

Reference: 01885836

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

3 October 2024

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about broadcast signal intrusions.

We received this request on 16 September 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request and our response

In our responses to your questions below, we have interpreted 'broadcast signal' and 'British TV' to mean TV services transmitted via terrestrial transmitters or satellite, that are intended for reception in the UK.

- 1) *Have there been in the last ten years any incidents of Broadcast Signal Intrusions (hacking of a TV transmission to broadcast an unauthorised transmission) on British TV? If so, please give a list of dates and details of the incidents.*

We have not received information indicating there has been such interference on TV stations broadcasting in the UK.

- 2) *If they hasn't been any incidents of Broadcast Signal Intrusions on British TV in the last ten years, when was the last one? And, give details, what channels were affected? How long was it? And were the culprits caught? And, if you have any footage of it, can you supply it.*

We do not hold any information relating to this question.

- 3) *There is pirate radio, but is there such a thing as Pirate TV? If so, please give details.*

We have not received information indicating there has been pirate TV stations broadcasting in the UK.

- 4) *What is Amateur TV? is it licensed? what are the requirements for licensing? who operates it?*

Individuals can apply to Ofcom for an amateur radio licence that we issue under the Wireless Telegraphy Act to those that have passed an exam administered by the Radio Society of Great Britain. Amateur transmissions must be used solely for the purposes of self-training in radio communications or as a leisure activity, and not for commercial purposes of any kind. As well as morse code, voice or data, some amateur radio frequency bands can transmit television-like signals (i.e. pictures as well as sound) for reception by others on some of the frequency bands authorised for use by radio amateurs. Amateur licences do not authorise transmitting on the frequencies used by broadcast TV, and amateur TV signals are therefore not receivable on home TV sets. Further information is available on our website:

- [Licensing guidance document for amateur radio \(ofcom.org.uk\)](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/consult/condocs/ra/ra0606/ra0606.pdf)
- [Amateur Radio Wireless Telegraphy Licence Conditions Booklet \(ofcom.org.uk\)](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/consult/condocs/ra/ra0606/ra0606_booklet.pdf)

5) *Are there any (legal not pirate) TV broadcasters in the UK that are not regulated by Ofcom? If so, why are they not regulated?*

We are interpreting your question as being about TV broadcast services that are transmitted in or to the UK, rather than about TV broadcast organisations that are simply located in the UK, but do not broadcast in the UK.

Any TV service that is accessed via a regulated UK Electronic Programme Guide (EPG) needs to be licensed and regulated in the UK. The exceptions to this are TV services from countries party to the European Convention on Transfrontier Television (ECTT) which are broadcast into the UK, as well as the following Irish services: TG4, RTÉ1 and RTÉ2. Further information on what constitutes a regulated EPG and the ECTT is available in this note: [Frequently asked questions on linear television services and video on demand services after Brexit \(ofcom.org.uk\)](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/consult/condocs/linear_tv_services/linear_tv_services.pdf)

We 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](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/consult/condocs/ica/ica0606/ica0606.pdf).