

Reference: 1394953

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10 January 2021

Dear

## Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about 5G Spectrum in operation now (Dec 2021).

We received this request on 9 December 2021 and have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### Your request

*You asked: 'Could you tell me the current, in use, 5G spectrum. And also, the future dates for 5G spectrum use. I think it is 700MHz and the band between 3.4GHz and 3.6GHz across 4 providers and no other spectrum is being used. Please advise if that is the case?'*

*In addition, when will the other spectrums for 5G use become operational i/e 3.6 to 3.8GHz and 3.8to 4.2GHz. I am asking because this spectrum is adjacent or the same as Radio Altimeters used on commercial aircraft which are critical for landing operations.'*

### Our response

There is no spectrum in the UK that is dedicated solely for 5G, however there are a range of bands which may be suitable / used for 5G (or other services). Additionally, spectrum currently used for 2G/3G/4G may be converted to 5G use over time. The 700 MHz, 3.4-3.6 GHz and 3.6-3.8 GHz frequency bands have been awarded by auction. These frequency bands are likely to be used by mobile network operators to deliver a range of services, including 5G mobile. All operators have some 5G deployments within some or all of these bands.

Details of the frequency allocations for mobile operators are published on our website page [Mobile and Wireless Broadband](#). It is likely that some of these bands, and others in higher frequency ranges, may become used for 5G services in due course. Our advice page [What is 5G?](#) and the Ofcom/UK Government publication [A guide to 5G](#) may help to provide context and further information.

In addition, the 3.8 – 4.2 GHz band is licensed on a base station by base station basis. Some of the uses are likely to be using 5G, but at much lower powers than the mobile operators typically use in other bands. Authorisation for mobile services stops at 4.195 GHz leaving 5 MHz separation to the start of the 4.2 – 4.4 GHz band used by radio altimeters.

I 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,

Gloria Akinyemi

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](mailto: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