



Information Rights

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

Peter D Beattie

request-588960-54627dd3@whatdotheyknow.com

22 July 2019

Dear Peter D Beattie,

Freedom of Information request – RFI20191184

Thank you for your request to the BBC of 11 July 2019 seeking the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

“I have received your letter of June 2019 concerning my TV Licence 0761737101. I would query your statement whether valid under heading 'How the scheme will change' ie 'The BBC has been given the responsibility to decide what scheme, IF ANY, should replace the concession'. Please note that this subject has been in discussion in the 'House of Commons' and the present government stated that when the new budget was agreed between the BBC/government the fund was adequate to maintain the 'over 75 year free concession' so there should be no reason to interpret that as a need for as quoted in your letter to me that the BBC was given any 'responsibility to decide what scheme, in any, should replace the concession' It is quite clear that the BBC had no entitlement to take a unilateral decision to change anything or for that matter to initiate a 'consultation to the public' or to interpret any received views of changing the present scheme or use it as an excuse to extract money from 'hard pressed' elderly pensioners in my case 84? If you insist to make this extraordinary unnecessary charge you would be 'guilty of getting money' under false pretences!

Also I would bring to your attention that in September 2018 the government made law to offer Concessionary TV Licences (£7.50) to the mentally disability via the the ARC status for residential homes. But to get that concession each home has to be listed as an ARC and there seems to be no haste by the BBC to process claims? My son who is 51 years, autistic, dormant epileptic and occupies an Independant Living (IL) flat in a residential home of Choice First under social services of Bromley LB. His carer who he has to pay for made an application for his home to be graded an ARC in January 2019, in the meantime to keep being legal my son has paid £154 for his new Licence in January 2019. His carer to my knowledge has had no acknowledgement of this application? My son is Paul Simon Beattie TV Licence ref 37583916787. When will this address be recognised as an ARC and when will my son get a refund against his present TV Licence?”

Please be advised that the Freedom of Information Act gives a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities. Your correspondence does not appear to be a request for access to recorded information the BBC would hold, and instead takes the form of a complaint. As such we do not consider it a valid request under the Act.

For information on how to submit a complaint to the BBC, please use the following link:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/complaints/complaint/>

For information on how to submit a complaint to TV Licencing, please use the following link:

<https://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/about/making-a-complaint-AB7>

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 (local rate) or +44 1625 545 700 (national rate) or see <http://www.ico.org.uk/>

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights

BBC Freedom of Information
BC2 A4, Broadcast Centre
201 Wood Lane
London W12 7TP



Freedom of Information

From January 2005 the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 gives a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities. The Act also sets out exemptions from that right and places a number of obligations on public authorities. The term “public authority” is defined in the Act; it includes all public bodies and government departments in the UK. The BBC, Channel 4, S4C and MG Alba are the only broadcasting organisations covered by the Act.

Application to the BBC

The BBC has a long tradition of making information available and accessible. It seeks to be open and accountable and already provides the public with a great deal of information about its activities. BBC Audience Services operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week handling telephone and written comments and queries, and the BBC’s website bbc.co.uk provides an extensive online information resource.

It is important to bear this in mind when considering the Freedom of Information Act and how it applies to the BBC. The Act does not apply to the BBC in the way it does to most public authorities in one significant respect. It recognises the different position of the BBC (as well as Channel 4 and S4C) by saying that it covers information “held for purposes other than those of journalism, art or literature”. This means the Act does not apply to information held for the purposes of creating the BBC’s output (TV, radio, online etc), or information that supports and is closely associated with these creative activities.

A great deal of information within this category is currently available from the BBC and will continue to be so. If this is the type of information you are looking for, you can check whether it is available on the BBC’s website bbc.co.uk or contact BBC Audience Services.

The Act does apply to all of the other information we hold about the management and running of the BBC.

The BBC's aim is to enrich people's lives with great programmes and services that inform, educate and entertain. It broadcasts radio and television programmes on analogue and digital services in the UK. It delivers interactive services across the web, television and mobile devices. The BBC's online service is one of Europe's most widely visited content sites. Around the world, international multimedia broadcaster BBC World Service delivers a wide range of language and regional services on radio, TV, online and via wireless handheld devices, together with BBC World News, the commercially-funded international news and information television channel.

The BBC's remit as a public service broadcaster is defined in the BBC Charter and Agreement. It is the responsibility of the Ofcom (the BBC’s independent regulator) to ensure that the organisation delivers against this remit by setting key objectives, approving strategy and policy, and monitoring and assessing performance. Ofcom also safeguard the BBC's independence and ensure the Corporation is accountable to its audiences and to Parliament.