



Information Policy & Compliance

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

research-worldwide

Via email: request-160652-6370aa9b@whatdotheyknow.com

10 June 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

Freedom of Information Request - RF120130706

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) received on 8 May, seeking the following information:

Please could you tell me the dates of Lizzie Watson's employment at the BBC.

Please could you tell me all her job titles/positions within the organisation with dates.

Please list all the programmes with she has been involved during her term of employment.

Please confirm that she is the daughter of Margaret Hodge MP.

Under section 40(2) (personal information) of the Act, we are withholding all of the information requested in parts 1, 2 and 3 of your request. Under section 40(2) of the Act, personal information about identifiable living individuals is exempt if disclosure to a third party would breach one or more principles in the Data Protection Act 1998. The individual concerned would not expect employment details to be disclosed to a third party. To do so would be unfair; therefore, disclosure would breach the First Data Protection Principle (fair and lawful processing).

In response to your final question, the BBC does not maintain a central record of family relationships. Family relationships do not in themselves constitute a conflict of interest and individuals are only required to inform the BBC of such relationships if there is the potential for a conflict of interest to arise e.g. where it might impact on their work role. In this case they would inform the BBC under the Declaration of Personal Interests policy.

All employees are required to complete a Declaration of Personal Interests (DOPI) form when they join the BBC and are explicitly reminded to review their interests annually and each time they take up a new job within the BBC. In addition to this, they are obliged to update their DOPI should their interests change in the meantime.

For information, the BBC's Declaration of Personal Interests Policy can be found at the following address (please refer to Section 6 in particular):

http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/foi/classes/policies_procedures/declaration_personal_interests.pdf

The BBC would only hold the information you have requested if the individual was employed by the BBC and had included it in their DOPI form or raised it with their local HR team.

Section I (1)(a) of the Act requires that a public authority informs the applicant of whether or not the requested information is held. However, certain of the provisions in the Act remove this duty and in this instance, the BBC declines to confirm or deny whether or not the requested information is held under section 40(5)(b)(i) (personal information).

This exemption applies when providing confirmation or denial that information is held would itself contravene one or more of the Principles in the Data Protection Act 1998. In the present case, confirming or denying whether or not the requested information is held would constitute the disclosure of an individual's personal data to a third party. This would be unfair, as the individual concerned would not expect her personal data to be so disclosed, and would therefore breach the First Data Protection Principle (fair and lawful processing).

I hope this response satisfies your request.

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, telephone 01625 545 700 or see <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

Yours sincerely

Rachel Currie
BBC People

