



Information Rights

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

D. Hardy

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request-580729-589531cc@whatdotheyknow.com

2 July 2019

Dear D. Hardy,

Requests for Information – RFI20190955 and RFI20190956

Thank you for your requests of 4 June 2019 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') seeking the following information. As these pertain to similar subject matter I am providing you with a combined response.

RFI20190955

"Please supply total number of TV licence cancelations between March 2018 and February 2019 inclusive."

RFI20190956

"How many people cancelled their tv license in February 2019?"

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. Target Group ('Target') is the supplier for the Simple Payment Plan trial. 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.

To reiterate my response to your previous request RFI20190684, TV Licensing management information relates to licences in force where the licence has been cancelled by TV Licensing as a result of payment failure, and by customers themselves. Therefore these figures cannot be taken to mean solely the number of licences cancelled by customers during this period.

As advised in my previous response, we intend to publish on the TV Licensing website information on the number of licences in force cancelled each month during the 2018/19 financial year (April 2018 to March 2019); and we consider the monthly cancellations data in this time period is exempt from disclosure under section 22(1)(a) of the Act; which relates to information which is intended for future publication (specifically, that the information is held with a view to its being published by the BBC at a future date). I note that the BBC's subsequent Internal Review Decision IR2019023 upheld this position.

Since you have already been supplied with the cancellations data for March 2018, I consider the remainder of the information you are seeking in your new requests RFI20190955 and RFI20190956 i.e. monthly cancellations data for the period April 2018 to February 2019 remains exempt on the same grounds.

In line with our duty to advise and assist you, I can tell you that prior to the decision to publish 2018/19 financial year cancellations data on the TV Licensing website, we had previously released the February 2019 figure in response to another preceding request under the Act. Since this information is in the public domain, I am happy to provide it below.

Month	Cancellations ¹
February 2019	73,991

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. A request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of receiving the BBC's response to your original request.

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 or see <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

Rupinder Panesar

Freedom of Information Advisor, TV Licensing Management Team

¹ Our routine information terms some cancellations as expired, depending on the circumstances of the cancellation, and these are not reported as cancelled licences. This information above relates to licences in force where the licence has been cancelled by TV Licensing as a result of payment failure, and by customers themselves. Therefore these figures cannot be taken to mean solely the number of licences cancelled by customers during this period. Please also note that these figures do not include licences cancelled for customers aged 74 when they turn 75 because these fall within the Over 75 free licences category.

