



Information Policy & Compliance
bbc.co.uk/foi

Jane Black
By email to: request-29783-92d66cb8@whatdotheyknow.com

26 March 2010

Dear Ms Black

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – reference number RFI20100299

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act ('the Act') of 26 February 2010.

You requested:

- “1. How many websites does the BBC currently publish via BBC.co.uk*
- 2. Please can I have a list of their names and web addresses?”*

You later clarified your question 1 as follows:

“To clarify further, I am seeking the number of “Top Level Directories” on bbc.co.uk, as referred to in the BBC Executive's recent strategic review

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/assets/files/pdf/review_report_strategy/strategic_review/strategy_review.txt”

1. How many websites does the BBC currently publish via BBC.co.uk

At the time of the BBC Strategy Review (Putting Quality First) there were some four hundred top level directories on bbc.co.uk. The BBC maintains a list of the top level directories which make up the site, although this list changes frequently as new sites are published and old ones are deleted. Since the Strategy Review, some of the top level directories, such as www.bbc.co.uk/celebdaq, have been closed.

The proposals announced in the Strategy Review are currently subject to a public consultation process by the BBC Trust. Details on how to contribute to the consultation process can be found at this link:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/consultations/departments/bbc/bbc-strategy-review/consultation/consult_view



2. Please can I have a list of their names and web addresses?

The information you have requested is due to be published next week on the BBC's Internet Blog at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/bbcinternet/>.

Under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act, information is exempt if the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not).

As section 22 is a qualified exemption, we are required under s 2(2) of the Act to assess whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information ahead of the planned schedule.

In favour of release we considered that there is generally a public interest in increasing the accountability and transparency of publicly-funded organisations. However, we do not consider that there is a particular public interest in the early release of this information. The factors in favour of disclosing this information in line with the planned schedule include:

- The information needs to be collated, double-checked and presented in a consistent format for ease of reference. There is a public interest in ensuring efficient use of BBC resource and in the general public receiving the correct information, presented in a consistent way ; and
- It is in the public interest that this information should be disclosed to all licence-fee payers at the same time, rather than provided in advance to one individual.

We are therefore satisfied, in terms of section 2 of the Act, that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information ahead of schedule.

Appeal Rights

If you are not satisfied that we have complied with the Act in responding to your request, you have the right to an internal review by a BBC senior manager or legal adviser. Please contact us at the address above, explaining what you would like us to review and including your reference number. If you are not satisfied with the internal review, you can appeal to the Information Commissioner. The contact details are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, telephone 01625 545 700 or see <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

Yours sincerely

L. Stiller
Legal and Business Affairs Manager
Future Media & Technology