



**Information Governance Team**

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Dear Sir/Madam.

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)  
Request ID: REQ07231**

Thank you for your request for information relating to 5G tower installation.

You have requested the following information:

- 1. There has been an increasing amount of 5G towers erected all over the Coventry area, can you tell me who is regulating these towers and who has allowed this and given planning permission?**

The rollout of the 5G network is being led primarily by the Mobile Network Operators in accordance with the requirements of their operators' licences granted to them by Central Government (Ofcom, the UK's communication industry regulator). The Network Operators have an obligation to provide a 5G Network in accordance with the guidance and recommendations within the Future Telecom's Infrastructure Review (FTIR) 2018; and the legal framework laid down within the Electronic Communications Code 2017, the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 1995 and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

As local planning authority, Coventry City Council has a statutory obligation to determine all planning applications and prior notification submission for the development of telecommunications mast sites, in accordance with national and local planning policy. Coventry City Council is not responsible for the implementation of the 5G rollout across the City.

## **2. Can you provide the safety information for these towers?**

General information regarding health, safety and 5G is publicly available on the Mobile UK website which is the trade association for the four major UK mobile network operators:

<https://www.mobileuk.org/health-and-safety>

Government guidance and relevant case law establishes that the planning system should not duplicate existing controls under other legislation and is not the place to determine health safeguards. It is the view of Central Government that if a proposed development conforms to International Compliance for Public Exposure Guidelines for Public Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields established by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), further consideration of this issue should not be necessary by the local planning authority.

Coventry City Council therefore declines to accept all applications for either planning permission or prior approval unless they are accompanied by a valid ICNIRP Certificate. All application documents, supporting information and ICNIRP Certificates are available to view at the City Councils web-site on a site by site basis via the link below.

<http://planning.coventry.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet>

We therefore do not have to provide the information as per Section 21 of the FOIA.

- 3. Copies of all commercial Coventry City Council public liability insurance policy certificates with what is covered, policy numbers, providers and underwriters held by Coventry City Council. In particular, make sure anything regarding 'pollution liability', 'policy enhancement' and 'schedules of exclusions' documents in relation to the commercial public liability insurance policy held by Coventry City Council.**
- 4. Copies of the 'certificate of indemnity' from Coventry City Council that may include the public insurance provider and underwriters, confirming that any injuries, damages or adverse health effects directly or indirectly arising out of, resulting from or contributed to by electromagnetic fields, electromagnetic radiation, electromagnetism, radio waves or noise, wireless RF radiation, microwave radiation, non-ionising radiation emitting devices and equipment.**

For Questions 3 to 4, please see the attached documents.

Please note certain information has been redacted, removed, as it could be used to identify the individuals involved.

Therefore, this information is exempt under section 40 (2) of the FOIA. This exemption covers the personal data of third parties (anyone other than the requester) where complying with the request would breach any of the principles in the Data Protection Act.

This has been done as the Council considers that this information meets the definition for personal data set out in Section 3(2) and 3(3) of the Data Protection Act 2018 ("DPA") as:

*(2) "personal data means any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual (subject to subsection (14)(c))"*

*(3) "Identifiable living individual" means a living individual who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to –*

*(a) an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data or an online identifier, or*

*(b) one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual."*

The Council thus considers that the requested information is caught by the exemption to disclosure contained in Section 40 (2) of the FOI Act and the related first condition of Section 40 (3).

This is an absolute exemption and there is therefore no requirement to consider the public interest.

The supply of information in response to a freedom of information request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

For information, we publish a variety of information such as: [FOI/EIR Disclosure Log](#), [Publication Scheme](#), [Facts about Coventry](#) and [Open Data](#) that you may find of useful if you are looking for information in the future.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

**Information Governance**