

Reference: 02164629

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

18 March 2026

Dear,

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning numbers of 4G and 5G masts in the United Kingdom.

We received this request on 18 February 2026. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we have considered your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Your request & our response

"I am writing to request the following information regarding 4G and 5G telecommunications infrastructure currently operational in the United Kingdom:

Please provide the most up-to-date figures available, with clarification on data sources and methodology if possible."

1. The total number of 4G/5G masts, including those hosting equipment for both technologies on the same structure.

Based on information submitted by the UK mobile network operators as part of Ofcom's Connected Nations 2025 reporting, 29,166 sites across the UK were reported as having 5G deployed as at July 2025, while 78,837 sites were reported as having 4G deployed. Of these, 28,844 were reported as supporting both 4G and 5G technologies.

These figures should be treated as indicative rather than exact. They do not necessarily equate to the total number of unique physical sites across the UK. This is because multiple MNOs may be offering coverage from the same site. As such, the reported site count reflects the aggregate number of deployments across all MNOs, rather than the number of distinct physical site infrastructure. Also, this encompasses the various 5G mobile deployment types i.e. 5G NSA, 5G SA and Dynamic Spectrum Sharing (DSS).

The data was provided by the four UK mobile network operators—Three UK, BT EE, Vodafone, and Virgin Media O2—as part of the Connected Nations 2025 data collection. We note that, at the time the information request was issued, the merger between Vodafone and Three UK had only recently been completed. Consequently, the two operators submitted separate datasets for the 2025 reporting period.

2. The number of building-mounted 4G/5G antennas.

We do not hold the requested information.

As part of our data collection, we do not currently collect information on the nature of mobile site deployments, such as whether sites are building-mounted or deployed as small cells.

3. The number of small cell 4G/5G antennas in active service.

We do not hold the requested information.

4. The count of all other operational 4G/5G equipment not covered in the above categories.

We interpreted your request as including any other operational equipment not covered by questions 2 and 3. We do not hold the requested information.

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](#).