



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

Ms Mary McDonnell  
Via email: [request-188162-aa801adc@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-188162-aa801adc@whatdotheyknow.com)

6<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Dear Ms McDonnell

### **Freedom of Information request – RFI20131825**

Thank you for your request to the BBC of 5 December, 2013 seeking the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”):

- *What percentage of the BBC's budget is spent on BBC Northern Ireland?*
- *How much funding does BBC Northern Ireland receive?*
- *How much funding does BBC Northern Ireland spend on news coverage?*
- *How much funding does BBC Northern Ireland spend on entertainment?*

### **Questions 1 & 2**

For the financial year 2013/14, BBCNI received core funding of £49 million for local programmes and services. This represents c1.3% of the total amount of UK licence fee revenue, which amounts to £3.69 billion for the same period.

Additionally, BBCNI is funded to produce a range of output for BBC network television. Examples of network programming include: Points of View, Wanted Down Under and Sunday Morning Live, as well as drama productions for BBC Two such as The Fall and In the Line of Duty. These programmes contribute to BBCNI's target of producing 3% of the total BBC network television expenditure by 2016. BBCNI also produces a range of programmes for BBC Network Radio.

### **Questions 3 & 4**

We will not be providing information about the amount of funding for specific genres of programmes. This is because the information is held for the purposes of “journalism, art or literature.” The BBC is therefore not obliged to provide this information and will not be doing

so on this occasion. 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.” The BBC is not required 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.<sup>1</sup>

We are able to provide information about the number of hours of programming, across a range of genres, produced for broadcast in BBCNI Television. The figures below relate to the financial year 2012/13 and were published as part of BBCNI Management Annual Review. The review is available to view online at the following link:

<http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/annualreport/pdf/2012-13/bbc-management-review-northernireland-2013.pdf>

<b>Genre</b>	<b>Hours of local programming produced</b>
Comedy, Entertainment and Music	18
News and Weather	379
Current Affairs	29
Sport	72
Factual and Factual Entertainment	83.93
Drama	3.10
Children’s and Education	11.95

### **Appeal rights - questions 1 & 2**

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. If you are not satisfied with the internal review, you can appeal to the Information Commissioner. Contact details are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, telephone 01625 545 700 or see <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

### **Appeal rights – questions 3 & 4**

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, as outlined above.

Yours sincerely

**Mark Adair**

**Head of Corporate & Community Affairs – BBCNI**

---

<sup>1</sup> For more information about how the Act applies to the BBC please see the enclosure which follows this letter. Please note that this guidance is not intended to be a comprehensive legal interpretation of how the Act applies to the BBC.