



Information Policy & Compliance  
[bbc.co.uk/foi](http://bbc.co.uk/foi)

L Harrison  
Sent by email to: [request-135335-97773b6b@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-135335-97773b6b@whatdotheyknow.com)

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012

Dear L Harrison,

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – RF120121170**

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act ('the Act') of seeking:

*'When you use images produced by a non professional third party what steps are taken for validation?'*

Chapter 3 of the BBC's Editorial guidelines ([www.bbc.co.uk/editorialguidelines](http://www.bbc.co.uk/editorialguidelines)) regarding accuracy outlines what steps are taken for validation of images. The relevant section from these guidelines is as follows:

### ***'Material from Third Parties***

#### **3.4.5**

*Material supplied by third parties needs to be treated with appropriate caution, taking account of the reputation of the source.*

*We should normally only rely on an agency report if it can be substantiated by a BBC correspondent or if it is attributed to a reputable news agency.*

*We should only use other material supplied by third parties if it is credible and reliable. This includes weather reports, financial markets information and music charts. We need to ensure that any credit given for the use of third party material is in accordance with BBC credit guidelines.*

#### **3.4.6**

*We should only broadcast material from third parties who may have a personal or professional interest in its subject matter if there is a clear editorial justification. The material should be labelled. This includes material from the emergency services, charities, and environmental groups.*

*We should be reluctant to use video and audio news releases or other similar material. We do not normally use any extracts from such releases if we are capable of gathering the material ourselves. The editorial significance of the material, rather than simply its impact, must be considered before it is used. If it is editorially justified to use it then we must explain the circumstances and clearly label the source of the material in our output.'*

I hope this answers your request.

### **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. 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, telephone 01625 545 700 or see <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

Yours sincerely,

Claire Dresser  
Chief Adviser  
BBC Vision

