

Reference: 01693195

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

27 October 2023

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning EMF exposure for plants and animals. This request was received on 5 October 2023 and we have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the “FOI Act”) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the “EIR”).

Your request & our response

If ICNIRP publishes guidelines for animals and plants in the future that require increased safety levels for EMF emissions will Ofcom bring these into its regulations and require operators to adhere to these new levels in future?

Is Ofcom only responsible for regulating safe EMF emissions in relation to humans and not animals and plants?

Our response

Our role in relation to electromagnetic fields (EMF) is explained on our [website](#). In particular, we have powers to [impose conditions](#) in spectrum licences for the protection of the general public from EMF, which we have done.

We do not have veterinary or horticultural expertise to make judgments about EMF exposure levels for the protection of animals and plants. The ICNIRP Guidelines do not currently set EMF levels for the protection of animals and plants and the Government department that is responsible for this has not raised concerns with us about EMF levels for the protection of animals and plants.

Even if they did, Ofcom currently has no powers to impose licence conditions for the protection of animals and plants from EMF and new legislation would be required to give us new powers to do this.

If you have any further queries, then please send them to information.requests@ofcom.org.uk quoting the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Information Requests

If you are unhappy with the response you have received in relation to your request for information and/or consider that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law, you may ask for an internal review. If you ask us for an internal review of our decision, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom.

The following outcomes are possible:

- the original decision is upheld; or
- the original decision is reversed or modified.

Timing

If you wish to exercise your right to an internal review **you should contact us within two months of the date of this letter**. There is no statutory deadline for responding to internal reviews and it will depend upon the complexity of the case. However, we aim to conclude all such reviews within 20 working days, and up to 40 working days in exceptional cases. We will keep you informed of the progress of any such review. If you wish to request an internal review, you should contact information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Further information about this, and the internal review process can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office [here](#). Alternatively, the Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF