



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

Mr Ewan Spence  
Sent by email to: [request-57287-9fe3c64e@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-57287-9fe3c64e@whatdotheyknow.com)

27<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Dear Mr Spence

### **Freedom of Information request – RFI20110023**

Thank you for your request to the BBC of 8<sup>th</sup> January 2011 seeking the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

*the current payment made by the BBC to the EBU to enter the Eurovision Song Contest for the 2009 and 2010 contests*

*the overall production cost incurred by the BBC to cover the Eurovision Song Contest of 2009 and 2010. This is the cost over and above the payment made in (1) to broadcast the BBC1, BBC3 and Radio 2 coverage of the three live shows each year*

The unique reference for your request is RFI20110023 and I now respond as follows:

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 1 to the Act 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; accordingly we will not be providing information regarding the production costs of the programme however, on this occasion we’re happy to provide the following information in response to your request.

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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 has paid the following amounts to the EBU for the last 2 years:

2009	£279,805
2010	£283,190

The licence fee is calculated by reference to broadcasters' total turnover and other contributions to the EBU. This provides viewers with the 3 hour final programme and two semi-finals, which are each 2 hours in length, and continue to draw in a large audience.

The Eurovision Song Contest is part of the BBC's overall membership and contribution to the European Broadcasting Union which includes a huge variety of broadcast related activities including Summer and Winter Olympics, news exchange, radio coverage of concerts around the world as well as technical infrastructure.

### **Appeal Rights**

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, whose contact details are:

Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545 700.

Website: <http://www.ico.gov.uk>

Yours sincerely,

Richard Curwen  
Head of Legal, Business Affairs & Brand Management  
Entertainment, Events & Comedy

## **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. Across the world, the BBC broadcasts radio programmes in 32 languages on the BBC World Service and the 24 hour television service, BBC World News.

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.

