

Reference: 01863298

Information Requests  
[information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk)

30 August 2024

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about the evaluation of the application made by Hertfordshire Digital Broadcasting in respect of the South Hertfordshire SSDAB operator licence.

We received this request on 5 August 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

### Your request

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*“I request a copy of the formal evaluation of the application made by Hertfordshire Digital Broadcasting in respect of the South Hertfordshire SSDAB operator licence...*

*If you will not provide me with a full copy of the evaluation I would like specific responses to a number of issues raised in the published evaluation...*

*Sites selection:*

...

*What were the comments in the evaluation about sites?*

*Hole punching and interference*

...

*What were the comments in the evaluation about hole punching and interference?*

*Planning permission*

...

*What were the comments in the evaluation about planning permissions?”*

### Our response

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Within your Freedom of Information request you refer to a “published evaluation” of the rival bid and requested the “formal evaluation” of your own bid. We have interpreted your reference to a published evaluation as meaning the [South Hertfordshire \(South Herts DAB Limited\) award statement \(ofcom.org.uk\)](https://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/south_herts_dab/south_herts_dab_statement_ofcom.org.uk). Please note, this is the only decision taken in relation to the competition for this licence and it sets out the reasons for the award. We do not hold documents which cover the evaluation by the decision makers of unsuccessful bids. We have interpreted your request for “comments in the evaluation” about various issues as referring to the evaluation by decision makers of the Hertfordshire Digital Broadcasting application. As explained, we do not hold such information.

You may find it helpful to know that there are ‘assessor’s sheets’ for all applications which are prepared by Ofcom staff to assist decision makers in their evaluations. Assessor’s sheets highlight notable aspects of the applications, including coverage plans. This includes information on whether there are hole-punching and interference issues in the applicant’s proposed technical plan, including whether mitigations would be required and, if so, their likely impact on coverage. Decision makers will reach their own view on these and other matters when making their decision on the award of a small-scale DAB multiplex licence. Please note that exemptions under the FOI Act may apply to assessor’s sheets, such as section 43 and 44 if you wish to request for them in the future.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any further queries, then please send them to [information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](#).