

Reference: 634686

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Information Rights Adviser
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Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Television White Space (“TVWS”) take-up in the United Kingdom.

This was received by Ofcom on 2 November and it has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”).

You asked:

I am interested in any information which Ofcom has collected or is aware of on the results of its decision to liberalize the use of Television White Spaces (TVWS) for communication use.

This could be, for example, the number of:

- devices in operation by year in the UK;*
- active service providers by year; or*
- active customers by year.*

Or whatever other metric Ofcom is using to track TVWS take-up over the last few years (since liberalization).

I can confirm that Ofcom does not collect or hold any information on the results of its decision to liberate the use of TVWS for communication use.

TVWS devices may operate either in accordance with a licence exemption made by Ofcom, or under a licence granted by Ofcom. The relevant exemption is the Wireless Telegraphy (White Space Devices) (Exemption) Regulations 2015. Under the exemption, users are free to operate providing equipment complies with the regulations and there is no requirement to advise or report use to us.

Licensed use of TVWS is granted under a Manually Configurable White Space Device (“MCWSD”) licence. The terms of the licence authorise the installation and operation of MCWSDs. However, they do not place a limit on the number of devices that may operate under a licence, nor do licensees have to report the number of devices or locations of use to Ofcom. Therefore, we do not hold information on the number of MCWSDs but I can confirm that we have issued 6 of these licences.

White Space Databases (“WSDB”) which are qualified to operate in the United Kingdom and currently providing WSDB services are Fairspectrum and Nominet UK.

If you have any queries, please contact information.requests@ofcom.org.uk. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Jerin John

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