

Reference: 01989069

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

20 May 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about a number of licensed radio stations.

We received this request on 17 April 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

Could you please provide a description of each service, a detailed description of the content which comprises the services listed below and which multiplexes they broadcasts on. I would also like a copy of the licences and licence application forms. If possible could Ofcom also share a detailed financial breakdown of each service.

- *ASIAN STAR (DP102311BA/1)*
- *Ambur Radio (DP101116BA/1)*
- *Asian Fx (DP000072BA/8)*
- *BritAsia Radio (DP103322BA/2)*
- *Club Asia (DP103264BA/1)*
- *Darbar Sahib Radio (DP105267BA/1)*
- *Dance Asia Radio (DP104858BA/1)*
- *Desi Radio (DP102995BA/1)*
- *Gulshan Radio (DP104845BA/1)*
- *Panjab Radio (DP000072BA/8)*
- *Radio XL Birmingham (DP000011BA/2)*
- *Sabras Radio Leicester (DP000063BA/3)*
- *Sunrise FM Bradford and Huddersfield (DP000061BA/2)*
- *Unity FM (DP101398BA/1)*
- *Panjab Radio (DN101356BA/1)*
- *Kohinoor FM (CDP104516BA/1)*
- *Radio Panj (CDP104748BA/1)*
- *Nishaan Radio (CDP104558BA/1)*

Could you also provide a detailed annual financial report for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024 for the services Raaj FM (CR000177BA/3), Gulshan Radio (CR100527BA/2), Club Asia (DP103264BA/1), Desi Radio (CR000061BA/3) and Ambur Radio (CR000175BA/4).

Our response

Licences and licence application forms

In the interests of clarity, we will address this part of your request first.

You have requested “*a copy of the licences and licence application forms*” for each of the services listed.

All the licence types you have asked about use the same licence template. The only variables are the licensee name, dates (e.g. grant date) and the annex (which details the service description, if DSP, or Key Commitments, if CDSP). Please use the following links to view the templates. Our table in Annex A provides the variable information:

- [Digital Sound Programme Service \(DSP\)](#) - a licensee requires two licences if they are providing a service(s) on a local/regional/trial DAB/SSDAB multiplex as well as a service(s) on one of the two national DAB multiplexes. Licence numbers for the former are prefixed DP and DN for the latter.
- [Community Digital Sound Programme Service \(CDSP\)](#) - licence numbers are prefixed CDP.

Regarding your request for copies of licence application forms for the services in your bulleted list above, we are unable to provide copies of the application forms for DSPs as we consider them exempt under the FOI Act. In particular, section 44(1)(a) of the FOI Act exempts disclosure of information if its disclosure is prohibited by or under any enactment. Section 393 of the Communications Act 2003 (“the Act”) prohibits the disclosure of information about a particular business which has been obtained in exercise of a power conferred by, among other legislation, the Act, so long as that business continues to be carried on, unless we have the consent of that business or one of the statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the Act is met, neither of which applies here. Section 44 of the FOI Act is an absolute exemption and therefore is not subject to a public interest test.

In the case of CDSP applications, Part A of the applications are published on our website. Please see the links below to the publicly available application information for the CDSP licences named in your request:

- [Kohinoor FM](#) (CDP104516BA/1)
- [Radio Panj](#) (CDP104748BA/1)
- [Nishaan Radio](#) (CDP104558BA/1)

For Part B of these applications, we are exempted from providing these as per section 44(1) of the FOI Act, as described above.

Service descriptions and multiplex carriage information

You asked us to provide “*a description of each service, a detailed description of the content which comprises the services [...] and which multiplexes they broadcasts on*”.

The annex to DSP licences contains a description of the licensed service. Please see the enclosed table at Annex A for the service description recorded in the DSP licences you have enquired about.

The annex to CDSP licences contains a set of Key Commitments. This information is published on the Ofcom website and so we have provided direct links to the Key Commitments for the named CDSP licences in the table at Annex A.

We keep records of which services are being provided on each licensed multiplex, based on regular updates from the multiplex licensees. The information documented in the Annex at the end of this

response letter is a snapshot using data held on 1 May 2025. Should you wish to clarify information, you may consider contacting the multiplex operator directly. The contact details are published on our [website](#).

