



Information Policy & Compliance
bbc.co.uk/foi

Christopher Griffiths
request-86330-2b206d22@whatdotheyknow.com

10 October 2011

Dear Mr Griffiths,

Request for Information – RFI20111142

I refer to your email of 18 September 2011, requesting information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”).

Before I respond to your questions, it may be helpful if I first explain the nature of the relationship between TV Licensing and the BBC. “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”) (which undertakes the majority of the administration of the TV Licensing system), with the administration of our cash related payment schemes contracted to iQor UK Limited. PayPoint Network Ltd and PayPoint Collections Ltd are contracted to provide over-the-counter services. Marketing and printing services are contracted to Proximity London Ltd as are public relations and advertising services. The latter are subcontracted by Proximity to Fishburn Hedges Boys Williams Ltd, Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO Ltd and PHD Media Ltd. The BBC is a public authority in respect of its television licensing functions and retains overall responsibility.

You have requested the following information.

- 1. I am writing to you to ask for details of Welsh TV license payers. Firstly how many households in Wales pay the TV license fee?*

In accordance with section 1(1) of the Act, I am able to confirm that the BBC does not hold the information you have requested. This is because TV Licensing does not hold information on the number of licence payers broken down by region or county. The information is held only at an individual address level. Further, TV Licensing has no way of knowing whether a particular licence fee payer is a residential household or a business. This is because TV Licensing customers are not obliged to inform us of this.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

It is theoretically possible to calculate the total number of TV Licences there are in given region by reviewing the relevant records manually. However, I estimate that carrying out this activity would take more than two and a half days. Under section 12 of the Act, we are allowed to refuse to handle the request if it would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit has been set by the Regulations (SI 2004/3244) as being £450 (equivalent to two and a half days work, at an hourly rate of £25). Therefore I am unable to help with your query.

2. Secondly what is the total that you take in annually from Welsh households?

In accordance with section 1(1) of the Act, I am able to confirm that the BBC does not hold the information you have requested. This is because the BBC does not collate figures for licence fee revenue broken down by nation. Also, as for Q1 above TV Licensing has no way of knowing whether a particular licence fee payer is a residential household or a business.

In order to calculate these figures, it would be necessary to commission a bespoke report analysing all the postcodes on the TV Licensing database and their associated licence payments. I estimate that carrying out this activity would take more than two and a half days. Under section 12 of the Act, we are allowed to refuse to handle the request if it would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit has been set by the Regulations (SI 2004/3244) as being £450 (equivalent to two and a half days work, at an hourly rate of £25).

3. May I also ask how much of the license fee do you use on producing and/or broadcasting Welsh medium services such as Radio Cymru or the Newyddion on S4C.

The total spend on producing and/or broadcasting Welsh medium services for 2010/11 was:

- BBC Cymru Wales programming on S4C: £23.1m
- Radio Cymru: £9.9m

Please note that these figures exclude pan BBC Overheads.

Your appeal rights

This enquiry has been dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, as indicated above. 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 the reference number given at the start of this letter. If you are not satisfied with the internal review, you may appeal to the Information Commissioner, whose contact details are as follows: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF; telephone: 01625 545700; www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Turner

Adviser, Information Policy & Compliance

