

**Freedom of Information
Internal Review decision**

Internal Reviewer	Jim McKenzie, Advisor – Freedom of Information & Contentious Data Protection
Reference	IR2016019 (RFI20160121)
Date	1 April 2016

Background

On 7 January 2016 the applicant wrote to the BBC to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

Please provide me with all Ariel articles and any associated article comments that have been published on New Gateway since you moved Ariel from your internet website to your intranet New Gateway. This should cover, at the very least the time period from 25th November 2015 until now.

On 2 February 2016 the applicant sought an update on the BBC's progress in responding to his request. On 2 March 2016 the applicant requested an internal review:

I am writing to request an internal review of British Broadcasting Corporation's handling of my FOI request 'Ariel Articles'.

This request is now long overdue. I would like you to review this immediately, provide me with a satisfactory reason for the delay and a statement of when I will receive a response. I expect this update to be provided to me within 24 hours. Should this not occur then I shall escalate this to the Information Commissioner.

Issue on review

The issue to be considered on review is whether the BBC complied with its obligation under s10(1) of the Act to respond to the request "promptly and in any event not later than the twentieth working day following the date of receipt".

Decision

The BBC's response was due by 4 February 2016. The BBC has not responded to the request and it has therefore failed to comply with s10(1) of the Act.

The BBC is in the process of preparing its response which I understand should be ready by the end of next week. I apologise for any frustration that has been caused as a result of the delay.

Appeal Rights

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your 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; Telephone 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate) or email casework@ico.org.uk.