

Reference: 01986622

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

15 May 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning Mobile Coverage Checker Data by network provider.

We received this follow-up request on 14 April 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

Thank you for your response to my recent Freedom of Information request regarding mobile coverage data, and for directing me to the available resources and API.

As a follow-up, I would like to request whether the datasets you have made publicly available - either for download or via the API - can be provided with differentiation by mobile network operator (e.g., EE, Vodafone, O2, Three). This level of detail is already visible in the public-facing postcode-level coverage checker (<https://checker.ofcom.org.uk/en-gb/mobile-coverage>), and making the underlying data similarly detailed would enhance transparency and public understanding of mobile network coverage across the UK.

If such operator-specific data is available in a GIS-compatible or machine-readable format, I would appreciate details on how it can be accessed. If it is not currently available, I would be grateful for any information on whether it could be made accessible to the public under existing provisions.

Our response

We do not hold coverage data in the format you have requested, however, we already provide information per mobile network operator (MNO) via the API which is specified here: [Ofcom Connected Nations Mobile API](#).

The API makes coverage data available with MNOs separated into their own fields. Each MNO is represented by a two-digit identifier:

- EE = EE
- VO = Vodafone
- TF = O2
- H3 = Three

The API provides two sets of metrics for voice and data availability: one that takes 4G coverage into account and one that doesn't ('No4G'). The mobile coverage checker uses the metrics that include 4G. Additional information is available within the API documentation.

We are unable to disclose any further data or details as we consider this information is exempt from disclosure under section 44 of the FOI Act. Section 44 exempts the disclosure of information which is prohibited by another enactment. In this case, the other enactment is section 393(1) of the Communications Act 2003 which prohibits us from disclosing information about a particular business which we have obtained in the course of exercising our functions unless certain disclosure gateways are met, none of which are met here. Section 44 is an absolute exemption and does not require us to consider the public interest in disclosing the information.

We hope that this information is helpful. 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](#).