

Reference: 01772985

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

16 February 2024

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about tower output values - Scotland.

We received this request on 1 February 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the “EIR”).

Your request & our response

There are 2 towers in which I have particular interest:

- 1) 64 Iona St Edinburgh, Scotland
- 2) 4 Station Rd Scotland (Ratho Station)

I would like to know the following

- 1) *Operating frequency bands of those towers*

The frequencies licensed for the UK mobile network operators’ (MNO) licences are published in the [mobile and wireless broadband](#) area of Ofcom’s website. These are ‘block-assigned’, meaning that the MNOs plan and manage their own deployments of frequencies at each site.

- 2) *The power output and the antenna gains of those towers*

Copies of the UK mobile network operators licences are published in the [mobile and wireless broadband](#) area of Ofcom’s website. These set out the maximum permitted transmitter power levels. However, in order to optimise network planning, actual transmission powers are often significantly lower than the permitted maximum. Also, the output power will vary dynamically due to many factors including call traffic volumes, weather conditions and the amount of bandwidth in use.

- 3) *Safety assessment reports. Especially at 64 Iona Street right near the playground for children.*

Ofcom does not carry out, or hold, safety assessment reports for mobile phone masts.

However, you may find the following information helpful. Licences issued by Ofcom require licensees to ensure that their use of equipment (operating above a certain power) complies with the internationally agreed EMF levels in Guidelines issued by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) for the protection of the general public. This is consistent with advice from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), which is responsible for public health matters

associated with radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (EMF), or radio waves. UKHSA's main advice is that EMF levels should comply with the internationally agreed levels in the ICNIRP Guidelines.

Ofcom also carries out unannounced tests of EMF levels around radio transmitters, including mobile phone masts, and can take enforcement action against spectrum licensees if they produce EMF at levels above those set out in the ICNIRP Guidelines. These measurements are [published on Ofcom's website](#). All measurements to date over many years have shown that EMF levels are well within the internationally agreed levels in the ICNIRP Guidelines (and typically less than 1% of these levels).

Our [General EMF queries](#) may help to answer other questions you may have on this subject.

4) OFCOM official policy or regulation of the tower placement

Ofcom has no involvement in the planning process for physical structures that may host radio equipment (such as masts, buildings, lampposts or other street furniture), or in the enforcement of planning law. The responsibility for planning policy falls to the DLUHC - [Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities](#). In particular, Section 10 (Communications) of the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (2021) outlines the planning criteria for communications infrastructure for England. There is also a [Code of best practice on mobile network development in England](#).

Please see the [planning policy](#) section of our website for further details on this.

I hope this information is helpful. 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

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](#).