

Catriona Lawrence
Internal Reviewer

FOI Ref: 01100888
Internal Review ref: 01224257

Email:
Information.requests@ofcom.org.uk

Adam Dean
request-718728-22e7a46f@whatdotheyknow.com

20 April 2021

Dear Mr Dean,

Internal Review: List of available Amateur Radio Callsigns

Thank you for your email dated 26 March 2021, where you asked for an internal review of Ofcom's response to your Freedom of Information Act ('the Act') request (ref: 01100888) dated 19 February.

Your FOI request

Your original request, dated 18 January, asked for the following information:

I would be very grateful if you could provide me a list of all unallocated UK amateur radio callsigns (i.e. those callsigns that would be available to anybody who has just passed a Foundation, Intermediate or Full exam).

Ofcom's Information Request Team responded to your request on 19 February. In the letter it advised that Ofcom does not hold a list of all available amateur radio callsigns. Instead, our licensing system generates the callsigns on demand. The system is designed to generate any three-letter combination for the suffix of a callsign, excluding those combinations already on issue and those which have been deemed unsuitable.

Internal review

In your e-mail of 26 March you argue that:

In order for a system to be able to exclude combinations already on issue, the combinations already on issue must be stored somewhere. If the Office of Communications holds this data then it should be accessible. If the Office of Communications doesn't hold this data, then it must know which organisation does - as it makes use of this data - and be able to pass on the information of this organisation for me to query.

I would appreciate it if you could review this request and further clarify who holds the information that the system makes use of when accepting/rejecting callsign requests during the licensing procedure if it isn't the Office of Communications.

The Information Requests Team was correct to inform you on 19 February that Ofcom does not hold a list of unallocated callsigns. As noted above, our licensing system generates callsigns on demand,

rather than selecting them from a pre-existing list. However, we do hold a list of issued callsigns. Please find attached an annex listing all Amateur Radio callsigns that have been issued by Ofcom.

Information regarding amateur radio callsigns is available on our website under [“Amateur radio callsign allocation”](#)¹.

If you have any queries, then please contact information.requests@ofcom.org.uk. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Catriona Lawrence

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner’s Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Your complaint should be raised within three months of your internal review.

¹<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence/radiocommunication-licences/amateur-radio/amateur-radio-info>