



Information Rights

[bbc.co.uk/foi](http://bbc.co.uk/foi)      [bbc.co.uk/privacy](http://bbc.co.uk/privacy)

Rupert Tankard

Via email: [request-421818-768f663e@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-421818-768f663e@whatdotheyknow.com)

22 August 2017

Dear Mr Tankard

**Request for Information – RFI20171144**

Thank you for your request of 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') seeking the following information:

*"I have heard from various sources that your TV detector vans cannot actually detect if someone is watching telly.*

*Please could you advise if this is the case and disclose any relevant information as to whether these vans are effectively an empty threat or not?*

*I appreciate that these days through various unlawful methods you could make a reasonable guess as to whether someone was watching iPlayer, but I remain very sceptical in regards of your ability to pinpoint a more traditional TV signal to a specific house."*

Please note that "TV Licensing" is a trade mark used by companies contracted by the BBC to administer the collection of television licence fees and enforcement of the television licensing system. The majority of the administration of TV Licensing is contracted to Capita Business Services Ltd ('Capita'). Over-the-counter services are provided by PayPoint plc ('PayPoint') in the UK, and by the Post Office in the Isle of Man and Channel Islands. Marketing and printing services are contracted to Proximity London Ltd. Media services are contracted to Media Planning Limited trading as Havas Media UK. The BBC is a public authority in respect of its television licensing functions and retains overall responsibility.

Firstly, please be advised that the Act gives a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities. We are not required to create new information to respond to a request, or give a judgement or opinion that is not already recorded.

Whilst this is a query rather than a request for recorded information, I can tell you outside the scope of the Act that TV Licensing detector vans do exist and are an effective means of enforcement. We do publish information about how we enforce the licence and this is available on the TV Licensing website at the web-

link below. However, please note that specific details about our detection activity and capabilities are exempt from disclosure under section 31 of the Act which relates to law enforcement.

<http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/about/foi-administering-the-licence-fee-AB20>

### **Appeal Rights**

If you are not satisfied that the BBC has 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 under the Act 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 SK9 5AF. Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate) or visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/>

Kind regards

Rupinder Panesar

**Freedom of Information Advisor, TV Licensing Management Team**

