

Reference: 01403787

Eleanor Scott
Information Rights Advisor
Information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

31 January 2022

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information in relation to an O2 mast near your property. We received this request on 7 January 2022 and have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

You asked:

I was wondering if there has ever been tests done on the O2 phone mast base station with regards to health/ safety / emissions for prolonged exposure.

I currently live at the address that has this mast on. I don't take any rent for the mast.

It is approx 25m from my lounge. It seems to be constantly upgraded and a mast that was nearby was removed so this is used more.

Is it within my right to ask O2 to do a survey if one doesn't exist.

Our response

I thought it would be useful for me to provide some context on the framework for ensuring compliance with EMF exposure guidelines.

Mobile network operators (MNOs) have voluntarily entered into a [Code of best practice on mobile network development in England](#). This Code of Practice explains that MNOs are committed to compliance with internationally agreed levels of exposure to electromagnetic fields in the [ICNIRP Guidelines](#) and requires MNOs to sign a declaration confirming that they have complied with these levels when applying for planning permission for a new site or a change to an existing site.

In addition, MNOs are required by their Ofcom licence to ensure that their use of radio complies with the ICNIRP Guidelines. Ofcom carries out a programme of work near mobile phone base stations to check levels of EMF exposure are in fact compliant with the ICNIRP Guidelines. Our [website](#) provides information on recent testing and measurements of EMF levels that we have taken near mobile base stations. All of the measurements we have undertaken over many years have shown that EMF levels are well within the internationally agreed levels in the ICNIRP Guidelines (the maximum level we have measured to date is 7.1% of the ICNIRP Guidelines).

We have not undertaken any recent measurements in your area. However, we are continuing to carry out EMF measurements and will publish these on our website.

We also provide a service where individuals can request Ofcom carry out EMF measurements near mobile base stations. This is a chargeable service. Further information is available [here](#).

You may also wish to contact O2 for information on the mast near your property. The trade association MobileUK (www.mobileuk.org) is a central contact point for enquiries to the industry. Its [code of practice](#) on mobile network development (mentioned earlier) includes operator contact points (see appendix G) for mast enquiries.

I hope this information is helpful. 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