

Reference: 1940576

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

4 February 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information for documents between Ofcom's Chief Executive and Meta's recent decision.

We received this request on 8 January 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

"All memos, briefings, correspondence and reports (excluding publicly available news articles) sent and received by Chief Executive Dame Melanie Dawes that address, or in any way concern, Meta's decision to end its third-party fact-checking programme."

Our response

We understand your request excludes news articles in the public domain - some of the information we have around this topic are emails sent to the Chief Executive merely forwarding on publicly available news articles around this topic.

We also hold some information in scope of your specific request. This includes a document that partly contains information that Meta announced here: [More Speech and Fewer Mistakes | Meta](#) but that also contains other information that we consider is exempt from disclosure for the reasons explained below.

We consider that the information we hold in scope of your request, that is not publicly available, is exempt from disclosure under section 44 of the FOI Act. This exemption provides that information is to be withheld if its disclosure is prohibited under other legislation – in this case section 393(1) of the Communications Act 2003 (the Act). Section 393(1) of the Act prevents us from disclosing information about a particular business, which we have obtained in the course of exercising a power conferred by, among other legislation, the Act, unless we have the consent of that business or one of the statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the Act is met, neither of which apply here. Section 44 is an absolute exemption under the Act and does not require a public interest test.

Other exemptions such as section 36 and 43 of the FOI Act may also apply.

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](#).