



Information Rights

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

Paul Jones

request-796095-98b869f6@whatdotheyknow.com

26 October 2021

Dear Paul

Freedom of Information request – RFI20211489

Thank you for your request to the BBC of 30 September 2021 seeking the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'):

What steps do the BBC take if any to ensure staff and contractors comply with the social media guidance issued in October 2020, and whether such steps include monitoring of social media feeds of staff and contractors by line managers to ensure rules are not being broken.

The BBC published guidance on the use of social media in October 2020 as part of a package of new measures around our renewed commitment to impartiality. This guidance can be found in full here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/editorialguidelines/guidance/individual-use-of-social-media>

The social media guidance applies to everyone working at the BBC with clear steps to follow to maintain standards and integrity.

Furthermore the BBC has also external events register where individuals working in journalism (and all senior leaders across the BBC) have to declare their external speaking events, additionally the BBC also has mandatory impartiality training for all staff.

As set out in section 6(1)(b)(ii) of the Act, our subsidiaries (including BBC Studioworks Limited, UKTV, BBC Global News Ltd and BBC Studios Ltd), as well as the charities BBC Media Action and BBC Children in Need, are not subject to the Act. As such, information relating to these entities is not considered in the above response.

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,

BBC HR