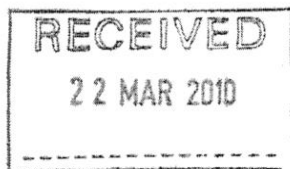


# RADIO SOCIETY

of Great Britain

Please reply to

[Withheld under s40(2) FOI Act]



17 March 2010

The Director  
TV Licensing

Dear Sir

## ENFORCEMENT OF TV LICENCE NON-INTERFERENCE CONDITION

I am writing about enforcement of the condition in the TV licence that prohibits licence holders from causing interference to any other radio or TV reception.

The Radio Society of Great Britain represents the UK's 60,000 licensed radio amateurs and many other short wave listeners. We often hear of cases where faulty or badly designed TV apparatus interferes with radio reception. Recently plasma screen TVs have caused interference problems as they can radiate across a wide range of frequencies into adjacent properties. We are aware that other radio services, for example air traffic control services, sometimes suffer interference due to faulty mast-head preamplifiers.

With most cases of interference we take up the matter with Ofcom as the spectrum regulator. However, where TV apparatus is suspected as the source, Ofcom have told us that enforcement of the TV licence condition is not a matter for them, but it is for TV Licensing.

Can you therefore provide the following information for us to pass on to our members:

- What technical capability does TV Licensing have to trace interference sources;
- What is the service level you offer, for example response times, and do you differentiate between say, safety of life services and users such as radio amateurs;
- What is the procedure to make complaints.

We assume that you treat breach of the licence condition as use outside of the licence, which is the same as unlicensed use. That is, in essence, a criminal offence, although no doubt most cases can be solved by advice and warnings to the TV owner. We realise that a further sanction would be revocation of the licence but we assume that would not occur except as a last resort and after the test of criminal case evidence had been first been proved.



# RADIO SOCIETY

of Great Britain

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I look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully

[Withheld under s40(2) FOI Act]

Secretary, Electromagnetic Compatibility Committee



[Withheld under s40(2) FOI Act]

26 March 2010

Dear [Withheld under s40(2) FOI Act]

**Re: Enforcement of TV Licence Non-Interference Condition**

Thank you for your letter of 17 March 2010. I will need to get further advice on your queries regarding technical capabilities and service levels. I will respond on those matters shortly. In the interim, the address for general complaints is:

Customer Relations  
TV Licensing  
Bristol  
BS98 1TL

Yours sincerely,

Dan McGregor  
**Senior Policy Adviser, TV Licensing Management Team**

**Dan McGregor**

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**From:** [REDACTED] [s.40(2)]  
**Sent:** 16 April 2010 17:35  
**To:** Dan McGregor  
**Subject:** Re: TV Interference query

Hi Dan,

I do not have any experience of this myself, but I have asked by colleagues [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for their thoughts, and I'll come back to you. [s.40(2)]

Regards

[REDACTED] [s.40(2)]

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**From:** Dan McGregor  
**To:** [REDACTED] [s.40(2)]  
**Sent:** Fri Apr 16 11:37:55 2010  
**Subject:** TV Interference query

Hi [REDACTED] [s.40(2)]

The Radio Society of GB have written to me to ask the extent to which the BBC enforces the following TV Licence condition:

"You must not cause undue interference to any other radio or television reception with your TV equipment."

The RSGB's concerns relate to the radio interference caused by some new tech, primarily plasma TV's. If it was anything else creating the interference then I understand OFCOM would deal with it. In this case however, OFCOM have specifically advised the RSGB to talk to the BBC as the interference relates to TVs.

TV Licensing doesn't actively monitor this sort of thing - do you have any background on this sort of issue?

Thanks  
Dan

**Dan McGregor**  
**Senior Policy Advisor**  
**BBC TV Licensing Management Team**

Tel: [REDACTED] Mob: [REDACTED]  
Post: Room 4436, BBC White City, 201 Wood Lane, London W12 7TS  
Email: [REDACTED] [s.40(2)]

Dan McGregor

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From: Dan McGregor  
Sent: 29 April 2010 12:06  
To: [REDACTED] [s. 40(2)]  
Subject: RE: TV Interference

[s. 40(2)]

Thanks [REDACTED] - my draft response says pretty much exactly that.

Regards  
Dan

-----Original Message-----  
From: [REDACTED] [s. 40(2)]  
Sent: 29 April 2010 11:21  
To: Dan McGregor  
Subject: TV Interference

Hi Dan, [s. 40(2)]

I have spoken to [REDACTED] and his feeling is that Ofcom's response is not entirely correct as we have no locus on interference from TVs. The fact that we state that viewers should not cause interference by their TV equipment does not mean that we need to enforce in that area or that we have the means to do so. He is also not aware of plasmas themselves being noted as undue sources of interference.

We suggest you should respond with a straight bat saying "the BBC does not currently enforce this TV Licence condition but would welcome any further information on specific concerns".

I hope this helps

Regards

[REDACTED] [s. 40(2)]

[Withheld under s40(2) FOI Act]

5 May 2010

Dear [Withheld under s40(2) FOI Act]

**Re: Enforcement of TV Licence Non-Interference Condition**

I refer to your letter of 17 March 2010 and apologise for the delay in responding to you. I have now canvassed the BBC's technical division and can confirm that the BBC does not currently enforce the TV Licence condition you refer to i.e.

*"You must not cause undue interference to any other radio or television reception with your TV equipment."*

In addition to the issues raised in your 17 March 2010 letter the BBC would welcome any further information on specific concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Dan McGregor  
**Senior Policy Adviser, TV Licensing Management Team**