

Reference: 1936561

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

22 January 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information on Home Office radio codes.

We received this request on 23 December 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

Please see below request to Home Office, who have advised you may be able to fulfill partially.

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/pnc_codes

Can you provide the current updated list of HO Radio Codes?

Our response

We have searched for information on PNC codes for the Home Office and can confirm we do not hold information on this. We do hold information on Home Office call signs, however, we are unable to disclose this information as we consider it is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1)(a) of the FOI Act. This part of the act deals with information that, if disclosed would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

Section 31(1)(a) of the FOI Act is a qualified exemption which means that we have had to consider whether or not the public interest in disclosing the information you have requested outweighs the public interest in withholding the information. In this case, we consider the public interest favours withholding the information. The attached Annex A to this letter sets out the exemption in full, as well as the factors Ofcom considered when deciding where the public interest lay.

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](#).

Annex A

<p>Section 31 (1) of the FOI Act provides that:</p> <p>Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice –</p> <p>(a) the prevention or detection of crime;</p>	
Factors for disclosure	Factors for withholding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure would promote general transparency with the public in relation to areas and stakeholders we regulate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the information is disclosed, it may enable individuals to decrypt and receive information not intended for them and be used for criminal activity. • Given the use of the information by the Police, Fire and Prison services, interception of these communications could assist suspects or criminals with security measures and procedures. • Providing this information could compromise law enforcement tactics, which could hinder security forces the ability to protect themselves and members of the public against crime and terrorism activities.
Reasons why public interest favours withholding information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosing this information could cause harm and damage if disclosed. Those negative consequences would be prejudicial to the prevention or detection of crime and contrary to a strong public interest. • We consider that, on balance, the public interest in withholding disclosure of the requested information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. 	

