

Reference: 1941087

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

4 March 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Ofcom's Parliamentary strategy.

We received this request on 9 January 2025 and have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

On 5 February 2025, we wrote to you explaining that we considered section 36 of the FOI Act applied in this case but needed more time to consider whether the public interest in this case favoured disclosure of the information.

Your request

Please could I ask for a copy of your parliamentary strategy or public affairs strategy that covers how OFCOM engage with Parliament.

Our response

Following further consideration, we have come to the conclusion that we do not hold the information you have asked for.

We do not have a set of information we can disclose which would represent a parliamentary or public affairs strategy. Teams within Ofcom, especially our public policy team, regularly engage with parliamentary and government stakeholders to help them better understand our role and remit. The public policy team are usually tasked with planning how and when to engage with such stakeholders, and this is an ongoing activity. Our approach is constantly evolving as a result of internal discussion, and we therefore do not attempt to capture a fixed strategy in written form. Plans for engagement at any one time will depend on a number of factors, such as the current policy issues and changes in Parliament or the Government.

As part of our searches in response to this request, we did find a slide deck from a meeting that the public policy team held with senior staff in September 2024. This contains some slides about engagement plans with parliamentarians following the 2024 general election. These slides were produced to aid discussion with senior staff; they represent work in progress and internal thinking. They do not represent an agreed parliamentary or public affairs strategy. Therefore, we consider that these slides are not in scope of your request.

We are likely to consider that they would be exempt from disclosure pursuant to section 36 of the FOI Act (which exempts disclosure of information that would prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs). This is essentially because the slides are supportive of the type of internal discussion that Ofcom needs to be able to have in order to determine how best to engage on a public basis with other stakeholders. Disclosure of information of that sort would therefore be likely to significantly undermine Ofcom's ability to do its work effectively.

It might be helpful to know that Ofcom also annually publishes a "Plan of Work" which details the areas it will focus on during the specified period. We have recently consulted on the 2025/26 Plan of Work: [Consultation: Ofcom's Plan of Work 2025/26 - Ofcom](#) and as you will note from this, we plan on engaging with various stakeholders, including the Government. As expected, Ofcom often engages with government officials on key policy areas to mutually inform our respective work.

If you wish to know more about what our public policy team do, please visit this page: [Corporate - Ofcom](#).

If you have any queries, then please contact information.requests@ofcom.org.uk. Please remember to quote 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](#).