

Reference: 355116

Date: 22 November 2016

Julia Snape
Information requests

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Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information dated 1 November for a list of available amateur radio call signs which has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act').

We do not hold a list of call signs that are available. Due to a 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.

You may find a historic available call sign list which was disclosed in July 2016 helpful but it is now likely to be out of date. It can be found here:

https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/file/0023/42890/amateur_available_call_signs.xlsx

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Julia Snape

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:

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