



Information Rights

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

Philip Latham

request-715306-38ceb608@whatdotheyknow.com

1 February 2021

Dear Philip Latham,

Freedom of Information request – RFI20210013

Thank you for your request to the BBC of 2 January 2021 seeking the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

“I would like to see how much funding/subsidies/programme investment the EU have provided to yourselves the BBC from 2014 upto and including 2020”

In certain limited circumstances the BBC does, like many other organisations such as central Government departments and regional government, receive some funding from EU sources.

The BBC has clear obligations to maintain a research and development centre of excellence for the benefit of the broadcasting sector as a whole (specifically Clause 87 of the Framework Agreement). In fulfilling its obligation, the BBC must bear in mind the over-arching principle of value for money for the licence-fee payer and seek out any additional appropriate sources of funding. The BBC receives funds from the EU Framework Programme for Research & Development projects. There is no overlap from these projects to editorial areas such as BBC News. Instead, the BBC may seek external partners and funding for technology-based projects based on existing BBC R&D priorities and business needs.

No news programmes are permitted to take external funding and therefore cannot take EU funding at all, ensuring it cannot impact on editorial decisions. Furthermore, no EU funds are directly accessed by any in-house BBC productions. In line with its overall editorial independence, the BBC has in place strict rules to ensure that any external funding it receives does not diminish the BBC’s editorial control of BBC output nor comprises its editorial impartiality or integrity. Further information is available in the BBC’s Editorial Guidelines which are published at the following link:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/editorialguidelines/guidelines/external-relationships/> .

The amount provided to the BBC for 2019/20 is published at the following link;
<https://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/consultation/displaylobbyist.do?id=336906714921-03>

For previous years, the BBC received the following from the EU for each financial year (figures are given to the nearest thousand):

2014/15	£779k
2015/16	£676k
2016/17	£1,221k
2017/18	£1,079k
2018/19	£893K

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. Therefore information regarding their activities is also not subject to the Act.

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,

Information Rights

BBC Freedom of Information
BC2 A4, Broadcast Centre
201 Wood Lane
London W12 7TP

