

## Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information dated 3 July about amateur radio callsigns. This has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please find below our response to each of your questions.

1. I notice that OFCOM has recently changed the way it accesses its database of amateur radio callsigns. Please send me the requirements, specification and design documentation for the new system.

Ofcom uses Salesforce as its licencing database.

1. Does OFCOM have a list of amateur radio callsigns and their status eg reserved, allocated, available, forbidden etc)? Note this might be on a sheet of paper, in a spreadsheet, in an SQL database, in a non-SQL database, in the computer code of an algorithm, etc.

Yes we do – see 4 below.

1. If so, which database system does OFCOM use to manage the allocation of amateur radio callsigns? eg MS Excel, MS SQL Server, MySQL etc.

Ofcom are using Salesforce. We no longer hold a list of call signs that are available. Due to the system change, the assignment of call signs is now done using an algorithm rather than “grabbing” from a list. This algorithm ensures that the call sign is in the correct format. That means that it matches the type of licence and enables us to comply with our obligations under Article 19 and Appendix 42 of the Radio Regulations. Our system also checks the proposed call sign's availability for use. Availability depends on whether or not the call sign has been used in the recent past and whether or not it is in a format that we think may cause distress (in which case the call sign is not assigned).

Our licensing system will allow us to check an individual call sign's availability. However, it is quicker for applicants who apply for an amateur radio licence online. They may choose a call sign. If it is available, then the system will assign it. If not, it will notify the applicant. The system will keep allowing the customer to keep trying until the system finds one that is not assigned.

1. Please send me a list of all amateur radio callsigns and their status (eg reserved, allocated, available, forbidden etc).

Please find a list attached.

I hope this information is useful.

### 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:

Steve Gettings

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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](http://www.ofcom.org.uk)

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