



Information Rights

bbc.co.uk/foi bbc.co.uk/privacy

A Cameron

request-637654-c2d1f021@whatdotheyknow.com

17 February 2020

Dear A Cameron,

Freedom of Information request – RFI20200079

Thank you for your request to the BBC of 28 January 2020 seeking the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'):

“Please tell me how much the BBC has received in funding from the EU, both directly and indirectly during 2019/20 and advise when the EU funding stream is due to stop, since the UK will be leaving the EU”

In certain limited circumstances the BBC does, like many other organisations such as central Government departments and regional government, receive some funding from EU sources.

The BBC has clear obligations to maintain a research and development centre of excellence for the benefit of the broadcasting sector as a whole (specifically Clause 87 of the Framework Agreement). In fulfilling its obligation, the BBC must bear in mind the over-arching principle of value for money for the licence-fee payer and seek out any additional appropriate sources of funding. The BBC receives funds from the EU Framework Programme for Research & Development projects. There is no overlap from these projects to editorial areas such as BBC News. Instead, the BBC may seek external partners and funding for technology-based projects based on existing BBC R&D priorities and business needs.

No news programmes are permitted to take external funding and therefore cannot take EU funding at all, ensuring it cannot impact on editorial decisions. Furthermore, no EU funds are directly accessed by any in-house BBC productions. In line with its overall editorial independence, the BBC has in place strict rules to ensure that any external funding it receives does not diminish the BBC's editorial control of BBC output nor comprises its editorial impartiality or integrity. Further information is available in the BBC's Editorial Guidelines which are published at the following link:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/editorialguidelines/guidelines/external-relationships/> .

The amount provided to the BBC for 2019/20 will be published here (the link presently provides information for 2018/2019):

<https://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/consultation/displaylobbyist.do?id=336906714921-03>

We are withholding the information you have requested under section 22 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') because it is intended for future publication. Section 22 states that information is exempt if it is held by a public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at a future date (whether determined or not).

As section 22 is a qualified exemption, we are required under s 2(2) of the Act to assess whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information ahead of the planned schedule.

In favour of release we considered that there is generally a public interest in increasing the accountability and transparency of publicly-funded organisations. However, we do not consider that there is a particular public interest in the early release of this 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

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