



Information Policy & Compliance
bbc.co.uk/foi bbc.co.uk/privacy

Catherine Musgrove
Via email: request-299583-6ab427fa@whatdotheyknow.com

23rd November 2015

Dear Catherine Musgrove

Request for Information – RFI20151800

Thank you for your request of 28th October 2015 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') seeking the following information:

"Please can you provide me with the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:

- How many people since January 1 with a postal address in Lancashire, have been prosecuted for not owning a valid TV licence, and how many of these prosecutions have been successful?*
- Is it possible to get a breakdown of each person successfully prosecuted in terms of their name, address, and punishment (fine etc)? If not, can you provide a total of fines from the Lancashire area or an average fine figure?*
- How many people in the whole of 2014 in Lancashire were prosecuted? How many of these prosecutions were successful?*
- How many people with a Lancashire postal address currently have a valid black and white TV licence, and what was the figure for 2014?"*

Please note that "TV Licensing" is a trade mark used by companies contracted by the BBC to administer the collection of television licence fees and enforcement of the television licensing system. The majority of the administration of TV Licensing is contracted to Capita Business Services Ltd ('Capita'). Over-the-counter services are provided by PayPoint plc ('PayPoint') in the UK, and by the Post Office in the Isle of Man and Channel Islands. Marketing and printing services are contracted to Proximity London Ltd. Media services are contracted to Havas Media. The BBC is a public authority in respect of its television licensing functions and retains overall responsibility.

Requests 1, 2 and 3

Please be advised that the BBC does not hold official statistics on the precise numbers of people actually prosecuted and convicted for evasion of the Television Licence Fee. Nor do we hold information on fines as these are a matter for the court alone to impose and collect and dispose of, not the BBC or TV Licensing.

For England, Wales and Northern Ireland, prosecution and conviction figures are retained by both the Ministry of Justice (“MOJ”) and individual magistrates’ courts and can be requested using the following address - Data Access and Compliance Unit, Postal Point 6.25, Floor 6, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ. However, please note that information held by the MOJ and individual courts is subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 and therefore all personal information to which you are not entitled may be withheld.

Request 4

Firstly, I should explain that the BBC publishes information relating to licences in force (“LIF”) rather than licences issued. This is due to the fact that licences issued may lapse in any given year. A more accurate measure is therefore the number of licences in force at a specific point in time.

I can confirm that we do hold data on black and white LIF. However, in order before we could respond to this part of your request, we would first need a definition of ‘Lancashire’; specifically we would need a list of postcode regions (e.g. BB1, BB2) that are relevant to your request. As we do not hold such a definition, you would need to define the postcode regions you wish us to consider for your request.

Appeal Rights

If you are not satisfied that the BBC has 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 under the Act 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 SK9 5AF. Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate) or see <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>.

Kind regards

Rupinder Panesar

Freedom of Information Advisor, TV Licensing Management Team

