

Jane Black
request-690-aac161a7@whatdotheyknow.com

26 June 2008

Dear Ms Black

Freedom of information request – RFI20080621

Thank you for your requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the FOI Act”) dated 9 June 2008. You have submitted two requests. The one sent to the BBC’s FOI team (Information Policy & Compliance, IPC):

Please note that this is an FOI request to the BBC Trust, not to the BBC Management. I do not wish for any further correspondence on this issue to be handled by BBC Management, or their staff.

Please send me copies of any correspondence, during the past 12 months, between the Chair of the BBC Trust to the BBC’s Director General regarding bbc.co.uk and its future strategic direction & management.

The other, sent to the BBC Trust requested:

Please send me copies of any correspondence, during the past 12 months, between The Chair of the BBC Trust to the BBC’s Director General regarding bbc.co.uk and its future strategic direction & management.

I do not wish for copies of this freedom of information request to be shared with BBC Management or any of their staff.

Prior to completing your request for information, we would like to clarify the Freedom of Information process within the BBC.

The BBC has a dedicated team – Information Policy & Compliance - which centrally deal with all FOI Requests to the BBC, including those relating to the BBC Trust. There are a number of reasons why FOI requests are dealt with in this central manner, the main being that the FOI Act provides no distinction between the BBC Trust and BBC Management in its application. Instead the whole of the BBC is designated a Public Authority under the Act (see Schedule 1, Part VI of the FOI Act). IPC report to the BBC General Counsel and are part of a BBC Management Division.

Handling FOI requests via a central team ensures that all requests are managed and responded to within the relevant timeframes, that there is consistency in the BBC's approach and that requests are managed by staff who are FOI specialists. A central team also minimises the resources required to efficiently manage FOI compliance, assisting the effective use of the licence fee.

The Trust Unit, which works solely to the BBC Trust, will oversee handling of the request by IPC. As the information also relates to the Director-General, IPC will ensure that his office is aware of the request and provides any relevant information.

On the basis that the BBC Trust would be responding to your request in conjunction with Information Policy & Compliance team, liaising with the BBC Director-General's Office, can you please confirm whether you would like us to continue processing your FOI request.

Yours sincerely

Kate Boyle
Adviser, BBC Trust