



Information Policy & Compliance
bbc.co.uk/foi

Amy Oliver
Email : request-29785-7cc8exxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx

11th March 2010

Dear Amy Oliver,

Freedom of Information request – RF120100300

Thank you for your request to the BBC of 26th February 2010, seeking the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

1. *How much was the final technical budget for the live version of Eastenders on Friday February 19 2010 and did the actual event exceed this?*
2. *How many cameras were used to film the live version of Eastenders on Friday February 19 2010?*
3. *How many crew members were there involved on the live version of Eastenders on Friday February 19 2010?*
3. *How much were the artists' fees for the live version of Eastenders on Friday February 19 2010.*
4. *Were the artists' fees higher for the live version of Eastenders on February 19 2010 than they are for regular episodes?*
5. *Please provide a breakdown of the following artists fees for the live version of Eastenders:*
 - Peggy Mitchell - Barbara Windsor*
 - Jack Branning - Scott Maslen*
 - Ronnie Mitchell - Samantha Womack*
 - Stacey Slater - Lacey Turner*
 - Janine Butcher - Charlie Brookes*
 - Max Branning - Jake Wood*
 - Bradley Branning - Charlie Clements*
 - Ian Beale - Adam Woodyatt*
 - Phil Mitchell - Steve McFadden*
6. *How much did the after/wrap party cost following the live version of Eastenders on February 19 2010?*
7. *What is the per episode cost of a regular episode of Eastenders.*
8. *How much did the live version of Eastenders on February 19 2010 cost the licence fee payer in total?*



The information you have requested in questions numbered 1-5, 7 and 8 are excluded from the Act because it is held for the purposes of 'journalism, art or literature.' The BBC is therefore not obliged to provide this information to you and will not be doing so on this occasion. Part VI of Schedule 1 to FOIA provides that information held by the BBC and the other public service broadcasters is only covered by the Act if it is held for 'purposes other than those of journalism, art or literature'. The BBC is not required to supply information held for the purposes of creating the BBC's output or information that supports and is closely associated with these creative activities.¹

You may be interested to know that the BBC never volunteers information about the cost and budgets of individual programmes, since that information is commercially sensitive and would be useful to our competitors.

Although questions 2 and 4 ask for information not covered by the Act, on this occasion we are happy to volunteer that 39 cameras and 1 minicam (on the roof of the Vic) were used on the production. I can also confirm in answer to question 4 that the artists' fees were not higher for this episode of Eastenders. The artists received their regular episode fee.

Question 6 is for information covered by the Act and I can confirm that there was a screening and party to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Eastenders on February 19th. There were 772 guests, and the total spend was £17,714, which equates to £22.95 per head. The event was held on BBC premises in accordance with expenses guidelines and this cost included all food, drink, entertainment, catering staff and facility cast costs as well as the cost of a photographer.

Appeal Rights

The BBC does not offer an internal review when the information requested is not covered by the Act. If you disagree with our decision you can appeal to the Information Commissioner. Contact details are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF telephone 01625 545 700. <http://www.ico.gov.uk>

For the question that is covered by the Act, 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. Contact details as above.

Lynne Connolly
Cross Genre Project Manager
BBC Vision

¹ For more information about how the Act applies to the BBC please see the enclosure which follows this letter. Please note that this guidance is not intended to be a comprehensive legal interpretation of how the Act applies to the BBC.

Freedom of Information

From January 2005 the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 gives a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities. The Act also sets out exemptions from that right and places a number of obligations on public authorities. The term “public authority” is defined in the Act; it includes all public bodies and government departments in the UK. The BBC, Channel 4 and S4C are the only broadcasters covered by the Act.

Application to the BBC

The BBC has a long tradition of making information available and accessible. It seeks to be open and accountable and already provides the public with a great deal of information about its activities. BBC Information operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week handling telephone and written comments and queries, and the BBC’s website bbc.co.uk provides an extensive online information resource.

It is important to bear this in mind when considering the Freedom of Information Act and how it applies to the BBC. The Act does not apply to the BBC in the way it does to most public authorities in one significant respect. It recognises the different position of the BBC (as well as Channel 4 and S4C) by saying that it covers information “held for purposes other than those of journalism, art or literature”. This means the Act does not apply to information held for the purposes of creating the BBC’s output (TV, radio, online etc), or information that supports and is closely associated with these creative activities.

A great deal of information within this category is currently available from the BBC and will continue to be so. If this is the type of information you are looking for, you can check whether it is available on the BBC’s website bbc.co.uk or contact [BBC Information](#).

The Act does apply to all of the other information we hold about the management and running of the BBC.

The BBC

The BBC's aim is to enrich people's lives with great programmes and services that inform, educate and entertain. It broadcasts radio and television programmes on analogue and digital services in the UK. It delivers interactive services across the web, television and mobile devices. The BBC's online service is Europe's most widely visited content site. Across the world, the BBC broadcasts radio programmes in 32 languages on the BBC World Service and the 24 hour television service, BBC World News.

The BBC's remit as a public service broadcaster is defined in the BBC Charter and Agreement. It is the responsibility of the BBC Trust to ensure that the organisation delivers against this remit by setting key objectives, approving strategy and policy, and monitoring and assessing performance. The Trustees also safeguard the BBC's independence and ensure the Corporation is accountable to its audiences and to Parliament. The Trust is supported by a network of advisory bodies across the UK.

Day-to-day operations are run by the Director-General and his senior management team, the Executive Board. All BBC output in the UK is funded by an annual Licence Fee. This is determined and regularly reviewed by Parliament. Each year, the BBC publishes an Annual Report & Accounts, and reports to Parliament on how it has delivered against its public service remit.