



Information Rights

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Nathan Gregory

[request-581690-61fcb93e@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-581690-61fcb93e@whatdotheyknow.com)

25 July 2019

Dear Mr Gregory

**Request for Information – RFI20191088**

Thank you for your follow up request to the BBC of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') for the following information:

*"Please provide me with information you hold regarding you wanting to commission a replacement for the TVL database LASSY.*

*LASSY by its nature is very old and I am aware over the last 10 years there has been talk of replacing LASSY with a new system.*

*My request for information is about this, including reasons why a replacement is needed and deficiencies of the legacy system.*

*Should you say my request is too broad, then you must make helpful suggestions on what is within the limit although I don't think it should be."*

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. Target Group ('Target') is the supplier for the Simple Payment Plan trial. Marketing and printing services are contracted to Proximity London Ltd. Media services are contracted to Media Planning Limited trading as Havas Media UK. The BBC is a public authority in respect of its television licensing functions and retains overall responsibility.

By way of background, I should note that it is normal practice for a large organisation to deliberate its practices and systems, to consider whether they are up to date and fit for purpose.

Nevertheless, I can tell you that there is no intention to replace the TV Licensing database (LASSY).

As you are aware, the Act gives a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities; and we are not required to create new information to respond to a request, or give a judgement or opinion that is not already recorded. This is not a request for recorded information, rather a query seeking answers to supplementary questions. Accordingly, the BBC does not consider this to be a valid request under section 8 of the Act.

Under our duty to advise and assist you, please be advised that the nature of your query is extremely broad and open to interpretation; and would entail searching a vast volume of potentially relevant emails and documents to identify and excavate specific information we consider relevant.

For more information and guidance about how to submit a request, please visit:

<https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

We would be happy to consider a valid request, however, please note that a request for recorded information pertaining to this particular area of interest is likely to involve historical information that would require a manual search of emails and files. As you are aware, under section 12 of the Act, we are allowed to refuse to handle a request if locating and extracting relevant information would exceed the 'appropriate limit' of two and a half days.

## **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. 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

Rupinder Panesar

**Freedom of Information Advisor, TV Licensing Management Team**