Financial information and annual financial reports

For the services detailed underneath your bulleted list - Raaj FM (CR000177BA), Gulshan Radio (CR100527BA), Club Asia (DP103264BA), Desi Radio (CR000061BA) and Ambur Radio (CR000175BA) – you have asked for *“a detailed annual financial report for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024.”*

Community Radio (CR) licences contain a condition which requires licensees to submit a finance report to Ofcom each year. The information is used to check whether the licensee has stayed within the financial limits set out in its licence in relation to on-air spot advertising and sponsorship income, and to inform Ofcom’s community radio policy. It is also published in aggregated form in Ofcom’s [Communications Market Reports](#), which summarise the broadcasting sector over the past year. We are unable to disclose these finance reports or more specific information beyond that reported in our Communications Market Reports, as we consider that this information is exempt under section 44(1)(a) of the FOI Act, for the reasons referred to above.

For the licensed services in your bulleted list, you have requested *“[i]f possible could Ofcom also share a detailed financial breakdown of each service.”* We interpret this part of your request as referring to information relating to financial records of the radio licensees listed in your request. We are unable to provide this information as we consider this is exempt under section 44(1)(a) of the FOI Act, as detailed above. If this is not the information you meant to refer to here, you are welcome to submit another request clarifying the information you would like us to provide.

We hope 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](#).

Annex A: Overview of licensed multiplexes (as of 1 May 2025)

Service Name	Licence No.	Licensee	Grant Date	Service Description	MUX(es) service carried on
ASIAN STAR	DP102311BA	Asian Star Community Radio Limited	11/12/2017	<p>The main types of programmes broadcast are a mixture of speech and music ranging from Bhangra; Bollywood; Punjabi Folk; Qawaali; Ghazals; Pakistani music; Indipop; Arabic.</p> <p>Speech. The main types of speech output broadcast over the course of each week are: topical discussions, interviews and features, news programming and community led information.</p>	London (SSDAB Trial)
Ambur Radio	DP101116BA	Ambur Community Radio Limited	06/08/2015`	Ambur Radio is a radio service focused on the Asian communities of Walsall. It caters predominately for the British South Asian market whilst also serving minority ethnic audiences - Indian, Pakistani, Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, Iranian, Gujrati, Kurdish & Pashto. This service will be carried 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.	South Birmingham (SSDAB)
Asian Fx	DP000072BA	Panjab Radio Limited	05/08/2003	A lively, contemporary Asian/Urban music led station for young Asians aged 15-44.	This service is no longer broadcasting. We are varying the DSP licence accordingly
BritAsia Radio	DP103322BA	BritAsia TV Network Ltd	07/09/2020	All the latest British Asian music news and updates	Wolverhampton & Shropshire (Local) Surrey & North Sussex (Local)

Service Name	Licence No.	Licensee	Grant Date	Service Description	MUX(es) service carried on
					(SSDAB): North Birmingham Bradford Dudley & Stourbridge South Birmingham Coventry Leicester Wolverhampton Manchester Nottingham
Club Asia	DP103264BA	Purplehaze Media Ltd	29/04/2020	Asian music with a wide appeal including all genres. The service will carry community news, events, tailored programs relevant to the target audience.	(SSDAB): North Birmingham South Birmingham
Darbar Sahib Radio	DP105267BA	BritAsia Foundation C.I.C	02/02/2024	Darbar Sahib Radio - a radio service serving the Punjabi and Sikh community in Birmingham. Programming includes local news, community and service information, spirituality, history and heritage. The service actively engages its listeners, providing a platform for social gain that is easily understandable and accessible.	Surrey & North Sussex (Local) (SSDAB): Stockport Dudley & Stourbridge

