

Reference: 01940479

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

20 January 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning Spectrum Awards' frequencies.

We received this request on 6 January 2025. We sought clarification of your request on 6 January 2025, and we received clarification on 7 January 2025. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request

When a Licence is awarded to a successful bidder, for example EE, for what period is the bidder able to use the relevant part of the spectrum?

Clarified as:

Recently, by way of example, Hutchison 3G UK Limited was awarded a licence for the 713-723 MHz and 768-778 MHz frequencies. My question is for what period of time can Hutchinson use those frequencies? Is there a time limit after which they revert back to the government?

Our response

Paragraphs 4.9 to 4.13 of this [Award](#) contain information about terms, revocation and variation of licences for this spectrum.

As explained in this memorandum, licences were awarded for an indefinite period of time, until either revoked by Ofcom or surrendered by the licensee. During the initial term of 20 years Ofcom has limited rights of revocation. After the Initial Term, we are able to revoke the licence for spectrum management reasons, provided we have given the licensee at least five years' notice.

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](#).