

hundreds of concerts from across the globe on a regular basis. Similarly, the work of UK performers receives global exposure through this exchange of programme material. The EBU offers a shared technical infrastructure which facilitates co-operation, including satellite and internet links; it is also a centre for research and development into new ways of broadcasting and, therefore, defines technical standards, such as digital broadcasting and the fact that you can hear traffic reports in your car across national boundaries.

In addition, the BBC paid £211,000 to be part of the Eurovision Song Contest this year and this provides viewers with a 3 hour programme. To put this into context, on average one hour of entertainment programming usually costs in the region of £300,000. The show continues to draw in a large audience; in 2008 more than 9 million viewers were watching on BBC1.

Please note that your question about the Eurovision Song Contest is for information outside the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”) because the BBC and the other public service broadcasters are covered by the Act only in respect of information held for purposes “other than those of journalism, art or literature” (see Schedule 1, Part VI of the Act). However, on this occasion we’re happy to respond to your request.

To further explain, we are not obliged 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. Information which is not subject to disclosure under the Act because of Schedule 1 might otherwise be exempt from disclosure because of the application of other provisions of the Act.

For more information about how the Act applies to the BBC please see www.bbc.co.uk/foi Please note that this guidance is not intended to be a comprehensive legal interpretation of how the Act applies to the BBC.

The BBC makes a huge range of information available about our programmes and content on bbc.co.uk. We also proactively publish information covered by the Act on our publication scheme and regularly handle requests for information under the Act.

Appeal Rights

If you are not satisfied with this response 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/>

Please note that the BBC does not offer an internal review when the information requested is not covered by the Act. This is the case with respect to the second part of your request. 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>

Yours sincerely,

Richard Curwen
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