

Reference: 02078436

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

2 October 2025

Dear,

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning Pirate radio NW England.

We received this request on 11 September 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request

I would be grateful if you could provide details on the following:

- 1. Between 1991 and 2003, how many unlicensed/illegal radio stations were identified as operating in the Merseyside area, and how many were traced and subsequently closed down?*
- 2. From Ofcom's records, did these operations tend to involve the same groups of individuals, or were they carried out by a variety of different groups?*
- 3. I am particularly interested in a station known as Sound FM, which was active in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Could you provide any information on:*
 - * The location(s) from which it was believed to be broadcasting.*
 - * Whether enforcement action was taken against it, and if so, what action.*
 - * Whether the later appearances of the station (post-2012, which did not appear to be live) were linked to the same individuals, and whether they were investigated or closed down.*
- 4. Any available details on the types of transmission equipment typically seized from pirate stations in the Merseyside area during this period would also be very useful.*

Our response

The information you have requested predates Ofcom which was established in 2003. We do not hold any information in response to your request. You could try the National Archives to see if it holds any information from the prior regulator, The Radiocommunications Agency.

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](#).