

Freedom of Information Internal Review decision

Internal Reviewer	Nicola Cain, Head of Legal – Freedom of Information & Contentious Data Protection
Reference	IR2016022 (RFI20160154)
Date	13 April 2016

Requested information

The requester made a request by email to the BBC on 13 January 2016 seeking the following information:

As part of its Talent Mapping process (see RFI20151386), the BBC offered a range of programmes and opportunities for people identified as leadership material. These are listed in the Appendix 1 that is mentioned in the Case Study (and linked to in the previous Fol).

"BBC sponsored NEDs, 2-3 per year" - please say how many sponsored non-executive directorships there have been and where, who the sponsored individuals were or what pay grade they were on, and how much was spent on this.

"Critical Eye, 2-3 places per year. c£10k", "Windsor Leadership. Experienced Strategic Leaders Programme (2 days, exec and BDG only) or Newly Appointed Leaders (3 days + 2 days, divisional heads or controllers)", "Kaisen Diagnostics. c£5k. Includes psychometrics, feedback session, development plan" - for each, please say what this is, how many persons have benefitted, who they are or what pay grade they were on, and how much has been spent on this.

"Business school 12 week programme. 2 per year" and "Business school 5 day / 4 week programmes" - please identify these and say how many persons have benefitted, who they are or what pay grade they were on, and how much has been spent on this.

Finally, were the individuals who benefitted from the above programmes obliged to refund costs if they left the BBC?

The BBC acknowledged the request on 14 January 2016.



On 13 March 2016 11:56, the requester sought an internal review on the basis that the BBC's response to his request was long overdue.

The requester also asked that if the BBC were to reject the request "on the same grounds as RFI20151646", that he be informed of that without delay.

The BBC had previously found, in IR2016007 relating to RFI20151646, that the same requester had made his request under a pseudonym with the consequence that the relevant request was not a valid request under s8(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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 a valid request "*promptly and in any event not later than the twentieth working day following the date of receipt*", i.e. by 10 February 2016.

Decision

As in relation to IR2016007, while I consider that the BBC would have failed to meet its obligations under the Act, and in particular under s10(1), in respect of this request, I note that it was submitted by an individual operating under a pseudonym. Therefore I do not consider that this constituted a valid request in accordance with s8(1)(b) of the Act and the BBC was under no obligation to comply with it. Nevertheless, I note that the BBC has today voluntarily responded to the requester in accordance with the Act.

Appeal Rights

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your 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 www.ico.gov.uk