

Reference: 1594906

Information Requests  
Information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

9 May 2023

## Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about the use of medium wave and long wave bands.

We received this request on 6 April 2023 and have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### Your request

*You asked: 'I am enquiring about the long wave and medium wave frequencies and their future use. With Absolute Radio (1215 Khz) leaving the airwaves as well as TalkSport (1053 khz, 1071 Khz and 1107 khz) reducing output power and coverage are there any plans to use those frequencies once they are clear?*

*Are there any licence requests for new stations to use those or other frequencies on the MW band? As more and power stations or leaving the band due to costs, will the band be open to Amateur radio use on an experimental low power basis?*

*Also RTE is leaving the LW on 252 Khz as this transmits from Eire are there any plans for this frequency or is this outside of Ofcom's power?'*

### Our response

Ofcom has received a small number of informal enquiries about what may be happening to the medium wave frequencies where broadcasters have ceased or reduced their use of them. We have no plans at present either to advertise new licences for commercial radio services that would operate on medium wave frequencies, nor to make them available for other uses.

There are international agreements setting out which frequencies are used by each country for broadcasting. Even though the transmitter in the Republic of Ireland has ceased transmitting on 252 kHz, the UK does not have the right to use it instead, and we have no plans to make use of the frequency in the UK.

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) quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Information requests

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. 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