

Reference: 01934306

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

16 January 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning the Online Safety Act documents showing tracked changes.

We received this request on 17 December 2024. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

I refer to the documents linked to from the webpage

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ofcom.org.uk%2Fonline-safety%2Fillegal-and-harmful-content%2Fstatement-protecting-people-from-illegal-harms-online%2F&data=05%7C02%7CInformation.Requests%40ofcom.org.uk%7Ce62be623c52e4948813008dd1e7e7ddb%7C0af648de310c40688ae4f9418bae24cc%7C0%7C0%7C638700250838778884%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIiIAiOiJXaW4zMilSkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vxpM7qMPtb%2Fpm6MD53qcQfvkdhBmyiknJrhEradp9E8%3D&reserved=0<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/online-safety/illegal-and-harmful-content/statement-protecting-people-from-illegal-harms-online/>>

including (but not limited to) the Risk Assessment Guidance and Risk Profiles.

Ofcom must have, internally, documents with tracked changes showing the differences between the documents published yesterday, and their draft versions published for consultation previously.

In the past Ofcom (perhaps other departments) has been very good about providing documents online that were marked up to show the changes between the consultation drafts and the final guidance, but inexplicably it seems Ofcom has NOT done so on this occasion, despite there being so many documents that people have to wade through.

Accordingly, this is a request for copies (PDF or Word is fine) of Ofcom's documents with tracked changes that show the differences between the published consultation drafts and the versions published yesterday, for every document linked to from the webpage above where a previous draft was published by Ofcom.

Our response

We do not hold comprehensive internal versions of our regulatory products that track each change made since the November 2023 Illegal Harms Consultation.

For a description of the changes made since the Consultation, and our rationale for these changes, please see the following chapters of our Statement:

- Risk Assessment Guidance and Risk Profiles – Volume 1, chapter 3
- Register of Risks – Volume 1, chapter 2
- Record-Keeping and Review Guidance – Volume 1, chapter 4
- Draft Illegal content Codes of Practice for user-to-user and search services – Volume 2
- Illegal Contents Judgement Guidance – Volume 3, chapter 2
- Online Safety Enforcement Guidance – Volume 3, chapter 3
- Guidance on content communicated ‘publicly’ and ‘privately’ under the Online Safety Act – Volume 3, chapter 4

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

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](#).