



Freedom of Information Internal Review decision

Internal Reviewer	Nicola Cain, Head of Legal – Freedom of Information & Contentious Data Protection
Reference	IR2016074 (RFI20161462)
Date	04 October 2016

Requested information

The requester made a request by email to the BBC on 07 August 2016 seeking the following information:

Please provide any minutes, notes or agendas from any meetings between 1 January 2013 and 1 August 2016 of the BBC Executive Board, the BBC News Group Board, or the BBC World Service Group Board, where there were any discussions concerning salary levels for different racial groups among BBC staff.

The BBC acknowledged the request the following day.

On 06 September, the requester wrote to the BBC seeking an internal review on the basis that “the BBC should have replied by 5 September”.

Issues on review

The issue to be considered upon this review is therefore whether the BBC complied with its obligation under s10(1) of the Act to respond to the request “*promptly and in any event not later than the twentieth working day following the date of receipt*”, i.e. by 05 September 2016.

Decision

While it is the case that the BBC did not provide a substantive response to the request by 05 September 2016, and would otherwise have failed to meet its obligation under s10(1) of the Act, I do not consider that the request was valid for the purposes of s8(1)(b) of the Act. I note, however, that the BBC has nevertheless now voluntarily responded to the requester.

Appeal Rights

As the request was not valid for the purposes of s8(1)(b) of the Act, and as set out in the relevant guidance issued by the Information Commissioner, there is no recourse to the Information Commissioner in this case.