

Reference: 1930816

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

23 December 2024

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about community radio unsuccessful applications.

We received this request on 5 November 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

Your request

As part of one of my research projects, I'm using information about Community Radios and applications issued by Ofcom as one of the data sources. While we successfully retrieved a good amount of data on the radios that were granted a license, we find it difficult to learn more about those that got rejected in the process. I'd be grateful for any help or guidance in pointing me to any materials you might have and are able to share about such unsuccessful applicants.

Our response

We do not hold any information on unsuccessful licence applications. Ofcom has a data retention period for all licence applications. For unsuccessful analogue community radio applications, this retention period is three years. Since Ofcom has not awarded any analogue community radio licences since 2020, we do not hold any information on unsuccessful licence applications.

However, to be helpful, you may wish to refer to our website: [Apply for a radio broadcast licence - Ofcom](#) which lists our statements on previous awards. If you click on the tile ‘Apply for a community radio licence.’ you will see a list of previously published award statements. These documents set out the reasons Ofcom chose to award community radio licences to the successful applicants.

In addition to this, when we announced successful applications, we also published updates on our website. [This is an example of such an update](#); you will note that each page also lists unsuccessful applications, although we did not publish any information regarding why these applications were unsuccessful. To find other similar update publications, [use this link](#) and continue to click through each page to find the updates.

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

Request an internal review

If you are unhappy with the response you have received to your request for information, or think that your request was refused without a reason valid under the law, you may ask for an internal review. If you do, it will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom. We will either uphold the original decision, or reverse or modify it.

If you would like to ask us to carry out an internal review, you should get in touch within two months of the date of this letter. There is no statutory deadline for us to complete our internal review, and the time it takes will depend on the complexity of the request. But we will try to complete the review within 20 working days (or no more than 40 working days in exceptional cases) and keep you informed of our progress. Please email the Information Requests team (information.requests@ofcom.org.uk) to request an internal review.

Taking it further

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our internal review, then you have the right to [complain to the Information Commissioner's Office](#).