

Reference: 530721

Jerin John
Information Rights Adviser
Information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

25 April 2018

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information where you asked about telecoms market studies and figures in the United Kingdom.

This was received by Ofcom on 26 March and it has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act).

You stated that you would like to see the latest studies and figures of the UK telecoms market for 2016 and 2017, in particular:

Figures of the revenues and generated minutes by call type such as UK geographic, freephone, special services, premium rate, directory enquiries (020, 0800, 09, 087).

We publish the statistical survey of developments in the communications sector annually on our website, please see our UK Communications Market Report for the telecoms market in 2016: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0026/26648/uk_telecoms.pdf.

Ofcom will shortly be publishing the total figures of the UK telecoms market for 2017 tomorrow. Ofcom does not intend to release the requested information in advance of publication of the figures. Ofcom considers that the information requested falls under the exemption contained in section 22 of the Act, namely that the information is intended for future publication and that it would be against the public interest to release the information at this time. The attached annex to this letter sets out the exemption in full, as well as the factors Ofcom considered when deciding where the public interest lay.

If you have any queries, then 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

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

Switchboard: +44 (0)20 7981 3000
or +44 (0)300 123 3000

www.ofcom.org.uk

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:

Steve Gettings
The Secretary to the Corporation
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

Annex A

Section 22: Information intended for future publication

Section 22 may apply if there is an intention to publish the requested information at some future date. This ensures that the Act does not force public authorities into premature disclosure of information.

Key points:

- Section 22 may apply even if the specific date for publication has not yet been determined but it must be reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the future date.
- Section 22 will only apply if the information was already held with a view to such publication when the request was made.
- Section 22 is subject to a public interest balance.

Factors for disclosure	Factors for withholding
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open policy making and public confidence in regulated activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ofcom intends to publish the requested information and expects to do so shortly.
Reasons why public interest favours withholding information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ofcom is currently finalising for publication data on developments in the communications sector. It is in the public interest that Ofcom withholds disclosure of the information until its publication.	