
From: S40(2)
Sent: 11 July 2016 12:02
To: S40(2) , BBC Press Office
Cc: Communications - TVL; S40(2)
Subject: RE: *Duty Ed dealing* Media enquiry - S40(2) - D Tel - update to line

I'm ok with that

From: S40(2)
Sent: 11 July 2016 11:31
To: S40(2) , BBC Press Office
Cc: Communications - TVL; S40(2)
Subject: RE: *Duty Ed dealing* Media enquiry - S40(2) - D Tel - update to line
Importance: High

Hi Press Office

I've updated the line as follows – amends highlighted - can you please let us know if you are happy with this?

S43(2)

Thanks
S40(2)

From: S40(2)
Sent: 11 July 2016 11:08
To: S40(2) , BBC Press Office
Cc: S40(2) , Communications - TVL; S40(2)
Subject: RE: *Duty Ed dealing* Media enquiry - S40(2) - D Tel
Importance: High

Hi S40(2) and S40(2)

S40(2) came back with the following:

S43(2)

We propose the following response:

S43(2)

Please do let us know if you are happy with the above line.

Many thanks,

S40(2)

S40(2)

Twitter: Follow [@TVLicencingNews](#) for news and updates

YouTube: Visit our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/TVLicencing](#)

BBC

For all of us.

From: S40(2)

Sent: 11 July 2016 10:21

To: S40(2) BBC Press Office

Cc: S40(2) Communications - TVL; S40(2)

Subject: RE: *Duty Ed dealing* Media enquiry - P. S40(2) - D Tel

Yes of course – many thanks all.

Will respond to S40(2) and update the LAEs on the system now.

S40(2) – I'll send a log through shortly.

S40(2)

Twitter: Follow [@TVLicencingNews](#) for news and updates

YouTube: Visit our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/TVLicencing](#)

BBC

For all of us.

From: S40(2)

Sent: 11 July 2016 10:18

To: BBC Press Office; S40(2)

Cc: S40(2) Communications - TVL;

Subject: RE: *Duty Ed dealing* Media enquiry - S40(2) - D Tel

Importance: High

Hi S40(2)

Good to talk to you this morning. Just to confirm we will add in the highlighted phrase and send back to S40(2) and that S40(2) is also happy. S40(2) can you please adapt the LAEs similarly and log the full document on the shared drive.

Hi S40(2)

Thanks for getting in touch.

S43(2)

S43(2)

From: S40(2)
Sent: 15 July 2016 15:51
To: S40(2)
Cc:
Subject: For weekend duty
Attachments:

Not relevant

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed
Categories: Green Category

Hi

Not relevant

S40(2)

And finally on that subject, please can you keep an eye out for further TVL articles resulting from the FOI on the TV Licensing Blog - <http://tv-licensing.blogspot.co.uk/> - if they do post anything, it might prompt further media interest, so forewarned is forearmed as they say.

S40(2)

Twitter: Follow @TVLicensingNews for news and updates
YouTube: Visit our YouTube channel at youtube.com/TVLicensing

BBC

For all of us.

Not relevant

From: S40(2)
Sent: 18 July 2016 10:06
To: S40(2) Pipa Doubtfire
Cc: S40(2)
Subject: TV licensing blog update

Hi Pipa and S40(2)

I just wanted to let you both know that the TV Licensing Blog has released another article on the FOI topic. It states that TV detection vans are not as widespread as the 'BBC would have people believe' and that there were no detection requests made in Wales or Scotland. You can read the full article here: - <http://tv-licensing.blogspot.co.uk/2016/07/bbc-releases-tv-licensing-detection.html>

They also report on the Nick Thomas case and are hoping to track him down for an interview. The article can be viewed here: - <http://tv-licensing.blogspot.co.uk/2016/07/worcester-man-has-tv-licence-conviction.html?m=1>

Thanks,

S40(2)

S40(2)
S40(2) TV Licensing

Phone: S40(2)

Email: S40(2)

Twitter: Follow [@TVLicensingNews](https://twitter.com/TVLicensingNews) for news and updates

YouTube: Visit our YouTube channel at youtube.com/TVLicensing

From: S40(2)
Sent: 18 July 2016 11:01
To: S40(2)
Cc: Communications - TVL; S40(2) Pipa Doubtfire; John Shield – Comms; S40(2)
Subject: TV Licensing blog - redacted information - detection and enquiry officer new articles published

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello all,

In addition to the article flagged by S40(2) over the weekend about detection statistics (see chain below), the TV Licensing Blog posted a further piece about the number of enquiry officers employed across the UK. The full piece can be read [here](#) and also copied below for ref.

Both stories, while taking a negative slant on the data, do not particularly contradict anything that we have said publically before.

On visits, we say:

In 2015/16, we visited 3.3m unlicensed households and caught 300,000 evaders. The number of visits in a year will vary depending on the size and regional allocation of our Enquiry Officers who are very effective in catching evaders – on average we catch more than 800 evaders every day.

