

Reference: 1965587

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

19 March 2025

## Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about Community Radio Funding.

We received this request on 24 February 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

### Your request and our response

---

...can I ask for the following information, I'm not sure if you're able to provide directly or if it formally needs to be an FOI (If it does then please do consider it an FOI if need be).

1. Lists of which stations have received funding every year for the last 10 years (or 5 years if 10 would be seemed to much admin / over FOI limits), please breakdown by station name & company/licencee, amount awarded, and what the funding was for (name of project/role etc will be fine, similar to what is already published). – I tried to find this myself/ direct individuals to the data but the Ofcom website only seems to list the last 3 years of data?

You can find a list of stations awarded funding dating back to 2021 on our [website](#). Further award announcements dating back to 2014 are available at the [national archives](#). The information provides the station name, purpose and amount awarded.

2. For the same period, details of funding that has been clawed back each year, and summary of reasons why, BUT I fully expect this to be not identifiable eg not naming stations, or detailed that could identify stations.

Ofcom will request grant money to be returned when conditions of the agreement have not been met. There are various instances when money is returned to Ofcom, but broadly these are due to there being a material breach of the agreement or an underspend.

A material breach of the agreement can include the grant holder not submitting requested reports and/or information to Ofcom regarding the spending of the grant, or the grant holder spending money on activities outside of the designated purpose. Ofcom can also request money to be returned if the full amount of the grant has not been needed or used for the designated purpose, resulting in leftover funds.

When money is returned to Ofcom it is allocated to the next round of the Community Radio Fund subject to approval from DCMS. The process of requesting the return of grant money in this way often occurs over an extended period of time, so we do not hold and are unable to provide details about requests for returns of grant money by year.

3. And finally IF you're able to provide (FOI or not) full lists of who have been unsuccessful, names of station, amounts requested, and purpose of request (same as above, just the name of project/role will be fine).

We are unable to disclose this information as we consider that its disclosure is exempt under the FOI Act. In particular, under section 44 of the FOI Act, information is exempt from disclosure if its disclosure is prohibited by or under any enactment. In this case, section 393(1) of the Communications Act 2003 (the "Communications Act") prohibits the disclosure of information about a particular business (i.e. the unsuccessful applicants), which we have obtained in the course of exercising a power conferred by, among other legislation, the Communications Act, unless we have the consent of that business or one of the statutory gateways under section 393(2) of the Communications Act is met, neither of which apply here. Section 44 is an absolute exemption under the Communications 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](#).