



Information Rights

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

Nathan Soper

request-864634-a9904949@whatdotheyknow.com

08 June 2022

Dear Mr Soper

Request for Information – RFI20220628

Thank you for your request to the BBC of 26th May 2022 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') seeking the following information:

“You haven't yet released your stats for number of TV license cancellations for the 2021-2022 year. Can you please release this information?”

Please note that “TV Licensing” is a trade mark 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 Limited ('Capita'). Over-the-counter services are provided by PayPoint plc ('PayPoint') in the UK, and by the Post Office in the Isle of Man and Channel Islands. Target Group Limited ('Target') is the supplier for the Simple Payment Plan. Marketing and printing services are contracted to RAPP Limited (formerly Proximity London Limited). Media services are contracted to Havas Media Limited. The BBC is a public authority in respect of its television licensing functions and retains overall responsibility.

The information you have requested is collated following the end of each financial year and published annually on the TV Licensing website. The information is intended for publication in July-August this year and therefore I am withholding this information under section 22(1)(a) of the Act; which relates to information which is intended for future publication (specifically, that the information is held with a view to its being published by the BBC at a future date).

I am satisfied in terms of section 2(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. I have provided further explanation of my consideration of the public interest in the section 'Why information has been withheld', below.

Why information has been withheld

I am required under section 2(2) of the Act to assess whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption used above outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

In favour of disclosure, there is a general public interest in providing further information about the BBC's television licensing activities which affect a large percentage of the general public.

In addition, I consider that the following factors are in favour of withholding the information:

1. That the publication of information by public authorities is a carefully planned and managed activity.
2. That the release of information generated for internal reporting only would not provide an accurate public understanding of television licensing before that information has been reviewed and consolidated.

In this instance, the public interest is served by maintaining the BBC's planning procedures. I am 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 (outlined above) 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

Rupinder Panesar

Freedom of Information Advisor, TV Licensing Management Team

