

Information Policy & Compliance bbc.co.uk/foi

Mr Martin Caldwell

27th February 2009

Dear Mr Caldwell,

Freedom of Information request - RFI20090150

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act") dated 23rd January, requesting the following;

- 1. For each of the last 12 years, the cost of the Director General's Children in Need parties in Television Centre, and how these parties were funded?
- 2. If funded by private sponsors, who are those sponsors, and do they have, or are they bidding for any contracts with the BBC?
- 3. A guest list for last year's event.

In recent years it has been customary for the Director-General or another senior BBC executive to host hospitality at Television Centre on Children in Need appeal night. The purpose of this event is to engage with and thank key supporters who have helped the charity achieve their valuable goals in the past year, and to help Children in Need promote understanding of its aims and objectives to a range of external stakeholders.

With reference to question I, records from 2004 onwards are outlined below and include costs for studio hire, catering and other associated costs. These events were funded by the BBC. No funds donated or raised by the public were used to fund these events. Every penny donated or fundraised by the public goes to support projects working with disadvantaged children in the UK.

Year	Costs
2004	£45,377.00
2005	£56,698.72
2006	£58,468.46
2007	£54,907.76
2008	£59,713.87



Please note that under section 12 of the Act, we are allowed to refuse to handle the request if it would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit has been set by the Regulations (SI 2004/3244) as being £450 (equivalent to two and a half days work, at an hourly rate of £25). As records prior to 2004 were held in various areas of the BBC, in order to retrieve information 1996 to 2003, it would be necessary to search all of the BBC's financial records for those years. I estimate that this would take more than 2.5 days

With reference to question 2, as already stated, the event is entirely funded by BBC internal budgets and not by private sponsors.

With reference to question 3, please find attached a list of people who accepted an invitation to the event in 2008. Most were invited with a guest. Approximately 1,000 guests attended the evening which ran from 8pm till midnight. Attendees included corporate and individual fundraisers, stakeholders associated with children's issues, sector partners, performers and artists involved in helping Children in Need throughout the year and those involved in the making of the appeal night live show, and some of children and their families who have been helped by the charity and contributed to the programme.

We are careful about ensuring that any BBC corporate event provides value for money and in recent years we have decreased the amount of corporate hospitality. We intend to reduce both the number of events and spend on corporate hospitality still further in 2009/10, and plans for the Children in Need appeal night event are under review.

Appeal Rights

If you are not satisfied with this response 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. The 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/

Yours sincerely

Sarah Yassien

Programme Manager
Marketing, Communications and Audiences