspondence address: [REDACTED] please make corrections if this postal address is wrong to facilitate the necessary documentation on our end, I kindly request confirmation on whether the licensee is currently conducting business/trade from the aforementioned address in the United Kingdom...'*

We do not hold a UK postal address for PTV Global, nor do we hold any information relating to the submission of yearly accounts for audit and tax purposes. The licence holder information relating to PTV Global Sky Channel 735 is available on our [website](#).

We do not hold any information in connection with the address you have provided.

Whilst we do hold further information relating to our licensee PTV Global this is likely to be exempt from disclosure under section 44(1)(a) of the FOI Act. This section provides that information is exempt from disclosure if its disclosure is prohibited by or under any enactment. In this case section 393(1) of the Communications Act prohibits the disclosure of information about a particular business, in this case our licensee PTV Global, which we have obtained in the course of exercising a power conferred by, among other legislation, the Communications Act, unless we have the consent of that business or one of the statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the Communications Act is met, neither of which apply here. Section 44 is an absolute exemption under the FOI Act and does not require a public interest test.

2) Can a broadcaster obtain a license to broadcast a channel and secure sponsorships in the UK

without holding British nationality/living abroad or not possessing a postal address in the UK? If not, then who is the responsible person/broadcaster in the United Kingdom for PTV Global?

The requirements for prospective TLCS licensees are set out in our [TLCS guidance notes](#) for applicants.

The requirements do not include a requirement for British nationality, residence, or a UK postal address.

3) Is PTV Global obligated to comply with UK laws, such as the Equality Act 2010, Bribery Act 2010, Communications Act 2003 (as amended), Cyber Crime laws, International Bribery, and the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as amended) to establish a code for television and radio, encompassing standards in programs, sponsorship, product placement, fairness, or any form of business dealings/trade in the United Kingdom?

Please review the attached documents; there have been instances of non-compliance by PTV Global with Ofcom in the past. For instance, PTV Global failed to submit their Relevant Turnover return(s) for 2019 or communicate with us to explain why they were unable to do so before the given deadline. Their returns remain outstanding, constituting breaches of Licence Condition 4(3) of the Television Licensable Content Service Licence (attached). On another occasion, the licensee, i.e., PTV Global, failed to submit the requested diversity information, thus breaching Licence Condition 12(1) of its Television Licensable Content Service license (attached). Additionally, last year, PTV Global was off the air for two months due to non-payment to Ofcom.

We do not consider that this part of the request amounts to a valid request for information under the FOI Act. We are not required to provide advice, explanations or opinions.

However, you may find it helpful to have sight of the [TLCS licence template](#).

Licensees are required to comply with the obligations set out in their licence.

4) Could you please provide the name of the official in the UK responsible for business dealings? I assume there must be an office for invoicing and handling important documents.

We do not hold this information.

5) Confirm whether the licensee, whether based in Pakistan or the UK, must comply with the same laws and code of conduct of the United Kingdom.

All licensees are subject to the obligations set out in their licence. We are not obliged to provide opinions in relation to specific licensees under the FOI Act.

6) Does PTV submit their yearly accounts and details of sponsorships/revenues in the UK for tax purposes and also to Ofcom?

We require licensees to submit an annual TV Transmission and Revenue Return. This enables Ofcom to set licence fees, based on data submitted on the licence's hours of output, programming costs and revenue.

We do not hold information relating to licensees' tax affairs. You may wish to contact His Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

7) Upon inquiring with Ofcom about the PTV Global office's postal address and details last week, suddenly, the information of PTV Global was updated on 8/01/2024 at 13:02:29 on Ofcom's website. This seems unusual; could you please investigate the reason for the update? Has the address or any other details been altered?

We do not consider that this question amounts to a valid request for information held under the FOI Act, in that the above request for an investigation does not constitute a request for information held by Ofcom.

However, you may find it helpful to know that in the case of the TLCS licence look-up available on the Ofcom website, the data is pulled from our licensing database and a webscript is used to populate the look-up pages. That information is refreshed each night so as to capture any revisions to information, reflect any licence surrenders/revocations or new licences issued. Every page is refreshed and time stamped, whether there has been a change or not.

As noted above, the licence holder information relating to PTV Global Sky Channel 735 is available on our [website](#).

8) Please provide links to the 'Code of Conduct' and laws in the UK that PTV Global has to follow as a licensee.

This information is publicly available on our website and can be accessed at the links below.

TV and radio broadcasting codes: www.ofcom.org.uk/tv-radio-and-on-demand/broadcast-codes

TLCS licence: www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0032/96926/tlcs-licence.pdf

TLCS guidance notes for licensees: www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0016/209410/tlcs-guidance-notes-for-licensees.pdf

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