

Reference: 02197394

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

9 June 2026

Dear,

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning FM Technical Inspection Statistics and Policy Directives.

We received this request on 10 May 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request & our response

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 & at the request of multiple Community Radio clients, I am requesting information regarding Ofcom's technical inspection activities of FM broadcast transmission sites within the United Kingdom.

Specifically, I am requesting data for the period of the last 36 months (broken down by calendar year), covering the following:

1. Inspection Statistics

A numerical breakdown of the total number of physical on-site technical inspections conducted at FM transmitter sites, categorized by:

** Station Type: Commercial Radio vs. Community Radio (CR) licensees.*

** Trigger for Inspection:*

** (a) Inspections conducted as a direct result of a reported incident, interference complaint, or technical breach.*

** (b) Inspections conducted as "routine" or unprompted audits where no prior complaint or incident was recorded.*

2023

Ofcom has inspected two Restricted Service License stations ('RSL') reported from external complaints. Both inspections which were carried out found the stations operating within licensing conditions.

2024

Community radio stations inspected - four from external complaints outside of Ofcom and two internal inspections. Of these inspections, one station was found to be operating outside of its licensing conditions.

One RSL station selected for inspection and found to be no longer operating.

2025

Five community radio stations selected for inspection, all to be found operating within their licensing conditions.

Two RSLs due for inspection as a result of external complaints, one station found to be compliant to licensing conditions, second RSL station was no longer transmitting due to the license having expired, hence inspection was not then carried out.

2026 (till 20 May)

One RSL station inspected as a result of external complaint. Station found to be not in compliance with licensing conditions.

Eight Community Radio stations inspected.

Two stations inspected as a result of external complaints, both stations inspected and found to be not operating as per licensing conditions.

Six stations were selected for inspections, three of the stations have been found not to be operating as per their licensing conditions.

Two stations have had notification of inspections but inspections have not taken place as of 20 May 2026.

2. Policy and Directives

Please provide a copy of the latest Ofcom policy document, internal memo, or operational directive which outlines the current strategy for FM transmission site visits.

We are specifically looking for the directive from the "controlling mind" (the senior management or departmental lead) that commands or authorises the current schedule of unprompted inspections.

This should include any documents detailing the "risk-based" criteria used to select sites for audit and any specific policy shifts that have occurred in the last 24 months regarding the frequency of inspections for Community Radio stations.

We do not hold requested the information, however you may find some helpful information here: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/spectrum/radio-equipment/spectrum-enforcement>.

3. A Staffing and Competency Standards

Please provide the internal Ofcom standard or "Job Specification" for field inspectors (such as Spectrum Engineers or Spectrum Assurance Officers) which outlines the required baseline technical qualifications and competencies for personnel authorised to conduct independent audits of broadcast FM facilities.

If you cannot locate any policy documents/memos etc which are dated 2026 and which are relevant

please state this clearly in your response, as we will then be forced to consider, on behalf of clients, a potential "lone wolf" employee working for Ofcom, pursuing their own agenda.

Please see the below Job description/specification for a Spectrum Engineering Officer.

- Responsible for maintaining high engineering standards and ensuring all harmful interference issues raised are resolved within KPIs.
- Responsible for investigating all unlicensed used within geographical area are resolved within KPIs
- Support the wellbeing, flexibility and inclusion of Ofcom's values.
- Provide support to fellow colleagues and assisting when required.
- Responsible for own and teams equipment plant and vehicle, and H&S
- Meet with stakeholders within your geographical region.
- Manage own complex, sensitive and technical casework.
- Technical coaching/mentoring of team as required
- Project work as required

Essential skills, knowledge and experience.

- Appreciation of and desire to promote Ofcom's values of excellent, agility, empowerment and collaboration
- Ownership and delivery of performance and service levels
- Manage stakeholders within your area
- A good understanding of interference mechanisms and resolution
- Experience of working in a geographical disparate team
- Excellent understanding of wireless telegraphy act
- Excellent understanding of electromagnetic compatibility regulations
- Excellent understanding of radio equipment regulations
- Excellent stakeholder relationship skills and customer focus skills.
- Excellent conflict avoiding skills
- A good knowledge of the criminal justice system and criminal law procedures
- Detailed knowledge of safe working practices / H&S
- Full driver's license

Qualifications

- Technical qualification – Degree (Level 6) in a technical discipline, or able to demonstrate equivalent experience and knowledge.

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](#).