

Reference: 02234176

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

6 August 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning geographic mobile coverage data under OGL. We received this request on 9 July 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

I need the underlying geographic dataset rather than the point API or the aggregated Connected Nations summary tables.

Could you tell me whether the following is available, and how to obtain it please:

- 1. Geographic mobile predicted-coverage data - the per-operator signal grid that underpins your own Mobile Coverage Checker map, split out per MNO (EE, O2, Vodafone, Three), for both 4G and 5G, and if available the signal-strength bands (e.g. likely / limited / none) for voice and data.*
- 2. In any standard GIS format - shapefile, GeoPackage, GeoTIFF/raster grid, or similar (whatever you publish it in).*
- 3. The licence terms for this dataset, and specifically whether use in a commercial app is permitted under the Open Government Licence (or what terms would apply).*

I only need coverage over the navigable waterway network, so a national dataset that I clip locally is fine - I don't need a bespoke extract.

Our response

We do not hold mobile coverage data in shapefile, GeoPackage or GeoTIFF format. The maps shown in our Map Your Mobile checker are rendered by a third-party supplier under licence, using a grid-based dataset provided by Ofcom. This dataset is based on coverage predictions provided by the UK mobile network operators.

However, while we hold grid-level data on predicted signal strengths, we are unable to disclose these particular details as we consider that disclosure of this information is exempt under section 44 of the FOI Act. Section 44 of the FOI Act exempts the disclosure of information which is prohibited by another enactment. In this case, we are prohibited under section 393 of the Communications Act 2003 from disclosing information which relates to a business, or businesses, which we have obtained in exercising our powers, unless we have the consent of that business, or businesses, or one of the statutory gateways for disclosure under section 393(2) is met, neither of which applies here. Section 44 is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

Yours sincerely,

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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](#).