

Reference: 634901

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

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Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about TV broadcast coverage data.

This was received by Ofcom on 5 November and it has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Following our response to your request on 5 November, you asked two questions:

First, the link you forwarded includes only radio stations. Does the TV data exist? I have yet to find it.

Secondly, is the GPS data used to construct those maps available? That is the data that is especially valuable for me. If not, a list of all stations available in each post code is a useful alternative. It would be great to know what exists beyond the PDF maps.

Geographical Information Systems (“GIS”) data showing the coverage of local analogue radio services (including FM stations) is available on our website¹. For analogue commercial radio, Ofcom holds only local radio transmitter coverage data, and we do not hold similar data for the national analogue radio networks.

Unfortunately, we do not hold detailed coverage maps or GPS coverage radials for the current UK TV transmitter network. Detailed TV transmitter coverage is calculated by the broadcasters themselves, who may be able to license postcode coverage data on commercial terms to third parties. Digital UK, the body representing the UK’s TV multiplex operators, would be able to confirm this and provide more information via their website².

However, Ofcom is responsible for carrying out international co-ordination of broadcast transmitter frequency allocations. The co-ordination process defines UK broadcasters’ rights to use specific frequencies at specific transmitter sites and establishes any directional or power restrictions which might be necessary to protect neighbouring countries’ services in the Ultra-high frequency (UHF) spectrum. Details of these co-ordinated spectrum rights for TV are available on our website³. Please note that this data represents the most permissive parameters (in terms of antenna restrictions and

¹ <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/tv-radio-and-on-demand/information-for-industry/radio-broadcasters/coverage/commercial-radio-maps-gis>

² <http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/>

³ <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/tv-radio-and-on-demand/information-for-industry/guidance/tech-guidance/agreements>

powers) under the UK's international obligations. In practice, the broadcasters implement lower powers or more restrictive radiation patterns in some locations to optimise overall coverage within the UK. In addition, not all co-ordinated spectrum allocations are currently in use.

You should also be aware that the UK TV broadcasters are currently part way through a programme of re-allocating the frequencies used by many TV transmitters (the '700 MHz Clearance' programme). The data in the link provided on the third footnote represents the UK's pre-700 MHz Clearance situation, although we will be publishing updated international co-ordination agreements in due course.

If you have any queries, 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