

Reference: 504667

Jerin John
Information Rights Adviser
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Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information where you asked about superfast broadband for rural areas.

This was received by Ofcom on 18 December 2017 and it has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked:

Please could you provide the following information:

The percentage of premises who have access to superfast broadband in rural areas the UK and in rural areas of each of the nations of the UK, in 2017. The Connected Nations Report includes some of these figures (including for the UK, Scotland and Northern Ireland) but doesnt seem to include figures for England or Wales.

Please see Annex A below containing the percentage of premises in rural areas able to receive superfast broadband services against each region of the United Kingdom.

To calculate these figures, we get data on the services available to every property in the UK and we use commercially available data to identify whether each property is in an urban or rural area.

Please see the Connected Nations Report methodology (Annex A1, page 84) which contains more detail: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0016/108511/connected-nations-2017.pdf. We classify urban and rural areas by using Locale, a third-party data source, which measures population density at certain area types (Locale groups such as large city, smaller city or large town etc.). Furthermore, each area is assigned to either urban or rural based on their respective number of settlements with populations of a certain threshold (see Annex A1, page 89).

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:

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

	% premises in rural areas able to receive superfast broadband services (i.e. coverage of services with a download speed of at least 30Mbit/s)
UK	66%
England	69%
Northern Ireland	57%
Scotland	56%
Wales	66%