



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

Martin Heron  
Via Email: [request-160780-29565eaa@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-160780-29565eaa@whatdotheyknow.com)

7 June 2013

Dear Mr Heron,

### **Freedom of Information request – RFI 20130715**

Thank you for your request to the BBC of 9 May 2013, seeking the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

*“Please provide the full lyrics for the Tyne and Wear Metro Musical.”*

Please note that the information you have requested is excluded from the Act because it is held for the purposes of ‘journalism, art or literature.’ Part VI of Schedule I to FOIA provides that information held by the BBC and the other public service broadcasters is only covered by the Act if it is held for ‘purposes *other than those of journalism, art or literature*’<sup>1</sup>. The BBC is not required by the Act to supply information held for the purposes of creating the BBC’s output or information that supports and is closely associated with these creative activities; however, on this occasion we’re happy to provide the information in response to your request. Please find the lyrics attached as an addendum to this letter.

### **Appeal Rights**

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about how the Act applies to the BBC please see the enclosure at the end of this letter. Please note that this guidance is not intended to be a comprehensive legal interpretation of how the Act applies to the BBC.



The BBC does not offer an internal review when the information requested is not covered by the Act. If you disagree with our decision you can appeal to the Information Commissioner. Contact details are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF telephone 01625 545 700. <http://www.ico.gov.uk>

Yours sincerely,

Laura Ellis

**English Regions**

## **Freedom of Information**

From January 2005 the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 gives a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities. The Act also sets out exemptions from that right and places a number of obligations on public authorities. The term “public authority” is defined in the Act; it includes all public bodies and government departments in the UK. The BBC, Channel 4 and S4C are the only broadcasters covered by the Act.

## **Application to the BBC**

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 Information 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.

It is important to bear this in mind when considering the Freedom of Information Act and how it applies to the BBC. The Act does not apply to the BBC in the way it does to most public authorities in one significant respect. It recognises the different position of the BBC (as well as Channel 4 and S4C) by saying that it covers 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.

A great deal of information within this category is currently available from the BBC and will continue to be so. If this is the type of information you are looking for, you can check whether it is available on the BBC’s website [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) or contact [BBC Information](#).

The Act does apply to all of the other information we hold about the management and running of the BBC.

## **The BBC**

The BBC's aim is to enrich people's lives with great programmes and services that inform, educate and entertain. It broadcasts radio and television programmes on analogue and digital services in the UK. It delivers interactive services across the web, television and mobile devices. The BBC's online service is Europe's most widely visited content site. Around the world, international multimedia broadcaster BBC World Service delivers a wide range of language and regional services on radio, TV, online and via wireless handheld devices, together with BBC World News, the commercially-funded international news and information television channel.

The BBC's remit as a public service broadcaster is defined in the BBC Charter and Agreement. It is the responsibility of the BBC Trust (the sovereign body within the BBC) to ensure that the organisation delivers against this remit by setting key objectives, approving strategy and policy, and monitoring and assessing performance. The Trustees also safeguard the BBC's independence and ensure the Corporation is accountable to its audiences and to Parliament.

Day-to-day operations are run by the Director-General and his senior management team, the Executive Board. All BBC output in the UK is funded by an annual Licence Fee. This is determined and regularly reviewed by Parliament. Each year, the BBC publishes an Annual Report & Accounts, and reports to Parliament on how it has delivered against its public service remit.

## Metro The Musical: The Lyrics

1980

A year of unemployment and cold war harshness

1980

And England emerging from winters of harshness

The unrestrained era of disco was done

A computerised age had begun

And in the North East corner of Britain (sung in Mandarin)

An exciting new chapter had been carefully written

The future arrived on a hot day in August

With a new bridge over the Tyne

Primary colours and geometric lines intertwined

Underneath an iconic black and yellow sign

Metro

Tyne and Wear goes electro

Twenty hours a day from South Hylton to Whitley Bay

Hurling like an arrow

From Tynemouth down to Jarrow

In the baking heat and the driving sleet

It's alreet

Tyne and Wear Metro

Subterranean yo-yo

A flash of chameleon yellow

Metro

And the escalators were the first I'd ever seen

Talk about a stairway to heaven

So steep and so high and so bright and so clean

You see me going to Byker to roam on the street

Or going to Whitley to lie on the beach

Or at St James watching a game

Got a little yellow ticket just in case they check us

The chavas run away from inspectors

I'm on the Metro all of the time

But you won't catch me with no £20 fine

Sample our famous mackem wit

With the musings of the gadgy in the Sunderland kit

Or the Magpies disembarking at St James Park

Into a station which pulses with anticipation

My mate Chelsea was named and shamed

For failing to pay for her ticket

Cos she gave them her name when the guard person came

It's her naughty Nexus secret

Tyne and Wear Metro

Wallsend goes Latino

Sixty colourful stations in useful locations

And canny crack from the get-go  
So why don't we go Metro

Life in extremity, start at St James,  
Progression, regression, so many changes,  
Rolling stock, chatter on the platform  
Takes me back  
High level clarity, bring back the memory,  
Take me to the city, to the coast  
To the skyways,  
Take me to it all and the highways  
Ride the M-train,  
Take me home.

And sometimes you just have to sit and listen  
And lend the ear that wipes the tear away

Haymarket, Monument, Manors, Byker, Chillingham Road, Walkergate, Wallsend, Hadrian Park,  
Howdon, Percy Main, Meadowell, North Shields, Tynemouth, Cullercoats, Whitley bay, Monkseaton,  
Shiremoor, Northumberland Park, Palmersville, Benton, South Gosforth, Ilford Road, Jesmond,  
Haymarket  
Metro

All above the love train,  
These carriages are Cupid's domain,  
All aboard the love train.

And I called him my Metro man  
He had rain spattered glasses  
When he boarded at Byker  
I didn't know there would be space  
The decision to choose a seat can change your life indelibly  
An yet he squeezed into the carriage  
And squeezed into my heart  
Was it fate or was it chance that brought him  
To South Shields on the last train home?

I've seen it all before  
The break-ups, the make-ups  
The headaches and heartaches

Our eyes met at Monument Station  
But I had a one-way ticket to the States  
But she asked me on a date  
I went and it was great  
And I ripped up my ticket  
And stayed here.

Metro  
Subterranean yo-yo  
It's a chance for pioneer  
In the heart of Tyne and Wear.

Tyne and Wear Metro  
Metro goes retro  
In the baking heat and the driving sleet.  
It's alreet.

Metro  
I always wanted a solo  
Metro  
I guess we're singing a trio  
Metro  
Singing in my falsetto  
Let's go Metro  
Tyne and Wear Metro