

Reference: 01883356

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

24 September 2024

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning the number of mobile telephone numbers issued.

We received this request on 5 September 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### Your request

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*What was the total number of new mobile phone numbers issued in the UK each year from 1994 to 2024 year to date, by year, and split (if possible) between those attached to a contract, versus pay as you go numbers; and for the same years, how many were in actual use i.e. actually made a call.*

### Our response

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Ofcom allocates large blocks of mobile numbers to mobile providers (i.e. blocks of 100,000 numbers). However, we do not hold information on how many numbers are then assigned or 'issued' by the mobile providers to their customers. If you wish to obtain information about the issuing of individual numbers, you may wish to contact the mobile providers directly.

You may find it helpful to know that Ofcom publishes the National Numbering Scheme, which we update every week. This shows the status of mobile number blocks (as well as all other number types) and can be used to look up when blocks of mobile numbers were allocated to mobile providers. This information is in the public domain and can be found [here](#) under the entry for 07 numbers. The Excel spreadsheet shows each mobile number block and its allocation date, from which you can gain year-by-year allocation information.

However, please note that the list of number block allocations is a snapshot of how it stands at the moment. Information on mobile number blocks allocated year by year will have changed during the period 1994 to 2024 (e.g. number blocks allocated and then withdrawn during that period will no longer be shown as allocated; transfers from one mobile provider to another will not show the year of the initial allocation; changes in the telephone numbering scheme in 2000 when all mobile numbers were changed to start with 07).

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](#).