

Reference: 01413615

Eleanor Scott
Information Rights Advisor
Information.requests@ofcom.org.uk
24 February 2022

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information in relation to sonobuoys. We received this request on 28 January 2022 and have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

You asked:

- 1. Can Ofcom confirm if Sonobuoys operating near 166.2Mhz frequency band have been deployed in either the River Mersey, Liverpool bay, or the Irish Sea? And if so when were they deployed and why?*
- 2. Can you also tell me who and what is operating currently around the 166.2Mhz frequency and again when this signal became live?*

Our response

1. Ofcom does not hold this information. Ofcom does not issue individual authorisations for the use of sonobuoys, as the users are Government (or those working on behalf of government) and this legislation, the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006, does not extend to the Crown. To be helpful, 166.2MHz does fall within the frequency band used by sonobuoys as outlined in our [Frequency sharing arrangements between civil and military services](#) publication.
2. The frequency 166.2MHz is allocated to Business Radio. The attached spreadsheet outlines the authorised licenses to operate on this frequency.

If you have any queries, then please contact information.requests@ofcom.org.uk. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Eleanor Scott

If you are unhappy with the response you have received in relation to your request for information and/or consider that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law you may ask for an internal review. If you ask us for an internal review of our decision, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom.

The following outcomes are possible:

- the original decision is upheld; or
- the original decision is reversed or modified.

Timing

If you wish to exercise your right to an internal review **you should contact us within two months of the date of this letter**. There is no statutory deadline for responding to internal reviews and it will depend upon the complexity of the case. However, we aim to conclude all such reviews within 20 working days, and up to 40 working days in exceptional cases. We will keep you informed of the progress of any such review. If you wish to request an internal review, you should contact information.requests@ofcom.org.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF