

Reference: 02262659

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

24 August 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about historical mobile coverage data by postcode.

We received this request on 14 August 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

I'm writing to request historical mobile network coverage data at postcode level for the UK, for use by the economics team at WPI Strategy.

I understand that Ofcom's public Mobile Coverage API returns only current, real-time predicted coverage for a given postcode, and that the downloadable Connected Nations datasets provide year-on-year comparisons but only at parliamentary constituency and local/unitary authority level rather than postcode level. I'm therefore asking whether Ofcom holds, and can provide, postcode-level (or address/premises-level) predicted mobile coverage data, by operator, technology (2G/3G/4G/5G), and indoor/outdoor status, for previous reporting periods, specifically: 1991–2026 if possible.

If this data exists but sits outside what's routinely published, could you let me know:

** Whether it can be released, and if so in what format (e.g. CSV/bulk extract) and at what geographic granularity;*

** Whether there is a cost or licensing condition attached.*

For context, this data would be used for identifying the relationship between mobile connectivity and house prices.

Our response

Please note that our data retention period is 10 years which means we do not hold anything prior to 2016, other than what is available from the [Connected Nations National Archives website](#).

We do not hold the requested information at postcode or output area level.

Where we hold grid-square level data, 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,

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](#).