

Reference: 01888374

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

5 September 2024

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about licences MNOs and enforcement compliance.

We received this request on 27 August 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

### Your request and our response

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*“I believe Ofcom issues licenses to mobile network operators, allowing them to use specific frequencies for their networks.*

*And Ofcom also ensures that the operators comply with international guidelines on exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF) to protect public health, but they do not directly certify the towers. Instead, they monitor and enforce compliance with these guidelines.*

*My questions are:*

*How do the public see the granted licenses?*

Copies of the UK mobile network operators (MNO) licences are published in the [mobile and wireless broadband area](#) of Ofcom’s website. These set out the maximum permitted transmitter power levels. Since 2021, all MNO licences have included specific requirements for complying with EMF levels.

*How does Ofcom monitor and enforce compliance?*

Our EMF licence condition and [Guidance on EMF compliance and enforcement](#) (“EMF Guidance”) requires licensees to carry out an EMF assessment before they commence use of their radio equipment (see section 6 of our [EMF Guidance](#)). Licensees must also keep appropriate EMF compliance records (except in certain scenarios as set out in Section 12 of our [EMF Guidance](#)).

Ofcom carries out compliance checks of licensed radio equipment as part of its ongoing spectrum assurance work programme, including checks of EMF compliance records. Ofcom also carries out unannounced measurements of EMF levels near to mobile base stations to ensure they are complying with the levels in the ICNIRP Guidelines. These measurements are published on our [website](#). All measurements taken to date have shown EMF levels that are well within the internationally agreed levels in the ICNIRP Guidelines.

Further information on our approach to compliance and enforcement is set out in our Further information on EMF Licence conditions can be found here: [EMF licence condition FAQs](#) and in our [EMF Guidance](#).

*How many licenses have breached the exposure and required enforcement compliance?"*

To date, no breaches of the exposure levels have been identified.

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](#).