



Information Policy & Compliance  
[bbc.co.uk/foi](http://bbc.co.uk/foi)

James Trice  
[request-629-xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx](mailto:request-629-xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx)

23 June 2008

Dear Mr Trice,

**Freedom of information request – RFI 20080558**

Thank you for your request received by the BBC on 27 May 2008 seeking further information about TV Licensing. Your request is being dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”).

Please note that “TV Licensing” is a trading name used by companies contracted by the BBC to administer the collection of television licence fees and enforcement of the television licensing system. The majority of the administration of TV Licensing is contracted to Capita Business Services Ltd (which undertakes the majority of the administration of the TV Licensing system), with the administration of our cash related payment schemes contracted to Revenues Management Services Ltd (RMS). PayPoint Network Ltd and PayPoint Collections Ltd are contracted to provide over-the-counter services. The marketing and public relations activities are contracted to the AMV Consortium. The consortium is made up of the following four companies: Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO Ltd, Fishburn Hedges Boys Williams Limited, PHD Media Limited and Proximity London Ltd. The BBC is a public authority in respect of its television licensing functions and retains overall responsibility.

In your request you asked the following:

*I would like to see a breakdown of the following report:*

<http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/206/response/626/attach/4/RFI20080413%20-%20TV%20Licensing%20costs%20of%20collection.pdf>

*By countries of UK (England , Wales, Scotland, N Ireland)*



In accordance with section 1(1) of the Act, the BBC is able to confirm that we do not hold the information you have requested, specifically a version of the above report (*TV Licensing Costs of Collection*) which is broken down by nation. This is because some of the information contained within it cannot be broken down in this way.

For example, the BBC does not collate figures for licence fee revenue broken down by nation. This is because in order to calculate these figures, it would be necessary to commission a bespoke report analysing all the postcodes on the TV Licensing database and their associated licence payments. I estimate that carrying out the activity to collate figures for licence fee revenue broken down by nation would take more than two and a half days. Under section 12 of the Act, we are allowed to refuse to handle the request if it would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit has been set by the Regulations (SI 2004/3244) as being £450 (equivalent to two and a half days work, at an hourly rate of £25).

It is likely that breaking down much of the other information in the table by nation, such as postage costs and call centre costs, would require similar activity and hence would similarly exceed the appropriate limit.

I can, however, provide you with the figures for licences in force (the 9<sup>th</sup> line of the table) broken down by nation. The numbers of licences issued the UK as a whole as at 31 March 2008 is as follows:

<b>Region</b>	<b>Total licences in force (m)</b>
England	20.574
Northern Ireland	0.635
Scotland	2.195
Wales	1.242
Channel Islands	0.093
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.740</b>

Please note these statistics are approximations of the numbers of licences in force and are not exact. They also do not include licences held by premises which are classed as Accommodation for Residential Care (ARC). This is because a detailed breakdown of ARC or other licences by nation is not held.

### **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 provided, 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/>

I hope this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

**Natalie Saunderson**  
**Policy Adviser**  
**BBC TV Licensing Management Team**