



Information Rights

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

Tania Berlow

request-1044892-8347997b@whatdotheyknow.com

6 December 2023

Dear Tania

Request for Information – RFI20231471

Thank you for your request to the BBC of 7th November 2023 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') seeking the following information:

“Please tell me the number of TV licenses that have been cancelled since 07/10/2023 to the present date of 07/11/2023.”

Please be advised the Act gives a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities; and that we are not required to create new information to respond to a request, or give a judgement or opinion that is not already recorded.

By way of background, the monthly breakdown of all licences in force cancellations each financial year is published annually on the TV Licensing website, and the breakdown for the previous financial year 2022/23 is available at <https://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/about/foi-licences-facts-and-figures-ABI8>.

In terms of your specific request, the time period falls in the current financial year and is planned to be published next year, and therefore we are withholding it 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).

We are satisfied in terms of section 2(2) of the Act that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. We have provided further explanation of our consideration of the public interest in the section 'Why information has been withheld', below.

Why information has been withheld

We are required under section 2(2) of the Act to assess whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption used above outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

In favour of disclosure, there is a general public interest in providing further information about the BBC's television licensing activities which affect a large percentage of the general public.

In addition, we consider that the following factors are in favour of withholding the information:

1. That the publication of information by public authorities is a carefully planned and managed activity.
2. That the release of information generated for internal reporting only would not provide an accurate public understanding of television licensing before that information has been reviewed and consolidated.

In this instance, the public interest is served by maintaining the BBC's planning procedures. We are therefore satisfied in terms of section 2 of the Act that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest (outlined above) in disclosing the information.

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

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BBC Legal

