

Reference: 02291780

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

19 October 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about historical internet access and mobile phone use data.

We received this request on 29 September 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request

We are seeking historical data on internet access (via mobile phones / tablets / home internet) and use in the UK, ideally with Scotland specific breakdowns where possible.

We would be grateful if Ofcom could provide available annual data from 1999 to 2025 on:

1. *The proportion of individuals with access to the internet.*

Where available, we would be grateful if this could be broken down by type of internet access:

- a. *The proportion of individuals with access to the internet via smartphone.*
- b. *The proportion of individuals with access to the internet via tablets.*
- c. *The proportion of individuals with home internet access.*

In addition, we would be grateful for annual data on:

2. *The proportion of individuals with ownership or use of a mobile phone.*

Furthermore, we would be grateful if these data, especially point 1, could be broken down by:

- a. *Year.*
- b. *Age groups.*
- c. *Sex.*
- d. *UK nation, and specifically Scotland if available.*

The age groups of interest for our project are:

- a. *Under 16.*
- b. *16-20.*
- c. *21-30.*

- d. 31-40.
- e. 41-50.
- f. 51-60.
- g. Over 60.

If possible, we would prefer the information in CSV or Excel format.

Our response

We hold information on the following aspects of your request:

- Access to the internet anywhere (i.e. at home or out of the home)
- Home internet access
- Personal mobile phone usage
- Personal smartphone usage (NB: This has been included as a proxy for "access to the internet via smartphone")

We are not able to provide a breakdown of internet access by tablet as we focus on connection types, rather than devices used to connect to the internet.

While there is data included on age groups, these are not within the groupings as you requested – we do not hold information in those age groups. In particular, please note that those under the age of 16 were not eligible for these surveys.

The information you have requested between the years 2018 to 2026 (inclusive) are publicly available on our website. We have provided the appropriate links and guidance for these below.

However, for information published between 2005 to 2017 (inclusive), the information is not now published and is therefore provided separately via MFT file transfer. We have still provided some guidance to locating this information below.

Information prior to 2005 is not held.

While we have provided the information in CSV format where possible, most data is only held in PDF format.

Please be aware that these surveys are not static. Elements of these surveys have changed over time, and we advise that any longitudinal analysis should therefore be treated with due caution.

2026 ([Statistical release calendar 2026](#))

[Core data tables:](#)

- Internet access anywhere (Internet Use)
- Home internet access (Total home internet access Summary)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QM1)
- Personally use a smartphone (QM2)

2025 ([Statistical release calendar 2025](#))

[Core data tables:](#) - DATA TABLES NOT PUBLISHED IN EXCEL

- Internet access anywhere (Internet Use)

- Home internet access (QE1)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QM1)
- Personally use a smartphone (QM2)

2024 ([Statistical release calendar 2024](#))

[Core data tables](#): - DATA TABLES NOT PUBLISHED IN EXCEL

- Internet access anywhere (Internet Use)
- Home internet access (QE1)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QM1)
- Personally use a smartphone (QM2)

2023: ([Statistical release calendar 2023](#))

[Core data tables](#): - DATA TABLES NOT PUBLISHED IN EXCEL

- Internet access anywhere (Internet Use)
- Home internet access (QE1)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QM1)
- Personally use a smartphone (QM2)

2022: ([Statistical release calendar 2022](#))

[Core data tables](#): - DATA TABLES NOT PUBLISHED IN EXCEL

- Internet access anywhere – Not Held
- Home internet access (QE1)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QM1)
- Personally use a smartphone (QM2)

2021: ([Statistical release calendar 2021](#)) - NOTE: A supplementary CATI survey was undertaken to supplement F2F methodology that was suspended due to the outbreak of Covid-19 (for more information, please see [Technology Tracker - Methodology Explanation](#)). Due to this change in methodology, data from 2021 is not comparable with previous or later data.

[Core data tables](#): - DATA TABLES NOT PUBLISHED IN EXCEL

- Internet access anywhere (QIN6)
- Home internet access (QE2)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QD2)
- Personally use a smartphone (QD24B)

2020: ([Statistical release calendar 2020](#))

[UK data tables](#): - DATA TABLES NOT PUBLISHED IN EXCEL

- Internet access anywhere – Not Held
- Home internet access (QE2)

- Personally use a mobile phone (QD2)
- Personally use a smartphone (QD5)

2019: ([Statistical release calendar 2019](#))

[UK data tables:](#)

- Internet access anywhere (SUMMARY - ACCESS TO/ USE OF INTERNET ACROSS ANY CONNECTION/ ANY DEVICE/ ANY LOCATION)
- Home internet access (QE2)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QD2)
- Personally use a smartphone (QD4)

2018: ([Statistical release calendar 2018](#)) - NOTE: From 2018 onwards, the frequency of Tech Tracker fieldwork was reduced from biannual to annual (i.e. from two surveys per year to one survey per year). Please also note that the Ofcom Statistical Release Calendar only goes back to 2018.

