

Reference: 749851

Jerin John  
Information Rights Adviser  
[Information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:Information.requests@ofcom.org.uk)

5 August 2019

T Mather  
[request-592745-6e9f9630@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-592745-6e9f9630@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear T Mather,

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

Thank you for your request for information about pirate radio stations in England.

This was received by Ofcom on 26 July and it has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

You asked:

*Please would you provide a count of illegal (pirate) radio stations or radio broadcasts that Ofcom was aware of in England during 2018?*

*Please also include stations that Ofcom was aware of but didn't take any action against.*

*If possible, could this list could be broken up by county?*

*I appreciate that the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006 prevents you from identifying aspects of a particular unauthorised broadcast in Section 2 (1).*

*Taking this into consideration, I would also like to ask for a separate unidentified list of what content the stations were broadcasting - if you hold this information.*

*As there was surely more than one illegal broadcast in England last year, I don't believe that this would be considered an advertisement for any one of the stations, especially as the list wouldn't need to contain frequencies, station names or other identifiable information.*

We do not hold all the information you requested. Where do we hold some of the information you asked for, we do not hold it in the form you requested.

We hold the number of illegal broadcast stations known to Ofcom by financial year (1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019). The total number of illegal broadcast stations known to us for this period is 99. This

includes all stations we were aware of, whether we took action against them or not. We do not hold this data by county, and nor do we record the type of content used by any station.

If you have any queries, please contact [information.requests@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:information.requests@ofcom.org.uk). Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely,

Jerin John

If you are unhappy with the response or level of service you have received in relation to your request from Ofcom, you may ask for an internal review. If you ask us for an internal review of our decision, it will be treated as a formal complaint and will be subject to an independent review within Ofcom. We will acknowledge the complaint and inform you of the date by which you might expect to be told the outcome.

The following outcomes are possible:

- the original decision is upheld; or
- the original decision is reversed or modified.

#### **Timing**

If you wish to exercise your right to an internal review **you should contact us within two months of the date of this letter**. There is no statutory deadline for undertaking internal reviews and it will depend upon the complexity of the case. However, we aim to conclude all such reviews within 20 working days, and up to 40 working days in exceptional cases. We will keep you informed of the progress of any such review. If you wish to request an internal review, you should contact:

Corporation Secretary  
Ofcom  
Riverside House  
2a Southwark Bridge Road  
London SE1 9HA

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