

Reference: 2203849

Information Requests

[information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk)

23 June 2026

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about geospatial data on fibre optic backbone infrastructure and internet exchange points.

We received this request on 26 May 2026 and we have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the FOI Act').

### Your request and our response

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*I am a Master's student in Energy Systems and Data Analytics from UCL. My Master's dissertation is to produce a site selection framework for data centres in Great Britain. As data centres require fibre optics to transmit data, the location of the fibre optic network and IXPs is important to identify suitable locations for the data centres. I wasn't able to find geospatial data for this online, and would like to seek your assistance under the FOI for the data. The preferred format is Shapefile, GeoJSON, or GeoPackage. I will be happy to provide due credit and citation in my dissertation, and comply with any data sharing conditions. Thank you!*

While we hold information on fibre optic networks, we consider that disclosure of this information is exempt under the FOI Act. In particular, section 44(1)(a) of the FOI Act exempts disclosure of information if its disclosure is prohibited under another enactment. Ofcom is prohibited under section 393 of the Communications Act 2003 ('the Communications Act') from disclosing information about a business which we have obtained in the course of exercising a power conferred by the Communications Act among others, unless we have the consent of that business or one of the statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the Communications Act is met, neither of which applies here. Section 44 is an absolute exemption and therefore is not subject to 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](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](#).