



Information Rights

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

Elliott Riley

[request-660256-c0723fb7@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-660256-c0723fb7@whatdotheyknow.com)

20 May 2020

Dear Mr Riley,

### **Freedom of Information Request - RF120200494**

Thank you for your request to the BBC of 23 April seeking the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'):

*'Could a taxpayer request a breakdown of the your staffing levels by party affiliation, and if possible the former political appointments/employment by political organisation of individuals?'*

The BBC would only collect this information if it were declared as part of an individual's Declaration of Personal Interests in accordance with the Policy which can be found at the following link:

[http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/foi/classes/policies\\_procedures/declaration\\_of\\_personal\\_interests\\_policy.pdf#zoom=100](http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/foi/classes/policies_procedures/declaration_of_personal_interests_policy.pdf#zoom=100)

It would take the BBC considerable time to check all DOPI forms held to ascertain whether a declaration regarding political affiliation had been made. The Act does not require us to comply with a request if to do so would exceed the appropriate limit as set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/3244). The appropriate limit has been set at £450 (equivalent to two and a half days work, at an hourly rate of £25). In order to respond in full to your request we estimate that to carry out this search would take BBC Staff more than two and a half days. Therefore, under section 12 of the Act, we are refusing to handle the request as it would exceed the appropriate limit.

Furthermore, information regarding an individual's political affiliations would be considered sensitive personal data, and we would therefore withhold details of such information under section 40(2) (personal information) of the FOI Act. Under section 40(2), personal information about identifiable living individuals is exempt if disclosure to a third party would breach one or more principles in the General Data Protection Regulation. The individual(s) concerned would not expect their personal data to be disclosed to a third party. Therefore, disclosure would breach the principle to only process personal data lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner.

### **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

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