

Reference: 01767658

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

16 February 2024

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about a proposed SRN Mast on Slieve Meen/Slieve Martin in Northern Ireland.

We received this request on 19 January 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request & our response

Many thanks for your reply of November 15, 2023 providing pixel data for the Slieve Martin/Slieve Meen area in Northern Ireland.

The agents for the proposed SRN mast have recently submitted a new pixel map which again appears to show the existing Ulster Aerials mast and a second smaller mast on the mountain (which they say is operated by the PSNI) as being in a "blue pixel and there (sic) not suitable in SRN terms". From the data you supplied, however, the pixels of the proposed mast, the existing Ulster Aerials mast and the other smaller existing mast all are classified the same ie 4.

Could you possibly clarify what the 4 represents in the data you supplied and what the other values signify ie 0 and 1,2,3? I have included the grid references/unique pixel IDs for all 3 masts, proposed and existing, below.

The numeric values attached to each of the pixels listed in Column D of the Annex attached to our response of [15 November 2023](#) ("[Annex – Pixel list Extract](#)") represent an assessment of the number of Mobile Network Operators (the "MNOs") who predicted to have a signal strength at or above the required threshold that defines 'coverage' (i.e., the "Required Service") for the purposes of the "2020 Coverage Obligations". As previously indicated in our response of [15 November 2023](#), and as you have identified in your latest request (which we have duplicated below for ease of reference), this assessment was made by Ofcom on the basis of information initially supplied by the MNOs in January 2020 (and refined in 2021), and has been subsequently shared with the MNOs to assist them in their network planning for the Shared Rural Network programme. The value "0" signifies that at that point in time, none of the MNOs predicted to have coverage in that location. The value "1 2 3" signifies that one, two or three MNOs had coverage (i.e. the area was a "Partial Not Spot" for the purposes of the "2020 Coverage Obligations"). The value "4" signifies an area where all four MNOs were predicted to have coverage.

Also could I confirm the data you sent, while submitted by the MNOs in January 2020, will be that used to assess compliance with the SRN agreement regardless of any more up-to-date information available from MNOs.

Proposed mast reference 127 990 474 Unique Pixel ID 21390359

Ulster Aerials existing mast 128 100 474 400 (exact 128 067 474 413) Unique Pixel ID 21393165

Second existing mast 128 400 474 200 (exact 128 449 474 178) pixel Unique Pixel ID 21406875

Compliance with the “2020 Coverage Obligations” will be assessed based on the MNOs’ coverage at the time that each relevant obligation falls due, but for certain aspects of the assessment (e.g. checks to confirm that coverage has been added in eligible locations for the purposes of the Shared Rural Network programme), reference will be made to their historic baseline footprint (i.e., the “2020 Baseline Coverage Footprint”), an extract of which we have shared with you in the Annex attached to our response of [15 November 2023](#) (“[Annex – Pixel list Extract](#)”).

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,

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](#).