



Information Rights

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

Sean Moran

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30 July 2020

Dear Mr Moran,

Freedom of Information Requests - RF120200887, RF120200888 and RF120200889

Thank you for your requests to the BBC of 01 July 2020 seeking the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'):

- 1. How much has the Gates Foundation donated to the BBC in each of the last twenty years? Please give the original figures and the figures adjusted for inflation.*
- 2. Please provide details of all meetings between BBC employees and the Gates Foundation, or representatives of the Gates Foundation over the last twenty years .*
- 3. Please provide all emails between the Gates Foundation, or representatives of the Gates Foundation, and BBC employees over the last twenty years.*
- 4. Does the Gates Foundation have any editorial control over the BBC? If so please provide details.*

and

- 1. How much has the George Soros (including George Soros's Open Society organisations) donated to the BBC in each of the last twenty years? Please give the original figures and the figures adjusted for inflation.*
- 2. Please provide details of all meetings between BBC employees and George Soros (including George Soros's Open Society organisations) over the last twenty years .*
- 3. Please provide all emails between George Soros (including George Soros's Open Society organisations) and BBC employees over the last twenty years.*

4. Does the George Soros (including George Soros's Open Society organisations) have any editorial control over the BBC? If so please provide details.

and

1. How much has the European Union donated to the BBC in each of the last twenty years? Please give the original figures and the figures adjusted for inflation.

2. Please provide details of all meetings between BBC employees and the European Union over the last twenty years .

3. Please provide all emails between the European Union and BBC employees over the last twenty years.

4. Does the European Union have any editorial control over the BBC? If so please provide details.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/3244) state that two or more requests to one public authority can be aggregated for the purposes of calculating costs if they are:

- made by one person, or by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign;
- for the same or similar information; and
- the subsequent request is received by the public authority within 60 working days of the previous request.

We have therefore aggregated the above requests as one or more of these criteria have been met.

The Act does not require us to comply with a request if to do so would exceed the appropriate limit as set out in the Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244). The appropriate limit has been set at £450 (equivalent to two and a half days work, at an hourly rate of £25). In order to respond in full to your request we estimate that to carry out this search would take BBC Staff more than two and a half days, owing to the wide timeframe covered by your request and the very large volume of information that would need to be collated. Therefore, under section 12 of the Act, we are refusing to handle the request as it would exceed the appropriate limit.

We are mindful of our duty under section 16 of the Act to provide reasonable advice and assistance to you, and specifically to advise how you might narrow your request so that it complies with the time limit.

In order to allow us to process your request, we would suggest narrowing the timeframe covered to only the past three years.

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