

Reference: 02256128

Information Requests
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1 September 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning sub-authority mobile coverage for upland safety mapping.

Your request was received by the Connected Nations Data team on 3 August 2026 and passed to the Information Requests team on 5 August 2026. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request & our response

I'm writing to ask about the availability of mobile coverage data at a finer geography than the published Connected Nations files.

Could you tell me whether the following is available, and how to obtain it please:

- 1. Is pixel-level predicted coverage data available under the Open Government Licence, or obtainable as a bespoke extract for a defined geographic area (in this case the Lake District National Park boundary)?*
- 2. If not, are there terms under which coverage data derived from the Map Your Mobile checker could be reused and published with appropriate attribution?*

While we hold pixel-level coverage data, we are unable to disclose these particular details as we consider that disclosure of this information is exempt under section 44 of the FOI Act. Section 44 of the FOI Act exempts the disclosure of information which is prohibited by another enactment. In this case, we are prohibited under section 393 of the Communications Act 2003 from disclosing information which relates to a business, or businesses, which we have obtained in exercising our powers, unless we have the consent of that business, or businesses, or one of the statutory gateways for disclosure under section 393(2) is met, neither of which applies here. Section 44 is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

Although the pixel-level coverage data underpinning our Map Your Mobile checker is not available for download, we provide an API that allows access to the address-level coverage data (available per postcode, not in bulk), subject to certain restrictions on the extent to which data can be accessed and the purpose(s) of use. The data is provided per mobile network operator but only for combined 4G and 5G coverage.

Details and guidance on the API can be found on our [developer portal](#). To access the data, users will have to sign up on the portal or register with the API team (cnapisupport@ofcom.org.uk), and accept the associated terms and conditions of use on application. The terms of use can be viewed [here](#).

3. Is 2G or Voice coverage available at any geography finer than local authority? This is the most relevant service for our purposes - in remote upland areas 2G is frequently the only bearer available for a voice call or SMS - and I note it isn't surfaced in the current consumer checker.

We have recently launched an API which publishes 2G coverage information using the same mechanism and resolution as our Map your Mobile API, i.e. at address-level. This is better than local authority (in areas where there are premises to search on) and is available [here](#).

4. Is there any published or shareable analysis of prediction error specifically in rural upland terrain? The methodology notes that the move to 50m pixels isn't expected to materially reduce the standard deviation of prediction error, and I'd want any published output to represent that uncertainty honestly rather than implying a precision the model doesn't support.

We do not hold any such analysis.

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](#).