



Information Policy & Compliance

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

Sean Moran

Via email: request-180620-58b8ae99@whatdotheyknow.com

7 November 2013

Dear Mr Moran

Freedom of Information Request - RF120131470

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) received on 10 October, seeking the following information:

Does the BBC have a policy of promoting multiculturalism?

The BBC does not have a policy on promoting multiculturalism. Impartiality is one of the BBC's core editorial values which are set out in the Royal Charter which establishes its constitution and sets out its main obligations. The BBC's Editorial Guidelines state that: "We will apply due impartiality to all our subject matter and will reflect a breadth and diversity of opinion across our output as a whole, over an appropriate period, so that no significant strand of thought is knowingly unreflected or under-represented" and that "our output is forbidden from expressing the opinion of the BBC on current affairs or matters of public policy." This would apply to any public discourse on multiculturalism as a public policy debate.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/editorialguidelines/>

However, the Charter does require the BBC to promote six public purposes through its main activities such as its programming. One of the public purposes is *Representing the Nations, Regions and Communities*. The BBC Trust Purpose Remit document states that this means that "The BBC should 'promote awareness of different cultures and alternative viewpoints, through content that reflects the lives of different people and different communities within the UK'". http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/governance/tools_we_use/public_purposes.html

To assist the BBC to meet this purpose, the BBC's Diversity Strategy includes a strategic equality and diversity objective to "Deliver high quality programming which reflects modern Britain accurately and authentically" and this objective would be inclusive of reflecting ethnic and religious diversity on air. The strategy also details other aspects of the BBC's approach to diversity across the corporation's activity to ensure not just its programming but that its people, its approach to its audience and its strategy for the future are all consciously addressing further diversity. You can find out more about the BBC and diversity at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/diversity/strategy/documents.html>

I hope this response satisfies 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

James Hacker
BBC People

