



Information Policy & Compliance

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

Via email:

10th January 2014

Dear

Request for Information – RFI20131845

Thank you for your request of 11th December 2013 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') seeking the following information:

"I am making this request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The "TV Licence Resistance" Facebook Group, which actively discourages payment of the TV licence fee by both legal/illegal methods, only came into existence in May/June 2013. It has already attracted more than 36,000 Facebook likes.

Please provide all information the BBC holds about the "TV Licence Resistance" Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/dontpaybbcsctax>

This includes any relevant information held in BBC/TV Licensing email accounts, memos, documents or handwritten notes. It includes all information that specifically mentions or relates to the "TV Licence Resistance" Facebook Group."

Please note that "TV Licensing" is a trade mark used by companies contracted by the BBC to administer the collection of television licence fees and enforcement of the television licensing system. The majority of the administration of TV Licensing is contracted to Capita Business Services Ltd ('Capita'). Over-the counter services are provided by PayPoint plc ('PayPoint') in the UK, and by the Post Office in the Isle of Man and Channel Islands. Marketing and printing services are contracted to Proximity London Ltd. Media services are contracted to Mediaedge:CIA International Limited ("MEC"). The BBC is a public authority in respect of its television licensing functions and retains overall responsibility.

As you are aware, the BBC monitors the internet to check for online references to the organisation across a range of sites. The BBC checks the internet for mentions of "TV Licensing / TV Licence", including third party websites and blogs. The BBC's searches are carried out for the purpose of identifying external information relating to TV Licensing such that, where appropriate, we can respond and assist licence fee payers or correct inaccurate information as well as flag up customer complaints.

I enclose as Disclosure Document 1 recorded information held by TV Licensing specifically relating to the Facebook Group you have identified. This consists of copies of emails held by the TV Licensing Management Team.

Please note that information that is not relevant to your specific request and information which constitutes personal information, has been redacted from these emails. The redacted personal information primarily consists of names and direct contact details of BBC staff or of individuals who do not work for the BBC who are not senior managers; and therefore do not have a reasonable expectation that their details will be disclosed in this context. We are withholding this information under section 40(2) of the Act.

Personal information about living individuals is exempt under the Freedom of Information Act if disclosure to a third party would breach one or more principles of the Data Protection Act 1998. As junior members of staff at the BBC and from other organisations do not expect their details to be disclosed, to do so would be unfair; therefore, disclosure would breach the first principle of the Data Protection Act 1998 which requires data to be processed fairly and lawfully.

I have also included below, extracts from internal TV Licensing documents created in October and November 2013 that are relevant to your request:

"We're continuing to monitor the dominant "TV Licence Resistance" page on Facebook, which has grown from 14,800 likes to 16,000 in the past week."

"The TV Licence Resistance Facebook page has reached 17,192 likes. This is approximately an increase of 1,000 likes since last week."

"The TV Licence Resistance Facebook page has reached 17,600 likes. This is approximately an increase of 500 likes since last week."

"Facebook 'TV Licence Resistance' account has risen to 20,777, an increase in approximately 3,000 likes since last Friday: <https://www.facebook.com/dontpaybbcscumtax> "

"Notes that the TVL Resistance Facebook page has 20,000 likes. The piece still contains a TVL spokesperson quote. I don't think any action is necessary but worth noting."

"TV Licence Resistance group has grown from just under 29,000 last week to over 32,000 this week: <https://www.facebook.com/dontpaybbcscumtax> "

"The TV Licensing Resistance Facebook page has grown from 17,400 likes in October to over 30,000 in November."

"... a TV Licensing Resistance Facebook page has grown to 36,000+ followers"

Appeal Rights

If you are not satisfied that the BBC has 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 under the Act 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/>.

Kind regards

Rupinder Panesar

Freedom of Information Advisor, TV Licensing Management Team

From:
Sent: 02 September 2013 16:39
To: TVL communications
Subject: FOR INFO: Belfast court action day

Hi all

I've had an update from [redacted] on the planned day of action at Belfast magistrates on 24 September. They became aware of it from a post on the TV Licensing resistance Facebook page as below:

Posted Sunday 25th August at 16.07

"If anyone from Belfast is attending court on the 24th September please get in touch with us. Some of the admin team will be there on that date and we will be happy to assist you in the contesting and claim against you. Please direct anyone you know attending on this date to contact us.

They like to rubber stamp about 60 cases in around 11/2 hours. Nice and cheap for them to facilitate that. Not this time. The resistance will be in attendance and we will make them work for their money.

Please share this to your wall if we can gain contact with everyone concerned we could ascertain a major victory for the resistance "

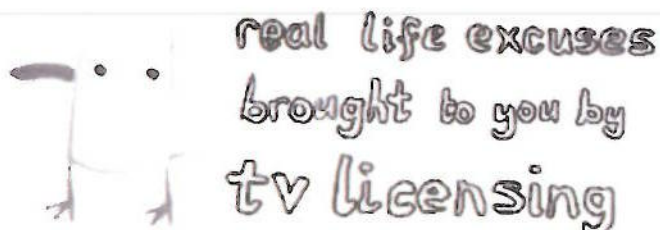
Comment underneath

"If we succeed in Belfast we will take it to every court in the country"

I'll let Stakeholder and the BBC NI Comms team know.

Thanks

PR Advisor (Reactive)
TV Licensing



View the new 'Excuses' campaign on our new YouTube channel - youtube.com/TVlicensing

From:
Sent: 03 September 2013 10:21
To: Deborah King ; Mark Sterling
; Victoria Scott; Tom Kelly
Subject: FOR INFO: Belfast court action day

Hi all

Just wanted let you know about this. We've picked up a comment on the TV Licensing Resistance Facebook page. It's probably worth adding the date to the diary, in case you get any enquiries about this on the day.

Posted Sunday 25th August at 16.07

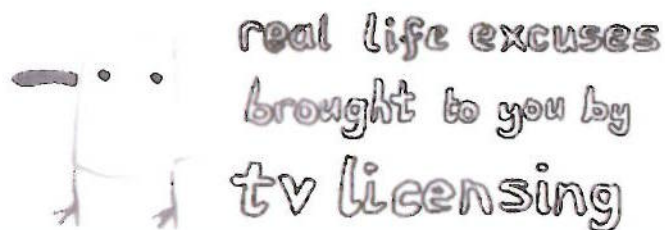
"If anyone from Belfast is attending court on the 24th September please get in touch with us. Some of the admin team will be there on that date and we will be happy to assist you in the contesting and claim against you. Please direct anyone you know attending on this date to contact us. They like to rubber stamp about 60 cases in around 11/2 hours. Nice and cheap for them to facilitate that. Not this time. The resistance will be in attendance and we will make them work for their money. Please share **this to** your wall if we can gain contact with everyone concerned we could ascertain a major victory for the resistance "

Comment underneath

"If we succeed in Belfast we will take it to every court in the country"

Thanks

PR Advisor (Reactive)
TV Licensing



View the new 'Excuses' campaign on our new Youtube channel – youtube.com/TVlicensing

From:
Sent: 20 November 2013 20:48
To: TVL communications
Subject: GoonMap

Hi all,

The TV Licensing Resistance Facebook page (22,800 Followers) has created a "GoonMap" - whereby users can map the location of EOs, updated daily, launched today.

https://www.facebook.com/dontpaybbcscumtax/app_1412245565654794

[If link does not work, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/dontpaybbcscumtax>]

Under the profile picture click the GoonSpotting logo.

, can you please forward to usual group if you haven't already? ta, thanks

