

Reference: 02096592

Information Requests
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20 January 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for a list of spectrum license holders in the UK for s-band & l-band frequencies.

We received this request on 21 November 2025. We sought clarification of your request on 17 December 2025 and we received clarification on 18 December. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request

I am contacting you to ask if it possible for you to provide the complete list of spectrum license holders in the UK for s-band and l-band frequencies (corresponding with 3GPP's n255 and n256).

Clarified as:

I can confirm it is the licensees that are satellite operators providing 2GHz MSS and not individuals for maritime and aviation usage.

Our response

3GPP's n255 (L-band) covers the following frequencies: **1525MHz-1559MHz space-to-earth and 1626.5MHz-1660.5MHz earth-to-space.**

There are no satellite operators with licences in these bands. This is because land mobile terminals are licence exempt as set out in the UK Interface Requirement 2016 ([IR 2016](#)). Terminals on ships and aircraft are authorised through individual ship radio licences and aircraft radio licences. There are a large number of licences for MSS equipment for use on ships and aircraft in these frequencies. However, we understand that this is outside the scope of your question.

3GPP's n256 (S-band) covers the following frequencies: **2170MHz-2200MHz space-to-earth and 1980MHz-2010MHz earth-to-space.**

In relation to these frequencies, the following entities hold licenses granted under The Authorisation of Frequency Use for the Provision of Mobile Satellite Services (European Union) Regulations 2010:

- Solaris Mobile Limited (now Echostar)
- Inmarsat Ventures Limited (now Viasat)

Inmarsat/Viasat also holds a licence granted under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 in respect of its 'complementary ground component' network.

Again, any aircraft connecting to the Inmarsat European Aviation Network may also have an aircraft radio licence covering these frequencies. However, we understand this is outside the scope of your question.

The S-band licences expire in May 2027.

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](#).