

Reference: 02162276

Information Requests  
[information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk)

16 March 2026

### Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information concerning HM Coastguard's nominated paging frequency.

We received this request on 16 February 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'FOI Act').

### Your request & our response

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*Could you please share with me and others the nominated frequency in which HMCG alert their own HM Coastguard Rescue Teams. (NOT RNLI). Or any confirmed/licensed frequencies in which is used for paging only by HMCG.*

We do hold this information, however, we are unable to disclose it as we consider it is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1)(a) of the FOI Act. This part of the act deals with information that, if disclosed would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

Section 31(1)(a) of the FOI Act is a qualified exemption which means that we have had to consider whether or not the public interest in disclosing the information you have requested outweighs the public interest in withholding the information. In this case, we consider the public interest favours withholding the information. The attached Annex to this letter sets out the exemption in full, as well as the factors Ofcom considered when deciding where the public interest lay.

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](mailto: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](#).

**Annex**

**Section 31 (1) of the FOI Act provides that:**

**Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice –**

**(a) the prevention or detection of crime;**

<b>Factors for disclosure</b>	<b>Factors for withholding</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disclosure would promote general transparency with the public in relation to areas and stakeholders we regulate.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If the information is disclosed, it may enable individuals to decrypt and receive information not intended for them and be used for criminal activity.</li><li>• Interception and disclosure of messages obtained by using wireless telegraphy apparatus without lawful authority is a criminal offence.</li></ul>

**Reasons why public interest favours withholding information**

- Disclosing this information could cause harm and damage if disclosed. Those negative consequences would be prejudicial to the prevention or detection of crime and contrary to a strong public interest.
- We consider that, on balance, the public interest in withholding disclosure of the requested information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.