

Reference: 01892338

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

27 September 2024

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning payment of fines by Star China Media Limited.

We received this request on 5 September 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

Your request & our response

China's CGTN was, on three different occasions, in 2020 and 2021, convicted of breaking rules 7.1 and 8.1, and statutory fines was issued. It concerned complaints filed by or for Peter Humphrey, Simon Cheng (Sanction 145 (21)) and Gui Minhui (Sanction 144 (21)).

** Our question is, has the licensee (Star China Media Limited) paid their fines?*

** Secondly, did it pay the fines meted out against it in Sanction 138 (21) for [breach] of 5.1, 5.11, 5.12 for broadcasts in 2019 regarding Hong Kong protests?*

Whilst we hold the information you have requested, we are withholding this as we consider it is exempt from disclosure under section 44(1) of the FOI Act. Section 44(1) of the FOI Act provides that information is exempt from disclosure if its disclosure is prohibited by or under any enactment. The enactment that prohibits the disclosure of this information is section 393(1) of the Communications Act 2003 (“the Act”). Under this section, we are prohibited from disclosing information with respect to a particular business that has been obtained in the exercise of our regulatory functions in relation to broadcast standards, unless that business consents or one of the statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the Act is met, neither of which apply here. Section 44 of the FOI Act is an absolute exemption and therefore is not subject to the public interest test.

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,

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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](#).