

Reference: 01421570

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14 March 2022

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information in relation to audits of ICNIRP. We received this request on 14 February 2022 and have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the “FOI Act”) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the “EIR”).

You asked:

Your Regulations indicate that the telecoms companies ICNIRP calculations are subject to audit. I would like to understand how many audits related to evaluating telecom companies ICNIRP calculations for mobile phone masts have taken place, how many of these audits evaluated masts that were in urban areas with public housing in the close vicinity, how many of the evaluations included an evaluation of buildings, trees and other street furniture etc that may cause members of the public to be exposed to EMF emissions exceeding ICNIRP requirements and how many of these audits showed that the company was not in compliance with the requirements.

Our response

Ofcom carries out a rolling programme of measurements near mobile phone base stations to check levels of EMF exposure are compliant with the general public EMF limits. Our [website](#) provides information on measurements of EMF levels that we have taken near mobile base stations between 2004 and 2021. Measurements prior to 2004 were undertaken by Ofcom’s predecessor the Radiocommunications Agency (RA) and are available to view in the National Archives: [2001](#), [2002](#) & [2003](#). All of the measurements we have undertaken over many years have shown that EMF levels are well within general public EMF limits.

We have taken measurements around a variety of mobile sites at locations across the UK including in busy publicly accessible areas as well as more residential and rural areas. In deciding the precise location to take measurements near to a mobile site, we take into account a variety of factors including (1) the areas in which we consider the general public may be present; (2) the areas in which we consider EMF exposure is likely to be the highest; and (3) the local surroundings which may, for example, mean we do not take all measurements from ground level. The vast majority of our measurements to date have been taken in urban areas and many of these have been in

residential areas (i.e. close to public housing). However we do not hold information on the proportion of measurements which were close to public housing.

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. Further information about this, and the internal review process can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office [here](#). Alternatively, the Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire

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