



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

Clive Reed  
Email: [request-137961-8e8264f3@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-137961-8e8264f3@whatdotheyknow.com)

19 November 2012

Dear Mr Reed,

**Freedom of Information Request - RFI20121289**

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) received on 12 November, seeking the following information:

*'since the inception of FOIA please advise the number of times refusal to provide information has been on the grounds of Journalism Art or Literature'.*

The Freedom of Information Act came fully into force in January 2005. The BBC and the other Public Service Broadcasters covered by the Act, such as Channel 4, are only covered by the Act for information "held for purposes other than those of journalism, art or literature". This means the Act does not apply to information held for the purposes of creating the BBC's output (TV, radio, online etc), or information that supports and is closely associated with these creative activities.

The table below provides the statistics that you requested. Figures for 2012 will be available from February 2013.

Calendar Year	Total FOIA Requests	No. Out of Scope	%
2005	971	415	43%
2006	777	355	46%
2007	1076	552	51%
2008	1514	732	48%
2009	1774	886	50%
2010	1734	895	52%
2011	1610	798	49%

Where information falls outside the scope of the Act, the BBC strives to volunteer information as often as possible. The BBC has a long tradition of making information available and accessible. It seeks to be open and accountable and already provides the public with a great deal of information about its activities. BBC Audience Services operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week handling telephone and written comments and queries, and the BBC's website [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) provides an extensive online information resource.

## **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

Simon Pickard  
Senior Compliance Manager

