

Reference: 1886003

Information Requests  
[information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk)

16 September 2024

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about roll-out of UK broadband in the 1980s.

We received this request on 20 August 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

### Your request

---

*I was advised by a BT engineer that there is a FOI document that is available explaining how BT were ready with high speed broadband technology in the 1980s but the roll-out was blocked by Margaret Thatcher and her government. It is a document I would like to read for personal interest.*

### Our response

---

We do not hold this information. Ofcom only came into existence in 2003. Before then its predecessor organisation was Oftel, which came into existence in 1984, however, due to Ofcom’s information retention policy we would no longer hold such records from that time.

If you have any further queries, then please send them to [information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](#).