

Reference: 01671897

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

11 October 2023

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning EMF radiation measurements in the UK in relation to 5G testing. Your request was received on 14 September 2023 and we have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the “FOI Act”) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (the “EIR”).

Your request

“I wish to make a Freedom of Information request for the data of your measurements of emf radiation in the UK in relation to the 5G testing.

I am not interested in these being represented as a %age of the ICNIRP standards because these are being questioned by scientists as biological effects have been demonstrated at much lower levels.

I would like to have a copy of the raw data please for each site since 5G testing began so I can compare it to my own results. I have a GQ EMF-390 so I get readings in V/m or mW/m2 so could I please have the results in that format.”

Our response

[The UK Health Security Agency](#) (UKHSA) is responsible for public health matters associated with radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (EMF), or radio waves. UKHSA publish information about EMF and health on their website.

UKHSA’s main advice is that EMF levels should comply with the internationally agreed levels in the [ICNIRP Guidelines](#).

Ofcom is not a public health body. Ofcom authorises and manages the use of the radio spectrum in the UK. We issue licences and set conditions for the use of spectrum without a licence.

In performing that role, we take into account the advice of UKHSA in relation to EMF. Taking into account UKHSA’s advice, spectrum licences issued by Ofcom require licensees to ensure that their use of equipment (operating above a certain power) complies with the internationally agreed EMF levels in the ICNIRP Guidelines for the protection of the general public.

We also test EMF levels near to mobile base stations to ensure they comply with the internationally agreed levels in the ICNIRP Guidelines. Our [website](#) provides information on recent testing and measurements of EMF levels that we have taken near mobile base stations. Our [published measurements](#) have consistently shown that EMF levels are well within the internationally agreed levels in the ICNIRP Guidelines.

We do not hold any raw measurement data prior to 2023. Measurements carried out prior to 2023 were taken using Narda equipment and we do not hold raw measurement data associated with use of this equipment.

We do hold some raw measurement data for measurements carried out with different equipment (the Agilent Fieldfox with AGOS probe) from 1 January 2023. However, this data is stored in a dBuV/m format and not the format you have requested. More importantly, it will not be possible to carry out any reliable comparison between our measurements and measurements you may carry out with your own equipment. In particular, measurements are only accurate at a particular point in time and can be affected by a variety of factors including the operators present on a site and the technology in use at that particular time. Different types of equipment, measurement methods and calibration techniques can also all result in different measurements. On that basis, we have not at this stage provided you with this raw measurement data. If you do still want access to this raw measurement data taking into account its limited use, we will need to consider whether it may be possible to disclose it or whether one of more exceptions in the EIR may apply.

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

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

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