

Reference: 1900117

Information Requests  
[information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk)

28 October 2024

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Radio amateur licences breakdown by duration held and age.

We received this request on 30 September 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

### Your request

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*"Please provide one or more datasets detailing a breakdown of amateur radio licences issued, describing:*

- licence type, and*
- time since license was issued (or simply the date issued if that is easier to extract/provide).*

*Please also include data on the following:*

- licence status (e.g., to flag reserved call signs which have not yet been revoked/cancelled but are still issued, and any other categories in use),*
- age of the licensee (or year of birth - whichever is easiest to extract/provide).*

*Without seeing the raw data it is difficult to gauge if this is a reasonable request. For this reason, please interpret this as a request for data that is as close as possible (e.g., by grouping/bucketing the data into brackets or another technique as you deem fit). If grouping data, please use brackets/buckets which are as small/granular as possible, and only combine it with its nearest neighbour(s) where needed while keeping other brackets narrow. For example, if the split of "foundation licencees who have held their licence for three years" is deemed to be too small to split into single-year age groups due to, e.g. 1990, being only a single person, please group only the too-small brackets with a neighbour and keep the remainder narrow (i.e., have the age/year of birth buckets like so, noting that 1990 has been merged with 1991 while all other years remain un-merged: 1988,1989,1990-1991,1992,1993).*

*Similarly, if the "time since licence issued" is too granular at the day/month level, please provide narrow groups/brackets such as < 6 months, <1 year, >=1 and <2 years, >=2 and <3 years, etc. (with, perhaps, wider specific brackets such as ">=40 years and <45 years" if the data requires it while keeping the other brackets narrow).*

*If it is not possible to include both age and duration that the licence has been issued in the same*

*dataset, please consider alternative options such as providing a data file for each individually.”*

## **Our response**

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Please see the attached spreadsheets for information that has been extracted from our systems, where held. We are unable to disclose information about the age of or year of birth where held of callsign licence holders, as we consider that this information is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the FOI Act. This provides that personal information about persons other than the requester is exempt where, among other things, its disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018. Section 40 is an absolute exemption under the FOI Act and does not require a public interest test.

We 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) – 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](mailto: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](#).