

Reference: 02066200

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

10 September 2025

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about the number of radio licenses issued and operational.

We received this request on 20 August 2025 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the FOI Act").

Your request

Please can you tell me:

- a) how many commercial analogue radio licences were issued and operational,*
- b) how many community analogue radio licences were issued and operational, and*
- c) how many DAB radio licences were issued and operational*

on each of these dates:

1 August 2021
1 August 2022
1 August 2023
1 August 2024
1 August 2025

Our response

We do not hold the information you have requested for licences held on 1 August for years 2021-2024 inclusive.

We operate a database containing details of all live licences and although we can run ad hoc reports for various purposes, we cannot run retrospective reports to give us the information you have requested i.e. how many licences in issue on specific dates in the past.

We have on file a recent report from 4 August 2025, which documents the following:

Type of licence	No. live licences on 4 August 2025
Local commercial - analogue	241
National commercial - analogue	2
Community Radio - analogue	306
Local commercial - digital	339*
National commercial - digital	15**
Community digital licences - digital	162

*This type of licence can license multiple services on multiple multiplexes and so the number of licences in issue is not the same as the number of licensed services. Please see the [service look-up pages](#) on the Ofcom site for the lists of licensed services.

**As per the note above, this type of licence can license multiple (national) services on multiple (national) multiplexes. Additionally, some are in place to license radio services on DTT (Freeview), rather than radio multiplexes.

You have referred to the licences being 'issued and operational' - in the case of digital licensing, we are unable to confirm the number of licences in issue but which are not being used to broadcast given there is no licence condition obligating the licensee to provide the licensed service(s). In the case of competitively awarded commercial analogue and community licences, there is a licence condition obligating the licensee to provide the service for the duration of the licence and so the numbers in the table should reflect services live and operational (although, we are often dealing with a number of services which are off air for a variety of reasons).

Our annual [Media Nations Report](#) might be helpful. Included in that is a snapshot of the numbers of various broadcast licences in issue.

Additionally, we publish a monthly [Radio Broadcast Update](#) and include details of new licences granted and any that have been revoked, surrendered or rescinded during the preceding month.

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](#).