

Reference: 01951696

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

3 March 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request concerning websites contacted by Ofcom for the Online Safety Act.

We received this request on 3 February 2025, and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

Your request & our response

1. The number of websites contacted by Ofcom in connection with Ofcom's duties under the Online Safety Act between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024.

We have interpreted your request for “websites contacted” to mean contact with a person who controls a particular website or set of websites.

We do hold some of the information requested, however it is not possible to provide a precise number, and the answer would depend on precisely what you mean by “contacted”.

We have records of meetings and other supervisory activity with 379 websites on our main databases. However, we may have been in contact with a larger number of websites throughout 2024 via, for example, the conferences and webinars we have hosted, bulletins we have sent and our engagement with industry trade bodies. For example, whilst outside of the timeframe set out in your request, there were recently 650 external participants from 375 organisations signed up to our ‘Online Safety Act Explained’ conference which took place in February 2025.

2. A list of these websites' names; and 3. The reason for contact in each case.

In answer to questions 2 and 3, we are unable to disclose this information as we consider it is exempt under section 44 of the FOI Act. Section 44 exempts the disclosure of information which is prohibited by another enactment. We are prohibited under section 393 of the Communications Act 2003 from disclosing information which relates to a business, or businesses, which we have obtained in exercise of our powers, unless we have the consent of that business, (or businesses) or one of the statutory gateways for disclosure under section 393(2) of the Act is met, neither of which applies here. Section 44 is an absolute exemption and does not require a 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,

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](#).