[UK data tables:](#)

- Internet access anywhere (SUMMARY - ACCESS TO/ USE OF INTERNET ACROSS ANY CONNECTION/ ANY DEVICE/ ANY LOCATION)
- Home internet access (QE2)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QD2)
- Personally use a smartphone (QD4)

Information not held online:

2017:

1: Tech Tracker H1 2017 data tables for publication.csv

2: Ofcom Technology Tracker H2 2017 - main set - data tables for publication 29112017.csv

- Internet access anywhere (QE3)
- Home internet access (QE2)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QD2)
- Personally use a smartphone (QD4)

2016:

1: Ofcom Technology Tracker H1 2016 data tables for publication - main set.csv

2: Ofcom Technology Tracker H2 2016 - main set - CSV FOR PUBLICATION.csv

- Internet access anywhere (QE9)
- Home internet access (QE8)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QD2)
- Personally use a smartphone (QD4)

2015:

1: Ofcom Technology Tracker Q1 2015 data tables for publication - main set.csv

2: Ofcom Technology Tracker H2 2015 data tables for publication - main set.csv

- Internet access anywhere (QE9)
- Home internet access (QE8)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QD2)
- Personally use a smartphone (QD4)

2014: NOTE: From 2014-2017, the Tech Tracker was run on a biannual basis (i.e. two surveys per year).

1: Ofcom Technology Tracker Q1 2014 data tables for publication - main set.csv

2: Ofcom Technology Tracker Wave 2 2014 data tables for publication - main set.csv

- Internet access anywhere (QE9)
- Home internet access (QE8)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QD2)
- Personally use a smartphone (QD4)

2013: NOTE: From 2011-2013, the Tech Tracker was run three times per year.

1: Wave 1 2013 UK data tables for publication.csv

2: Wave 2 2013 data tables for publication.csv

3: Wave 3 2013 data tables for publication.csv

- Internet access anywhere (1: QE8; 2-3: QE7)
- Home internet access (1: QE7; 2-3: QE6)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QD2)
- Personally use a smartphone (QD4)

2012:

1: Wave 1 2012 UK data tables for publication.csv

2: Ofcom Technology Tracker data tables - Main set - Wave 2 2012.csv

3: Ofcom Technology Tracker data tables - Main set - Wave 3 2012.csv

- Internet access anywhere (1: QE4; 2: QE3; 3: QE7)
- Home internet access (1: QE3; 2: QE2; 3: QE6)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QD2)
- Personally use a smartphone (1 & 3: QD4; 2: QD6)

2011:

1: Tech tracker Q1 2011 UK data tables.pdf - NOT AVAILABLE IN EXCEL

2: Ofcom Technology Tracker Wave 2 2011.csv

3: Ofcom Technology Tracker Wave 3 2011 data tables for publication.csv

- Internet access anywhere (QE3)
- Home internet access (QE2)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QD2)
- Personally use a smartphone (1 & 3: QD4; 2: QD6)

2010:- NOTE: Only one wave of the full data set is available.

UK data tables: Tech tracker Q1 2010 UK data tables.pdf - NOT AVAILABLE IN EXCEL

- Internet access anywhere (QE3)
- Home internet access (QE2)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QD2)
- Personally use a smartphone – Not Held

2009: NOTE: Only one wave of data is available.

UK data tables: Ofcom Tech tracker Q1 2009 - UK FINAL data tables.pdf - NOT AVAILABLE IN EXCEL

- Internet access anywhere (QE3)
- Home internet access (QE2)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QD2)
- Personally use a smartphone – Not Held

2008: NOTE: Only one wave of data is available.

UK data tables: Tech tracker FINAL DATA TABLES Q1 2008.pdf - NOT AVAILABLE IN EXCEL

- Internet access anywhere (QE3)
- Home internet access (QE2)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QD2)
- Personally use a smartphone – Not Held

2007: NOTE: Only one wave of data is available.

UK data tables: Ofcom RT Tables Q1 2007.pdf - NOT AVAILABLE IN EXCEL

- Internet access anywhere (QE4)
- Home internet access (QE2)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QD2)
- Personally use a smartphone – Not Held

2006: NOTE: Only one wave of data is available.

UK data tables: TT Q1 2006 data tables.pdf - NOT AVAILABLE IN EXCEL

- Internet access anywhere (QE4)
- Home internet access (QE2)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QD2)
- Personally use a smartphone – Not Held

2005: NOTE: Only one wave of data is available.

UK data tables: TT Q1 2005 Tables.pdf - NOT AVAILABLE IN EXCEL

- Internet access anywhere (QE4)
- Home internet access (QE2)
- Personally use a mobile phone (QD2)
- Personally use a smartphone – Not Held

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 Commission](#).