



Information Policy & Compliance

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

J. Jones

e-mail: request-287413-0eb24551@whatdotheyknow.com

21 September 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Freedom of Information Request - RFI20151442

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) dated 22 August, seeking the following information:

'Could you list for me, the approximate number of employees, engaged in public relations work, for or on behalf of the BBC – including ones working on behalf of the BBC outsourced companies.'

For the purposes of this inquiry we are taking your request to mean permanent communications staff working in post in the BBC's Communications Department and for BBC Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. We have excluded administrative support staff, occasional freelancers, event organisers and fixed-term trainees although we have included staff involved in Public Affairs work. The total figure as of July 2015 is: 129 full time equivalent individuals who provide media relations and publicity to inform our audience of content across the breadth of the BBC's services. This number can fluctuate over time as staff leave or join the department. At present we have a small number of vacancies.

We are aware that in some cases independent production companies may hire their own public relations people to work on publicity for programmes commissioned and broadcast by the BBC. We do not hold details on such staff as they are employed and paid for by the production company.

The Communications Department does not employ any public relations companies to outsource work.

If you plan to write a story using this information please include the following statement.

A BBC spokesman said: "Costs are kept to a minimum and the size of the communications department is based on the volume of inquiries about the BBC from local, national and

international journalists, and the need to keep audiences informed of the latest programmes and services.”

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, Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate) or see <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

Information Policy & Compliance

