

Reference: 02250925

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

3 August 2026

Dear,

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning historic local radio.

We received this request on 24 July 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

"I am primarily seeking several files that I have seen cited in a PhD dissertation from 2011 (D.P. Allen's "Independent Local Radio (ILR) in the West Midlands, 1972-1984: a comparative study of BRMB Radio and Beacon Radio" -- if that is useful). I spoke with someone at the National Archive and they suggested the files I am looking for are not Crown (government) documents but Ofcom or the former Independent Broadcasting Authority reports, thus not in the NA's possession.

Whilst I know many Ofcom files have been transferred / archived externally, I am wondering if you currently possess the following (I am supplying the file names as they appear in the aforementioned dissertation):

- * Independent Broadcasting Authority, BRMB: Progress Report January 1979-January 1980, (Ofcom documents: A/X/0019/4)*
- * Independent Broadcasting Authority, BRMB: Progress Report January 1980-January 1981 (Ofcom documents: A/X/0411/01)*
- * Independent Broadcasting Authority, BRMB: Progress Report January 1981-January 1982 (Ofcom documents: A/X/0413/01).*
- * Independent Broadcasting Authority, BRMB: Progress Report January 1982-January 1983 (Ofcom documents: A/A51/01/68/04).*

These are just a few, but I am interested in items contained within the A/X series or A/A51 series."

Our response

We do not hold the requested information.

However, Ofcom gifted the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) records to Bournemouth University. The files you identified in your request are confirmed to be among the records transferred.

You may wish to contact Bournemouth University, who may be able to provide some of the requested information - <https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/about/governance/access-information/freedom-information-act-environmental-information-regulations>.

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](#).