



Information Rights

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

Matt Jones

request-636178-b17a6eb1@whatdotheyknow.com

6 February 2020

Dear Mr Jones,

Freedom of Information Request - RFI20200067

Thank you for your request to the BBC of 19 January 2020 seeking the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'):

- '1. How many FOI requests have been received by the BBC on a year by year basis for the past 3 years? (Until the end of 2019)*
- 2. Please can you advise on how many FOIs are rejected as the information is held for "journalism, art or literature" purposes - for past 3 years, on a year by year basis?*
- 3. Please can you advise on how many FOIs are rejected for other reasons - for past 3 years, on a year by year basis?*
- 4. How many of the FOI requests have breached the 20 working day limit stipulated by the act in the past 3 years, on a year by year basis?*
- 5. How many times were you were reported to the ICO because of breaches and if they issued fines and how much - for past 3 years, on a year by year basis?*
- 6. Please can you able to advise how long the minimum, average, and maximum number of days a FOI request takes to complete - for past 3 years, on a year by year basis?*
- 7. Please can you advise the minimum, average, and maximum cost to process an FOI request - for past 3 years, on a year by year basis?*
- 8. Please can you advise how many staff you have in your department working on FOI requests - for past 3 years, on a year by year basis?*

Response

Question 1

	2017	2018	2019
Total number of requests received	1949	2412	2095

Question 2

The figures included below are those requests which are not covered by the FOI Act as the information requested, if held, would be held for the purposes of 'journalism, art or literature' as per Part VI of Schedule 1 of the Act.

	2017	2018	2019
Number of requests not covered by FOI Act and no information volunteered	676	763	795
Number of requests not covered by the FOI Act and information was fully or partially volunteered	229	201	299

Question 3

	2017	2018	2019
Number of requests fully withheld due to the following exemptions	237	607	275
Section 12 (<i>Fees Limit</i>)			
Section 14 (<i>Vexatious request</i>)			
Section 22 (<i>Information intended for future publication</i>)			
Section 24 (<i>Safeguarding national security</i>)			
Section 31 (<i>Law enforcement</i>)			
Section 36 (<i>Prejudice to Effective Conduct of Public Affairs</i>)			
Section 38 (<i>Health & safety</i>)			
Section 40 (<i>Personal information</i>)			
Section 41 (<i>Information provided in confidence</i>)			
Section 42 (<i>Legal professional privilege</i>)			
Section 43 (<i>Commercial interests</i>)			

Question 4

	2019	2018	2017
Number of requests exceeding the 20 working day deadline (and not subject to a public interest test)	62	152	103

Question 5

This information is published on the ICO website available here:-

<https://ico.org.uk/action-weve-taken/>

Question 6

This information is not held.

Question 7

This information is not held.

Question 8

The Information Rights team deals with the BBC's compliance to the Freedom of Information Act, the Data Protection Act, as well as providing legal support to TVL and Workplace. The team is also responsible for the BBC's legal training and apprentice programme. As such, there is no number of staff within Information Rights that work exclusively on Freedom of Information Act requests.

The BBC also uses a network of Divisional and Departmental reps throughout the business who are responsible for drafting responses and providing relevant information from their areas. These individuals are not part of the Information Rights Team and in almost every case do not work exclusively on FOIA work.

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

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BBC Legal