



Information Policy & Compliance
bbc.co.uk/foi

Stephen Crabb

By email to xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

12 August 2008

Dear Mr Crabb

Freedom of Information request – RFI20080772

Thank you for your email of 15 July 2008, in which you requested the following information:

What was the total value of food and drink served to a) Assembly/Members, b) Members of Parliament and c) Members of the Scottish Parliament and (d) Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly at a) Twickenham, b) the Millennium Stadium, c) Murrayfield, d) Lansdowne Road during hospitality events paid for by the BBC?

I estimate that to deal with your request would take more than two and a half days; 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).

Information about the costs of hospitality provided by teams within the Nations and Regions is not collated centrally by the BBC's Events team. Rather, it is held within each of those regional teams and departments, often by the head of department or regional head and sometimes in the form of expenses claims, depending on the local division. In order to find information about the amount spent on food and drink, it would be necessary to either check individual expense claims to see whether it related to the information you have requested – or to contact individuals and ask them to look for the information within their own records. If we were to check each expense claim this would amount to hundreds of claim forms and in the local regions it would involve contacting a large number of individuals. Even if we were able to achieve this within 2.5 days, it would not be possible to quantify the amount spent specifically on food and drink for Assembly Members, MPs and Members of the Scottish Parliament. These people are generally invited to events involving a broader cross-section of community representatives and we do not hold information about the exact amount spent on entertaining or providing food and drink specifically to these people, as opposed to others who may also have been present at the event.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

You may request an internal review of our decision that your request exceeds the appropriate limit. You can either email xxx@xxx.xx.x or write to the above address. If you are not satisfied with the result of the internal review you then have the right to seek a further review from the Information Commissioner. Please see <http://www.ico.gov.uk> or contact the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, telephone 01625 545700 for details.

Yours sincerely,

L Wright
Advisor, Information Policy & Compliance