

Reference: 01498528

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22 September 2022

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning the gender split of Amateur Radio licensees. Your request was received on 24 August 2022 and we have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'Act').

Your request

You asked:

Amateur Radio is seen as a male dominated hobby. Some amateur radio clubs, societies and communities are striving to achieve a gender balance more representative of the general population while having no means to measure a club, society or community's gender balance against that of the licenced community. It is acknowledged that gender is not a characteristic explicitly recorded by Ofcom.

Please can you provide the percentage proportion (to 2 decimal places) of each of the 'titles' (including 'none') recorded against the name for all currently active amateur radio licences along with the total number of licenced amateurs at the time of extract.

I feel that this information analysis should be relatively easy to to extract and process, while not exposing any personal details. It will provide an inferred baseline against which we can measure the effectiveness of efforts to improve gender balance within Amateur Radio

Our response

Please find attached a list of the titles of current Amateur Radio licence holders provided in Excel format. We do not hold this information as percentages, however we have provided the number of each.

Please note that some specific titles were provided by a small number of licence holders. We consider that, given the low numbers of licensees with these titles, disclosure of the precise numbers may contravene the data protection principles as individual licensees may be identifiable from the disclosure of this information. Section 40(2) of the Act provides that personal data which relates to persons other than the requester is exempt where, amongst other things, its disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in the General Data Protection Regulation

and the Data Protection Act 2018. Those principles include that personal data must be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption and is not subject to a public interest test. We have therefore combined titles used by fewer than ten licensees into a category labelled 'Other' in the attached list.

I hope this information is helpful. 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

Zach Westbrook

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
SK9 5AF