On detection vans we previously told the Daily Express:

~~"We can confirm that since at least 1991, when the BBC took over the responsibility of Licence Fee collection, detector vans have been in constant use detecting the reception of television programmes. The technology used is also regularly updated to take account of new ways of watching television. TV Licensing does not make public how the detection equipment works as we would not want to risk giving helpful information to evaders, although we can confirm we only use detection equipment when other, more cost-effective methods have been exhausted. Information on our use of detection is published on our website at the following link <http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/about/foi-administering-the-licence-fee-AB20> - please scroll down to the "Detection" heading. Our use of detection equipment is regulated by the Office of Surveillance Commissioners and we are audited by the OSC on a regular basis."~~

We haven't had any further media enquiries on this as yet – nor has S40(2) piece on S43(2) appeared so far – but I'll keep you all posted as this progresses.

Many thanks,

S40(2)

Only 300 TV Licensing Visiting Goons Cover the Whole UK



Figures released by the BBC confirm that there are only around 300 TV Licensing visiting officers covering the entire UK.

The TV Licensing Monthly Performance Pack for March 2015, which was [inadvertently released by the BBC](#) without proper redaction, confirms that there were 440.5 full time equivalent goons engaged in enforcement activities, of which 305.8 full time equivalents were bog-standard door-knockers (which TV Licensing refer to as visiting officers).

The same document confirms that there were 388,754 visits made by goons in March 2015, of which just over 1-in-6 resulted in the sale of a TV licence to the occupier of the unlicensed property. The average door-knocking goon visited 1,270 properties per month, which works out at the equivalent of 8.5 properties per full time equivalent goon per hour.

Remember, as mentioned in our article about the "[Unfairness of the TV Licensing Goon Commission System](#)", that door-knocking goons are required to achieve at least one "[Code 8](#)" [prosecution statement](#) every hour of the working week as a basic condition of employment.

We stand by our earlier observation that the system of commission payments is wide open to abuse. The BBC has confirmed that [several TV Licensing goons have fiddled the books](#) in the past and we are of the firm belief that the system actively encourages dishonesty at the expense of innocent people who do not require a TV licence.

By far the safest option to avoid falling foul of a dishonest goon is to keep the door firmly closed.

TV Licensing should never be trusted.

540(2)
Twitter: Follow [@TVLicensingNews](#) for news and updates
YouTube: Visit our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/TVLicensing](#)

BBC
For all of us.

On 16 Jul 2016, at 23:05, 540(2)

> wrote:

Hi all,

The TV Licensing Blog has released another article on the FOI topic. It states that TV detection vans are not as widespread as the 'BBC would have people believe' and that there were no detection requests made in Wales or Scotland. You can read the full article here: - <http://tv-licensing.blogspot.co.uk/2016/07/bbc-releases-tv-licensing-detection.html>

They also report on the Nick Thomas case and are hoping to track him down for an interview. The article can be viewed here: - <http://tv-licensing.blogspot.co.uk/2016/07/worcester-man-has-tv-licence-conviction.html?m=1>

Thanks,

540(2)

BBC Releases TV Licensing Detection Statistics

The BBC relies very heavily on the public perception that a TV detector van is rumbling along every other street on the prowl for TV licence evaders.

We know that because that's what the BBC told the Information Commissioner's Office when it was defending - successfully as it goes - its decision to refuse the release of TV detection statistics requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In its Decision Notice (FS50154106) dated 16th October 2008, the Information Commissioner's Office said: "The BBC state that to release information which relates to the number of detection devices and how often they are used will change the public's perception of their effectiveness.

~~"If the deterrent effect is lost, the BBC believes that a significant number of people would decide not to pay their licence fee, knowing how the deployment and effectiveness of vans and other equipment will affect their chances of success in avoiding detection."~~

The BBC's position has not materially changed since then. It still refuses to provide any information about the number of TV detector vans or their deployment, on the grounds that doing so would be prejudicial to law enforcement - namely the BBC's ability to nab TV licence evaders.

Imagine then our delight when the BBC inadvertently let the cat out of the bag with its recent [Freedom of Information blunder](#).

According to the [TV Licensing Field Monthly Performance Pack for March 2015](#), there were only 116 detection requests across the whole UK in the 12 months to 31st March 2015. Of those, 115 were in England and one in Northern Ireland. There were no detection requests at all made in Wales or Scotland.

The Performance Pack does not state how many of those requests were successful but we know, from comments made by previous Office of Surveillance Commissioners' reports on the BBC, that not every request is granted. Indeed the OSC has previously complimented the BBC on the way it meticulously examines every detection request before authorisation is granted.

It therefore follows, we suggest, that a significant proportion of the 116 detection requests were refused, thus reinforcing our firm belief that TV detection is neither routine nor widespread as the BBC would have people believe.

Remember also that TV Licensing only uses plain white high-topped VW Transporter vans for detection purposes. The vans have a windowed sliding door on the nearside, which has a second smaller window above it. The offside of the vans has an identical large window, but no sliding door.

You can read a bit more about the myth of detection in [our earlier post](#) on the subject.

The TV Licensing Blog is grateful to the BBC for its help in researching this article.

540(2)
540(2) TV Licensing
Phone: 540(2)
Email: 540(2)
Twitter: Follow [@TVLicensingNews](#) for news and updates
YouTube: Visit our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/TVLicensing](https://www.youtube.com/TVLicensing)
