

Reference: 1974548

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

14 April 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about the community radio licences for River Media Broadcasting and Radio Lisburn.

We received this request on 18 March 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request and our response

1. A copy of the application to transfer the community radio licence of Bangor FM to River Media Broadcasting?

While we do hold this information, we consider that disclosure of this information is exempt under the FOI Act. In particular, section 44(1)(a) of the FOI Act exempts disclosure of information if its disclosure is prohibited under another enactment. Ofcom is prohibited under section 393 of the Communications Act 2003 ('the Communications Act') from disclosing information about a business which we have obtained in the course of exercising a relevant power, 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 applies here. Section 44 is an absolute exemption and therefore is not subject to a public interest test.

2. A copy of any decision made regarding this licence?

No decision has been made as the application is still being assessed.

Please also disclose:

3. The date Radio Lisburn Live was granted their licence?

The digital community radio licence for Radio Lisburn Live was issued on 12 May 2022.

4. A copy of the commitments entered into by Radio Lisburn Live as part of their licence?

Radio Lisburn Live's Key Commitments are available on the [Ofcom website](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/radio-live).

With regards to Community Radio stations in general please also disclose:

5. After Ofcom grants community stations their licences how long do they have to bed in before they are compelled to honour the commitments entered into as part of their OFCOM licence?

Analogue community radio stations have a period of two years to launch the service following Ofcom awarding the licence. All newly-launched services are automatically granted a 28 day 'test transmission period' to ensure the technical configurations meet expectations. This only applies to the initial 28-day period following the launch of the service. Once the test transmission period of the first 28 days post-launch has lapsed services are expected to fully comply with their Key Commitments.

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](#).