



Information Rights

[bbc.co.uk/foi](http://bbc.co.uk/foi)

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T Mather

Via email: [request-593278-031cfa3c@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-593278-031cfa3c@whatdotheyknow.com)

29 August 2019

Dear T Mather

## Freedom of Information Request - RF120191268

Thank you for your request to the BBC of 30 July 2019 seeking the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'):

- 1. How much money did the BBC spend on acquiring the .bbc gTLD (Generic Top Level Domain)?*
- 2. If possible, please provide an itemised list of costs involved in running the .bbc domain name from 2013 to present.*

I will now deal with each question in turn.

### Question 1

The BBC paid £118,000 to acquire the .bbc generic top level domain, this is the same fee that is set by ICANN for UK organisations. You may find the following links helpful.

<https://www.geek.com/geek-pick/gtlds-whats-the-process-and-how-much-pay-icann-1392947/>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/domain-names-expansion-to-give-bbc-and-porn-7851034.html>

### Question 2

In accordance with section 1(1) of the Act, the BBC confirms that we do hold the running costs within the scope of your request. However we consider this information to be exempt from disclosure under section 43(2) of the Act as disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the BBC and the relevant third party.

As section 43 is a qualified exemption, the BBC is required by section 2(2) of the Act to consider the public interest factors both for and against disclosing information in relation to this request. Specifically, we looked at whether in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Factors in favour of disclosing this information:

- that there is transparency in the accountability of the BBC for public funds
- that the BBC is using public money effectively, and that the BBC is getting value for money when purchasing goods and services
- that the BBC's commercial activities (including the procurement process) are conducted in an open and honest way

Factors for withholding disclosure of this information:

- damage the BBC's (and/or a third party's) business reputation or the confidence that customers, suppliers or investors may have in it
- weaken the BBC's bargaining position with suppliers of goods and services (which may in turn weaken a third party supplier's bargaining position with other customers)
- have a detrimental impact on the commercial revenue of the BBC or a third party
- weaken the competitive position of the BBC or a third party in their particular market by disclosing sensitive information which would be likely to be used by competitors to gain a competitive advantage
- harm the ability of the BBC or a third party to obtain goods and services in the future

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.

## **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. A request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of receiving the BBC's response to your original request.

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, Tel: 0303 123 1113 or see <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights  
**BBC Legal**

