

Reference: 02181177

Information Requests
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16 April 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning historical mobile coverage predictions at grid-square level.

We received this follow-up request on 17 March 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'FOI Act').

Your request & our response

We understand from the Connected Nations reports that mobile coverage predictions are generated by the four MNOs at 50m (formerly 100m) grid-square resolution, and that these underpin both the coverage checker API and the Local Authority/Parliamentary Constituency aggregates published in the data downloads.

Our request: Would it be possible to obtain the grid-square-level (or postcode/output area-level) mobile coverage prediction data for historical years? Ideally, we would need:

- Years: 2014-2025 (or whatever subset is available)*
- Technologies: 2G, 3G, 4G (and 5G where available)*
- Metrics: Indoor/outdoor coverage by operator, or the aggregated "number of operators" measures used in the LA-level downloads*
- Geography: Grid-square, postcode, or output area level — whichever is most practical?*

Please note that our data retention period is 10 years which means we do not hold anything related to 2014 or 2015, other than what is available from the [Connected Nations National Archives website](#).

We do not hold the requested information at postcode or output area level.

Where we hold grid-square level data, we consider that disclosure of this information is exempt under section 44 of the FOI Act. Section 44 of the FOI Act exempts the disclosure of information which is prohibited by another enactment. In this case, we are prohibited under section 393 of the Communications Act 2003 from disclosing information which relates to a business, or businesses, which we have obtained in exercising our powers, unless we have the consent of that business, or businesses, or one of the statutory gateways for disclosure under section 393(2) is met, neither of which applies here. Section 44 is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

Yours sincerely,

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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](#).