Service Name	Licence No.	Licensee	Grant Date	Service Description	MUX(es) service carried on
				Programming is in Punjabi and English.	Coventry Leicester South Birmingham Wolverhampton
Dance Asia Radio	DP104858BA	Creative Community Media C.I.C	03/01/2023	Dance Asia Radio - serves people belonging to or identifying themselves as South Asian, British Asian or belonging to a South Asian heritage. The service provides entertainment, information and education for the target community.	(SSDAB): Bradford Middlesbrough and Redcar
Desi Radio	DP102995BA	The Panjabi Centre Ltd	20/08/2019	Desi Radio is for the Panjabi-speaking community in west London, providing for different faith communities, nationalities and ages. It promotes better understanding of the target community and encourages a sense of community among Panjabi people. It also promotes the inclusion of disadvantaged groups.	London (SSDAB Trial)
Gulshan Radio	DP104845BA	Black Country Community Development Ltd	13/12/2022	Gulshan Radio – for the Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu and English-speaking Asian communities. It provides an entertaining, informative and educational local service with content reflecting the interests, needs, richness and diversity of the community.	South Birmingham (SSDAB)
Panjab	DP000072BA	Panjab Radio	05/08/2003	A service aimed at the Panjabi community.	London 3 (local)

Service Name	Licence No.	Licensee	Grant Date	Service Description	MUX(es) service carried on
Radio		Limited			(SSDAB): North Birmingham Newcastle/Gateshead Bradford Coventry SSDAB Wolverhampton Newry
Radio XL Birmingham	DP000011BA	Central Air Radio Limited	31/05/2000	A MUSIC AND INFORMATION SERVICE FOR THE ASIAN COMMUNITIES * OF THE WEST MIDLANDS IN VARIED AND APPROPRIATE LANGUAGES A simulcast of Radio XL as set out in the Format contained in licence number AL000171.	(SSDAB): North Birmingham South Birmingham Coventry SSDAB Wolverhampton
Sabras Radio Leicester	DP000063BA	SABRAS SOUND LIMITED	05/12/2002	A MUSIC AND INFORMATION STATION FOR ASIAN LISTENERS IN AND AROUND LEICESTER, BROADCASTING A VARIETY OF LANGUAGES AND ASIAN MUSICAL GENRES A simulcast of Sabras Radio as set out in the Format contained in licence number AL000058.	Leicestershire (local) (SSDAB): North Birmingham South Birmingham
Sunrise	DP000061BA	Bradford City	15/11/2002	A BROAD ASIAN MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT AND	Bradford and Huddersfield (local)

Service Name	Licence No.	Licensee	Grant Date	Service Description	MUX(es) service carried on
FM Bradford and Huddersfi eld		Radio Ltd		<p>INFORMATION SERVICE FOR ASIANS IN THE BRADFORD AREA, IN APPROPRIATE LANGUAGES.</p> <p>A simulcast of Sunrise FM as set out in the Format contained in licence number AL000037.</p>	<p>(SSDAB):</p> <p>Bradford</p> <p>Leeds</p> <p>Manchester</p> <p>Blackburn, Burnley and Darwen</p> <p>Milton Keynes</p>
Unity FM	DP101398BA	Birmingham CEDARS Limited t/a Unity FM	02/03/2016	<p>Unity FM provides a non-profit-distributing service to meet the needs of the area & large Muslim community, addressing its social, spiritual, cultural and educational needs by providing a forum for discussion, debate, advice and entertainment. It caters for a range of groups and nationalities within this community (and therefore includes programming in a variety of languages, as described below) with a particular focus on the needs of women and youth. It aims to enable greater cohesion and inclusion within this community and society in general.</p> <p>The service will broadcast 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.</p>	Wolverhampton (SSDAB)
Panjab Radio	DN101356BA	Panjab Radio Limited	19/02/2016	A service aimed at the Panjabi community.	Not on any National muxes

Service Name	Licence No.	Licensee	Grant Date	Service Description	MUX(es) service carried on
Kohinoor FM	CDP104516BA	Kohinoor Media Ltd	13/05/2022	Key Commitments	Leicester (SSDAB)
Radio Panj	CDP104748BA	Radio PANJ Limited	05/12/2022	Key Commitments	Coventry (SSDAB)
Nishaan Radio	CDP104558BA	Kohinoor Media Ltd	05/07/2022	Key Commitments	Not on any muxes currently