

Reference: 01916587

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

2 December 2024

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning four digit area codes.

We received this request on 4 November 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

Your request

“I write with respect to seek confirmation that “FOUR DIGIT AREA CODES” of telephone numbers in the United Kingdom came to effect since 28 April 2001, eg:- Eversham (01386)xxxxxx.”

Our response

We have interpreted your request to mean that you are seeking confirmation that four-digit area codes came into effect on 28 April 2001.

We can confirm that in the United Kingdom on 16 April 1995, “PhONEday” was introduced by Oftel (Office of Telecommunications), which was a change to telephone numbering.

The digit “1” was added after the initial “0” to prefix all geographic area codes. Eversham, as referred to in your request, formed part of the changes introduced by PhONEday, and numbers changed from (0386) to (01386).

Details of the changes can be found [here](#).

If you have any further queries, then please send them to information.requests@ofcom.org.uk – quoting the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Information Requests

Request an internal review

If you are unhappy with the response you have received to your request for information, or think that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law, you may ask for an internal review. If you do, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom. We will either uphold the original decision, or reverse or modify it.

If you would like to ask us to carry out an internal review, you should get in touch within two months of the date of this letter. There is no statutory deadline for us to complete our internal review, and the time it takes will depend on the complexity of the request. But we will try to complete the review within 20 working days (or no more than 40 working days in exceptional cases) and keep you informed of our progress.

Please email the Information Requests team (information.requests@ofcom.org.uk) to request an internal review.

Taking it further

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our internal review, then you have the right to [complain to the Information Commissioner's Office](#).