

Reference: 02083502

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

24 October 2025

Dear,

### Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning BBC Radio Broadcast Licenses and related frequency allocations.

We received this request on 29 September 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

#### Your request

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*“This is a Freedom of Information Request submitted under the FOI Act 2000. You are obliged by law to respond to this request within 20 working days of receipt. The information being requested may require you to search for archive data inherited from the GPO, DTI or RA. No complaint or representation will be made should OFCOM require longer than 20 working days to provide a detailed response. We prefer detailed answers with time taken to research them.*

*You are invited to place all of the text of this FOIR in the public domain with the exception of the domestic address at the letter head and email address at the end.*

*In responding to this request we would like you to provide facsimile copies of original documentation to support your answers. These can be:*

- 1) Electronically scanned copies of a manually produced document.*
- 2) A copy of a document generated electronically.*
- 3) A paper photocopy of an original document.*

*Provide copies in a form that cannot be manipulated, such as a locked PDF file.*

#### **Background**

*Under International Telecommunication Union (ITU) agreement, the UK has been allocated two Broadcast Frequencies within the Low Frequency band. These are:*

- a) 198 kHz*
- b) 225 kHz*

*These allocations were made during the Geneva Frequency Plan of 1975. The allocations are recorded in “Final Acts of the Regional Administrative LF/MF Broadcast Conference”.*

198 kHz is currently still in use by BBC Radio 4 at three sites in the UK:

- Droitwich
- Westerglen
- Burghead

**Information Requested**

**198 kHz**

a)

Please provide the OFCOM Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 License for BBC Radio 4 on 198 kHz Longwave, covering the current BBC Charter period. This license should cover both the discrete BBC LW schedule, as defined by opt-outs from the FM schedule, and also the BBC FM schedule broadcast on 198 kHz since the LW only schedule ended in March 2024 up to this day.

Your answer should appear in the following format and include information for all three BBC longwave sites. An adapted image is used here for example only:

<b>Licensee</b>	<b>British Broadcasting Corporation</b>
<b>Address of Licensee</b>	<b>Broadcasting House,, Portland Place London W1A 1AA</b>
<b>Licence number</b>	<b>BBC000004WT / ?</b>
<b>Name of broadcast service(s)</b>	
<b>Measured coverage area population</b>	
<b>Name of broadcast service(s)</b>	<b>BBC Radio 4 (LW)</b>
<b>Measured coverage area population</b>	
<b>Commencement date</b>	<b>31 March 2009</b>
<b>Termination date</b>	<b>31 December 2027</b>
<b>Fee payment date</b>	<b>???</b> annually

G Site Name	H Location	I Ae Ht (m - agl)	J Class of Emission	K Maximum Power (W) (Total)		L Polarisation	M Frequency	N		
				HP	VP			Suppression Added (dB)	On (MHz)	Involving (MHz)
Droitwich	SO 92900 66300		20K0A3EGN	500.000			198 kHz			

Please do not supply document BBC000004WT/2. This document does not cover broadcasts on 198 kHz.

*Please do not create a Wireless Telegraphy Act License retrospectively as a response to this request. You must provide the document created or applicable at the beginning of the current BBC Charter period that is still applicable today.*

*Please provide evidence that the BBC has paid the annual WTA license fee due for all broadcasts on 198 kHz during the current Charter period up to the present day. You may do this by providing a facsimile copy of a receipt of payment issued to the BBC by OFCOM for one or more of the current years of the Charter. Please erase or blank sensitive information from any such copies provided. The aim in this paragraph is to establish equality of licensing and charging with other BBC broadcasts.*

*b)*

*If no Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 license has been issued for broadcasts on 198 kHz, please provide the Wireless Telegraphy Act Exemption Regulation issued by the Secretary of State that allows this frequency to be used without a broadcast license.*

*[Note on this paragraph]*

**OF**COM may by regulations exempt from subsection (1) the establishment, installation or use of wireless telegraphy stations or wireless telegraphy apparatus of such classes or descriptions as may be specified in the regulations, either absolutely or subject to such terms, provisions and limitations as may be so specified.

*c)*

*If no license and no exemption regulation have been issued for broadcasts on 198 kHz, please provide any Grant of Recognised Spectrum Access documentation that may exist to cover such use of spectrum.*

*d)*

*If no paperwork can be provided in response to the request made in section a) b) and c) above, please describe in your own words how BBC broadcasts on 198 kHz comply with OFCOM licensing duties and, in particular, comply with the requirements of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006. You may provide facsimile copies of licensing that predates the current Wireless Telegraphy Act to support your answer.*

**PTO.**

### **225 kHz**

*A second low frequency broadcast allocation was made to the UK during the Geneva Frequency Conference of 1975. It has never been used for broadcasting.*

*We have anecdotal evidence that 225 kHz was used during the 1980s for domestic baby monitors in the UK. Signals on 225 kHz were frequency modulated in these devices. It has been confirmed by those with direct experience that emissions from these baby monitors could be received beyond the boundary of properties where they had been deployed, by means of a household receiver able to tune longwave.*

*a)*

*Please provide the Wireless Telegraphy Act Exemption Regulation issued by the Secretary of State that allowed this broadcast frequency to be used for a non-broadcast application in a domestic device. An exemption regulation issued at that time would have been an exemption to licensing demanded by the act applicable at that time. (This may have been a DTI responsibility).*

b)

*If no exemption regulation exists for the use of 225 kHz, please explain in your own words how you believe the terms of the Wireless Telegraphy Act in force at that time would have been met. Consider that the device in question qualified as a radio transmitter.*

## **Our response**

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### **198 kHz**

a) We do not hold this information.

We have details of the three long wave transmitters in our technical database, however there is no separate licence document. I have attached a copy of the details for the three transmitters we have extracted from our database. These date from 2019 when the database was last updated.

There are no fees payable for the Radio 4 LW service transmitted on 198 kHz.

b) We do not hold this information.

c) We do not hold this information.

d) Please note that requests under the FOI Act are requests for information already held and this act does not oblige us to create information. We do not hold documents that cover the information you described at d).

### **225 kHz**

a) We do not hold information relating to exemption of devices that could use 225 kHz in the 1980s or subsequently.

b) Please note that requests under the FOI Act are requests for information already held and this act does not oblige us to create information. We do not hold documents that cover the information you described at b).

I hope this information is helpful. 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](#).