

Reference: 02205482

David Keighley
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Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

26 June 2026

Dear David Keighley,

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request concerning Ofcom's Making Sense of Media programme.

We received this request on 1 June 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOI Act).

Your request & our response

1. A list of organisations that are currently members of, participants in, or formally associated with the Making Sense of Media network.

There are approximately 700 individuals signed up to the network.

We are unable to disclose the names of those that signed up as we consider this information is exempt from disclosure under section 44 of the FOI Act. Section 44(1) of the FOI Act provides that information is exempt from disclosure if its disclosure is prohibited by or under any enactment. The enactment that prohibits the disclosure of this information is section 393(1) of the Communications Act 2003 ("the Act"). Under this section, we are prohibited from disclosing information with respect to a particular business that has been obtained in the exercise of our regulatory functions including in relation to our work around media literacy, unless that business consents or one of the statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the Act is met, neither of which apply here. Section 44 of the FOI Act is an absolute exemption and therefore is not subject to the public interest test.

2. The names and organisational affiliations of members of any current MSOM advisory panel, steering group, expert group or equivalent governance body.

Information on the current advisory panel is available here:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/media-use-and-attitudes/media-literacy/msom-panel>

We also benefit from the insights of the Research and Evaluation working group – see this page for further details: [Research, Evidence and Evaluation Working Group](#).

3. Details of organisations that have received from Ofcom grants, contracts or other funding through the MSOM programme since 1 January 2023, including the amount awarded and purpose of the funding.

Ofcom does not give grants. However, we do commission a range of organisations to deliver media literacy projects that fulfil our statutory duties, which are subject to Ofcom's procurement process.

We have attached a spreadsheet, in excel format, with the contracts in scope. Please note that the amounts shown are inclusive of V.A.T.

4. Copies of any documents currently in force describing:

(a) the governance structure of the MSOM programme;

As you would expect all of our work is subject to usual governance standards that Ofcom upholds across the organisation.

The media literacy team sits within the Strategy and Research Group at Ofcom. We have had media literacy duties since 2003 and these were expanded in 2023 as part of the Online Safety Act (OSA). The OSA requires us to publish a [Strategy](#) for our work, which we did in 2024. The strategy was developed to deliver against our media literacy duties. Prior to publishing the final strategy, we ran a consultation process where we invited anyone to comment on our draft strategy. The consultation was published on our website, and we held in person events in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast, and ran in person listening exercises in a small number of schools. We will shortly be publishing a mid-term evaluation of our progress against the outcomes we set out in the strategy.

(b) the criteria for participation in the MSOM network; and

Published: 14 March 2024

Join the Making Sense of Media network to hear more about media literacy activities and research in the UK, and internationally.

Why join?

As a network member, you'll:

- be invited to and participate in events showcasing the latest media literacy research, facilitating media literacy discussion, collaboration and activity across the UK;
- contribute to regular [Making Sense of Media Bulletins](#) that summarise media literacy activities by a range of organisations in the UK and overseas. These activities include research, events, projects and initiatives;
- participate in network working groups.

You do not need to have a formal role in media literacy to join. Whether you simply want to hear more about media literacy activities and research, or you're keen to take a more active role in discussions, events or working groups, we would like you to be part of the network.

We want to use our research and insights from across sectors as a foundation for developing the most effective initiatives and to inform media literacy policy. We want the network to continue to build and share evidence of UK adults' and children's understanding and use of electronic media.

(c) the criteria for appointment to advisory or steering groups.

MSOM Advisory Panel: Membership and recruitment

The MSOM Panel is a non-statutory voluntary forum and membership is by application and selection by Ofcom. Membership of the panel is for 24 months, with the option for Ofcom to extend membership by a further twelve months. Panel members are recruited from an open application process and are appointed for their own expertise and to provide Ofcom with the best balance of expertise and connections across our media literacy work.

- There are additional opportunities engage, inform and collaborate via our Network and events programme [Making Sense of Media Network and Panel - Ofcom](#).

5. If held, any current stakeholder map, organisational chart or equivalent document showing relationships between organisations participating in or advising the MSOM programme.

We do not hold this information.

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](#).