

Reference: 623393

Jerin John
Information Rights Adviser
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29 October 2018

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about the telecommunications infrastructure in Tushingham, Cheshire SY13.

This was received by Ofcom on 30 September and it has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”).

You asked:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am trying to discover information relating to Telephone and Broadband Infrastructure in my area. I have been told numerous conflicting accounts of what is and is not available or feasible. I would like to make the following Freedom of Information request to you.

Would it be possible to obtain a list and/or map detailing all telecommunications infrastructure in the village of Tushingham, Cheshire, SY13.

Please could you include details of:

- underground and overhead phone cables*
- fibre systems*
- cabinets and other infrastructure such as buildings / repeater stations etc*
- the paths and routes of the infrastructure as it passes through the village*
- where these items of infrastructure are fed from and where they feed (for example, the originating exchange and the terminus).*

We do not collect the detail of information that is being requested. In particular, we do not collect nor hold “underground and overhead phone cables”, “fibre systems”, “the paths and routes of the infrastructure as it passes through the village” and “where these items of infrastructure are fed from and where they feed”.

Ofcom does hold some information about “cabinets and other infrastructure such as buildings/repeater stations etc” within the scope of your request. However, we are unable to

disclose the information as this is exempt under section 44 of the Act. Under this section, information which we hold on this subject is exempt from disclosure if another enactment prohibits it. Section 393(1) of the Communications Act 2003 prohibits disclosure of information about a business, unless we have consent or disclosing information would facilitate the exercise of our functions, neither of which applies in this case.

Section 44 is an absolute exemption under the Act and does not require a public interest test.

The information we do collect and hold in relation to broadband infrastructure would be for the mobile and broadband checker, which is available on our website: <https://checker.ofcom.org.uk/>. We also publish telecoms and broadband open data as part of our Connected Nations report, the latest update is available here: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/research-and-data/multi-sector-research/infrastructure-research/connected-nations-update-2018-october>.

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

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