

Reference: 1937736

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

28 January 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about licenses and documents in relation to the General Medical Council ('GMC') and the General Dental Council. ('GDC')

We received this request on 28 December 2024 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request

"Under the FOIA, please send forth copy(ies) of...

I.

- 1. The Radio License / Communication License / Broadcasting License for the body corporations of the General Medical Council and General Dental Council.*
- 2. Authority to Operate for the body corporations of the General Medical Council and General Dental Council*
- 3. Radio Operator's Certificate for the body corporations of the General Medical Council and General Dental Council*

If they do not hold single vessel licenses, but are covered under a fleet license, please send a copy of this instead.

II.

Please send any/all applicable items of legislation, policies, governance, codes of practice, documents, training and guidance for the above mentioned body corporates regarding advertising in general, as well as false and misleading advertising, safety of their advertising, etc.

III.

Please send forth copies of legislation, policies, governance, codes of practice, documents, training and guidance for these above mentioned body corporates regarding proper/correct use of their licenses when it comes to defamation and libel, harmful bullying, coercive control, threatening and intimidatory communications, aggressive advertising and sales techniques, etc."

Our response

I.

- 1. The Radio License / Communication License / Broadcasting License for the body corporations of*

the General Medical Council and General Dental Council.

2. Authority to Operate for the body corporations of the General Medical Council and General Dental Council

3. Radio Operator's Certificate for the body corporations of the General Medical Council and General Dental Council

If they do not hold single vessel licenses, but are covered under a fleet license, please send a copy of this instead.

We do hold a licence for the GMC and it is attached with this letter. The licence is a Business Radio Simple UK Licence which covers licence holders to use radio communications anywhere in land in the UK (but does not cover vessels) under certain licence parameters, for example, frequency and power.

We do not hold a licence for the GDC.

Please note we publish details of all Technically Assigned UK licences on our website: [Wireless Telegraphy Act Register - Ofcom](#)

II.

Please send any/all applicable items of legislation, policies, governance, codes of practice, documents, training and guidance for the above mentioned body corporates regarding advertising in general, as well as false and misleading advertising, safety of their advertising, etc.

and

III.

Please send forth copies of legislation, policies, governance, codes of practice, documents, training and guidance for these above mentioned body corporates regarding proper/correct use of their licenses when it comes to defamation and libel, harmful bullying, coercive control, threatening and intimidatory communications, aggressive advertising and sales techniques, etc.

The rules of a Business Radio Simple licence are contained in the Terms and Conditions. Please refer to the Business Radio area of Ofcom's website for more information:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/spectrum/radio-equipment/guidance-for-licensees/>. We have also attached a fact sheet which explains the protocols to follow when sharing a Business Radio channel with other users, and what can be done to make sure that users can operate satisfactorily without receiving interference.

For information on advertisements, please see this Ofcom webpage: [Advertisements - Ofcom](#) and have a look at the Advertising Standards Authority's website.

It is a matter for the GMC as to who operates the radios. Unlike Maritime licences there is no requirement for a radio user to be qualified.

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](#).