



Information Rights

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

Cathy Fox

request-1000832-0b4a9c01@whatdotheyknow.com

08 August 2023

Dear Cathy Fox,

Freedom of Information request – RFI20230910

Thank you for your request to the BBC of 8th July 2023 seeking the following information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000:

"It is reported that a BBC presenter paid a teenager for sexually explicit pictures.

<https://news.sky.com/story/household-name-bbc-presenter-paid-teenager-for-sexually-explicit-photos-12917193>

This is just the latest in a long list of paedophiles exposed at the BBC.

- 1. Please send me any BBC guidance and policy that the BBC have in place to safeguard children.*
- 2. Please send me the procedures that are followed when a case of this kind gets to the attention of the BBC. Please state if there is any difference if the person is a BBC employee or freelancer.*
- 3. Who is the BBC contact that the public should contact if they are worried that a similar occurrence is happening to their child from a BBC employee or freelancer?*
- 4. What vetting takes place for employees / freelancers of the BBC to check they are not paedophiles?*
- 5. Please send me any BBC statements or lines to take from 2021- 2023 on the paedophile statue/artwork by Gill at the BBC. "*

In response to your request please see the answers below:

Question 1 & 2

The BBC safeguarding policy can be found in the following location:

<https://downloads.bbc.co.uk/aboutthebbc/insidethebbc/howwework/policiesandguidelines/childprotection/pdf/safeguarding-policy.pdf>

In addition the following link contains detailed information on safeguarding children and vulnerable groups included the safeguarding code of conduct, licensing, chaperones and referrals; <https://www.bbc.co.uk/delivery/working-with-children>

Finally, information regarding the BBC Bullying and Harassment Policy, Disciplinary Policy and Grievance Policy can be found in the following location:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/foi/publication-scheme/classes/policies-and-procedures>

Question 3

Safeguarding concerns about a child working on a BBC production or involved in a BBC event can be reported directly to the BBC's safeguarding team on safeguarding@bbc.co.uk.

Any other concerns about a safeguarding issue can be raised via the Whistleblowing Policy <https://staff.bbc.com/gateway/policy/documents/bbc-whistleblowing-policy.pdf> or directly with the BBC's Corporate Investigations team <https://staff.bbc.com/gateway/investigations/>

Question 4

The BBC undertakes appropriate checks as part of the recruitment process for freelancers and employees. Where an individual's role involves working with children DBS checks are undertaken.

Many of the BBC's policies and guidelines, including staff policies can be found at the following address:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/foi/publication-scheme/classes/policies-and-procedures>

Question 5

In response to previous FOI requests regarding the statue of Prospero and Ariel, the BBC has provided the following;

'The statue at the front of Old Broadcasting House is a representation of Prospero and Ariel from Shakespeare's The Tempest. Prospero is shown sending Ariel out into the world. When the statue was commissioned, Ariel - as the spirit of the air - was seen as an appropriate symbol for the new dawn of broadcasting. The figures are part of the façade of the building, which is now Grade II listed.*

The BBC doesn't condone the views or actions of Eric Gill.'

As set out in section 6(1)(b)(ii) of the Act, our subsidiaries (including BBC Studioworks Limited, UKTV, BBC Global News Ltd and BBC Studios Ltd), as well as the charities BBC Media Action and BBC Children in Need, are not subject to the Act. As such, information relating to these entities is not considered in the above response.

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,

BBC HR