

Reference: 02040866

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

16 September 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about the dates when companies became operators.

We received this request on 8 July 2025. We sought clarification of your request on 22 July 2025 and you responded with clarification on 18 August 2025. We have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Your request & our response

We were in fact looking for when the companies listed below became operators whether by licence pursuant to the Telecommunications Act 1984 or subsequently by direction pursuant to the Communications Act 2003?:

Clarified as:

It would therefore be useful to have copies of the licences which would have been granted by the Secretary of State where the party became an operator prior to the Communications Act 2003. Where the party became an operator after the coming into force of the Communications Act 2003 we would like to have copies of the directions that may have been made for the benefit of that party. In some cases there may be more than one licence or direction and we would be grateful for copies of all licences and directions.

In your clarification email, dated 18 August 2025, you added two companies to the request, namely Ioniqa Limited and Arqiva Limited.

We have interpreted your request to refer to the following documents in relation to the specified companies:

- a) directions relating to the [Electronic Communication Code](#) (ECC); and
- b) licences and licence amendments issued by Of tel.

As noted in our previous response, Ofcom maintains a list of consultations and directions relating to granting and revoking Code powers, listed chronologically (currently dating back to 2004), which can be found on our website: [Electronic Communications Code Consultations and Directions](#). The ones we hold specific to your request are shown below:

On Tower UK Limited (formerly Arqiva Services Limited) (Company number: 03196207)

Direction 26 May 2005

Direction modifying Code powers published on 27 May 2018

Link to the direction: [\[ARCHIVED CONTENT\] Consultation: Proposal to modify the direction applied to Code Powers to Arqiva Services Limited - Ofcom](#)

On Tower UK 1 Limited (formerly Arqiva No. 2 Limited) (Company number: 03922958)

27 January 2020

Link to the direction: [\[ARCHIVED CONTENT\] Consultation: Proposal to apply Code powers to Arqiva No. 2 Limited - Ofcom](#)

On Tower UK 2 Limited (formerly Arqiva No. 3 Limited) (Company number: 02973983)

27 January 2020

Link to the direction: [\[ARCHIVED CONTENT\] Consultation: Proposal to apply Code powers to Arqiva No. 3 Limited - Ofcom](#)

Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Limited (Company number: 08087551)

25 May 2017

Link to the direction: [\[ARCHIVED CONTENT\] Proposal to apply Code Powers to Cornerstone Telecommunications Infrastructure Limited - Ofcom](#)

Arqiva Limited (formerly National Transcommunications Limited) (Company number: 02487597)

Direction published on 10 March 2005

Direction published on 23 September 2018

Link to the directions: [\[ARCHIVED CONTENT\] Consultation: Proposal to modify the direction applied to Code Powers to Arqiva Limited - Ofcom](#) & [\[ARCHIVED CONTENT\] Direction under Section 106\(3\) of the Communications Act 2003 revoking a direction applying the Electronic Communications Code in the case of National Transcommunications Limited | Ofcom](#)

We have attached copies of the licences and license amendments that we hold for the following companies:

Vodafone Limited (formerly Racal Vodafone Limited) (Company number: 01471587)

28 June 1985

1 EE Limited (formerly Mercury Personal Communications Limited) (Company number: 02382161)

9 May 1995

Hutchison 3G UK Limited (Company number: 03885486)

21 December 2000

Orange Personal Communications Services Limited (formerly Microtel Communications Limited) (Company number: 02178917)

9 July 1991

Telefonica UK Limited (formerly Telecom Securicor Cellular Radio Limited) (Company number: 01743099)

22 March 1994

Ionica Limited (Company number: 02561924)

Licence granted 9 February 1993, but subsequently revoked.

Arqiva Limited (formerly National Transcommunications Limited) (Company number: 02487597) - For this company we would like a copy of the licence granted on 14 February 1996.

14 February 1996 (as advised by you above)

We do not hold information about the following companies.

Mobile Broadband Network Limited (Company number: 06375220)

We do not hold this information.

On Tower UK 3 Limited (Company number: 02903056)

We have been unable to find this information.

On Tower UK 4 Limited (Company number: 01460772)

We have been unable to find this information.

On Tower UK 5 Limited (Company number: 03956595)

We have been unable to find this information.

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](#).