

Reference: 02183852

Information Requests  
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21 April 2026

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about infrastructure rollout into mobile not spot areas.

We received this request on 9 April 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### Your request

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*I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to mobile telecommunications infrastructure rollout in partial and total not spot areas since 1 January 2017.*

*Please provide:*

- 1. Any datasets identifying how many newly constructed mobile telecommunications base station sites during this period were intended to improve coverage in partial or total not spot areas.*
- 2. Any datasets distinguishing genuinely new mast sites providing additional geographic coverage from replacement or relocated sites.*

*For clarity, this request relates only to infrastructure associated with the national mobile network operators (for example EE, Vodafone, Three and O2) and does not include infrastructure installed by fixed wireless broadband providers such as Voneus or Airband.*

*If this information is not held centrally, please indicate which public bodies hold the most complete information.*

### Our response

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We do not collect or hold this information, and it is not gathered as part of our regular information gathering activities.

However, as part of our assessment of mobile network operators (MNOs) compliance with their 2024 Shared Rural Network (SRN) commitments, we did seek additional data from mobile operators. We do not hold the information from this exercise, which provided a robust site by site view of how new sites contributed to new total not spot or partial not spot coverage. Nonetheless, we did correlate information collected with other information to provide a high level analysis of where new coverage had been delivered by new sites or upgrades to existing infrastructure - see our [2024 compliance statement](#).

**Table 6: Most common SRN related site developments in partial not spots**

Type of Network Upgrade	Reported Volume in Partial Not Spots
New site shared between MNOs	>400
Additional power (EIRP) on an existing site <sup>31</sup>	>300
Additional spectrum on an existing site	>250
Deploying radio equipment on an Extended Area Service (EAS) site (not funded under the SRN Grant Agreement)	>50
Additional spectrum on an existing site combined with additional EIRP	>50
Joining an existing site owned by a Wireless Infrastructure Provider	>50
New shared site combined with Reference Channel Power Boosting <sup>32</sup>	>30
Joining an existing site owned by another MNO	>30

<sup>29</sup> We have aggregated this data to provide a more general sense of the works undertaken, based on the most common sets of works reported to us. Note that we have counted each MNOs contribution individually, so a new shared site with 2 MNOs would count twice in our data.

<sup>30</sup> MNOs also provided us with information on a wider set of works undertaken in 'Full Coverage' areas. Some of this activity will have contributed to SRN, but as many of the deployments were in cities such as London and Birmingham, we have not included it in this overview of SRN activity. MNOs also reported some activity in Total Not Spot areas, although this mostly related to a very small number of sites (with more than 70 reported upgrades to EAS sites being the most common measure in TNS areas).

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](#).