

Reference: 02183852

Information Requests
information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

7 May 2026

Freedom of Information request: Right to know request

Thank you for your request for information about mobile coverage mapping.

We received this request on 9 April 2026 and we have considered your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”).

Your request & our response

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to national mobile coverage mapping in the United Kingdom.

Please provide:

1. Information describing the extent to which national mobile coverage mapping relies on operator supplied predictive modelling rather than independently measured signal data.

Ofcom’s national mobile coverage reporting is based primarily on operator-supplied predictive coverage data. Mobile network operators (MNOs) are required to submit coverage predictions generated using their radio planning tools, in line with Ofcom-specified technical parameters and assumptions. Further detail on the methodology is set out in [Ofcom’s published *Connected Nations methodology for 2025*](#), pages 11-13 and [Ofcom’s published *Map Your Mobile methodology for 2025*](#).

2. Details of any independent validation processes used to assess the accuracy of operator supplied coverage predictions.

For clarity, validation processes in this context refers to work undertaken by Ofcom.

Ofcom regularly carries out validation and assessment activities to evaluate the accuracy of operator-supplied coverage predictions. This includes mobile drive-testing across the UK, which helps improve our understanding of mobile coverage and enables us to assess the accuracy of mobile network operators’ coverage predictions across the UK. Further information on this process is available on [Ofcom’s website](#) and in response to question 3.

3. Copies of any reports or assessments comparing predicted coverage with measured or observed real world coverage outcomes.

A report on how Ofcom uses measurement data to validate MNO coverage predictions, including examples of the metrics used and the assessment criteria, is set out in [Ofcom’s Shared Rural Network \(SRN\) Coverage Obligations statement published in 2024](#), in particular Section 4 (“Analysis

and key findings”). Also, attached to this response is a slide set providing underlying processes and results underpinning the SRN coverage obligation assessment.

We carry out a similar process for the MNO data used in the annual Connected Nations reports.

Ofcom does publish open data on mobile signal-strength measurements captured by our spectrum-assurance vehicles along roads across the United Kingdom. This also includes information on drive test routes and how the data may be used - [Mobile signal strength measurement data from our spectrum assurance vehicles](#)

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](#).