

Reference: 02065646

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

15 September 2025

Dear,

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning current commercial radio analogue FM licensees in the UK.

We received this request on 18 August 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

"I would be grateful if you could provide a table (ideally in Excel format) containing of the current commercial radio analogue FM licensees in the UK, detailing the following:

- 1 - License Number.*
- 2 - Name of licensed area.*
- 3 - MCA of the licence*
- 4 - Date of current licence expiry.*
- 5 - Legal Entity holding the licence*
- 6 - Station Name*
- 7 - Whether the current licence was renewed on the basis of DAB carriage on a relevant local multiplex. Yes / No*
- 8 - If the answer to 8 is yes, a) the relevant local multiplex area nominated and b) the station carried against which the analogue licence was renewed.*
- 9 - The Ofcom coverage population for each DAB area specified in answer (8a)*

I am trying to collate information to establish and evidence:

- i) The volume and proportion of current commercial radio analogue licences which have been renewed on the basis of having relevant DAB coverage*
- ii) The correlation of populations in nominated DAB coverage areas and FM MCAs for stations which have been renewed on the basis of DAB coverage.*

This information covering 7 and 8 does not appear to currently be in the public domain."

Our response

Under section 21 of the FOI Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you. The information you requested is on our website and can be found as below.

1. Licence numbers can be found [here](#).
2. Name of licensed areas can be found [here](#).
3. Information regarding MCA can be found [here](#). However, please note that the data in the spreadsheet is very out of date and will shortly be removed from our website.
4. Date of license expiry data can be found [here](#).
5. Name of legal entity which holds the licence can be found [here](#).
6. Station/service names can be found [here](#).
7. All local commercial analogue licences that have been renewed, will have been renewed on the basis that the licensee would broadcast a DAB service on a 'relevant' multiplex, in the same geographic location.
8. While we hold some information regarding nominated multiplex and DAB service on it, we consider it is exempt from disclosure under Section 44 of the FOI Act. Section 44(1) of the FOI Act provides that information is exempt from disclosure if its disclosure is prohibited by or under any enactment. The enactment that prohibits the disclosure of this information is section 393(1) of the Communications Act 2003 ("the Communications Act"). Under this section, we are prohibited from disclosing information with respect to a particular business (such as multiplex operators) that has been obtained in the exercise of our regulatory functions, unless that business consents or one of the statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the Communications Act is met, neither of which apply here. Section 44 of the FOI Act is an absolute exemption and is not subject to the public interest test.
9. DAB coverage populations for Local DAB can be found at [Local DAB map](#) and the coverage populations for Small-scale DAB can be found at [Small-scale DAB coverage maps - Ofcom](#).

I 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](#).