

Reference: 01851684

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

26 July 2024

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about mast radiation information, SW6 1TH.

We received this request on 15 July 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

Regarding the 5G mast installed on the roof of the Fulham Telephone Exchange at Peterborough Road, SW6 1TH:

1) who is the owner of the mast?

We do not hold information on the ownership of masts.

2) have you audited radio frequency levels at this mast (it is not listed on your results page)?

We have checked our records and can confirm that we have not carried out an audit at this postcode.

3) when were the 5G masts installed?

We do not hold this information.

4) what masts were in place prior to this? 4G?

We do not hold this information.

It may be helpful for us to provide some background on our role in relation to radio spectrum and electromagnetic fields (EMF).....

Ofcom is not responsible for authorising or controlling the physical telecommunications masts or towers used for mobile phone transmissions. Rather, we authorise and manage the use of the radio spectrum in the UK, including the spectrum used by mobile network operators (MNOs). We issue licences and set conditions for the use of spectrum without a licence. Further information on our role in relation to EMF is available on our [website](#) (see also our [General EMF queries](#)).

MNOs have licences issued by Ofcom which authorise the use of blocks of spectrum on a national basis, for which they self-plan their assignments and rollout. Ofcom does not hold information about where and when 5G will be deployed in the future. Licences have been issued on the basis of technology and service neutrality, which means that the user can decide what technology to use or

service to provide in a particular frequency band as long as it complies with the technical conditions we have set.

Ofcom also has no involvement in the planning process for physical structures such as masts, buildings etc that may host radio equipment, or in the enforcement of planning law. This is a matter for local planning authorities. The responsibility for planning policy falls to the [Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government](#). (MHCLG). In particular, Section 10 (paragraphs 114–118) of MHCLG's [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (July 2021) outlines the planning criteria for communications infrastructure in England.

There are also [codes of practice in England and Wales](#) which explain that MNOs are committed to compliance with internationally agreed levels of exposure to electromagnetic fields. These codes also require MNOs to self-certify that installations comply with the public exposure levels in the ICNIRP Guidelines. Further information on [Masts and planning](#) is available on our website.

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](#).