

Reference: 00789252

Mr Ferguson

Emma Leech  
Information Rights Advisor  
[Information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:Information.requests@ofcom.org.uk)

6 November 2019

Dear Mr Ferguson,

**Freedom of Information: Right to know request**

Thank you for your request for information in relation to Yahoo Groups used by Ofcom.

We received this request on 25 October and have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

You asked:

*I would like like [sic] to request a copy of all data from the Yahoo Group(s) moderated by OfCom. My request includes both the available metadata from each group (Group Name, Number of Members, Number of Messages, Number of Files, Number of Photos) as well as the actual data itself, again, for each group. (Files, Polls, Links, Photos, Folders, Calendar, Database, Attachments, Conversations, Email Updates, Message Digest, Message History).*

Before turning to your request, I would like to provide you with some background information on Ofcom's use of Yahoo! Groups. There is one Yahoo! Group moderated by Ofcom, which relates to UK number activation. Ofcom does not use this group to manage UK telephone numbers, as has been misreported recently. We manage phone numbers through our official database. This particular group is used by phone companies to let each other know when they have been allocated blocks of numbers by Ofcom. This same allocation information is available to phone companies through our website and is updated on a weekly basis. Therefore, UK telephone number management is not reliant on this group. Ofcom's only input to this group has been to allow phone companies to join it as new members.

Turning now to your request, the metadata for this group is as follows:

<b>Group name</b>	Ofcom Number Activation Group UK
<b>Number of members</b>	496
<b>Number of messages (since 2002)</b>	10,468
<b>Number of files</b>	0
<b>Number of photos</b>	13

In regard to the actual data, as Yahoo! hosts this group, the only data we hold is a list of members. Naturally, this contains personal names and email addresses. This information is therefore being

withheld as it falls under the exemption section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, which relates to personal information and which provides that such information is exempt for the purposes of the Act.

Section 40(2) provides that personal data which relates to persons other than the requester is exempt where, among other things, its disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). Those principles include that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully. This is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any further queries, then please send them to [information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk) quoting the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Leech

If you are unhappy with the response or level of service you have received in relation to your request from Ofcom, you may ask for an internal review. If you ask us for an internal review of our decision, it will be treated as a formal complaint and will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom. We will acknowledge the complaint and inform you of the date by which you might expect to be told the outcome.

The following outcomes are possible:

- the original decision is upheld; or
- the original decision is reversed or modified.

#### **Timing**

If you wish to exercise your right to an internal review **you should contact us within two months of the date of this letter**. There is no statutory deadline for undertaking internal reviews and it will depend upon the complexity of the case. However, we aim to conclude all such reviews within 20 working days, and up to 40 working days in exceptional cases. We will keep you informed of the progress of any such review. If you wish to request an internal review, you should contact:

Corporation Secretary  
Ofcom  
Riverside House  
2a Southwark Bridge Road  
London SE1 9HA

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF