



Information Rights

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

Peter Jones

Via email: request-433425-6a68c2e2@whatdotheyknow.com

18 October 2017

Dear Mr Jones

Request for Information – RFI20171411

Thank you for your request of 21st September 2017 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') seeking the following information:

"I am making this request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

As you will be aware, I have previously made requests asking for information about the number of TV Licensing employees that have committed criminal offences in the course of their duties with TV Licensing. By TV Licensing employees I mean any person employed by the BBC or any of the TV Licensing contracted companies acting on the BBC's behalf as the statutory Television Licensing Authority.

You will probably be aware that Capita TV Licensing employee John Marcus Rodgers was convicted of drink driving on the Isle of Man earlier this week: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-41337492>

An article about his conviction appeared on the BBC News website, but seemingly distances Rodgers from his association with TV Licensing. As I understand it Rodgers was on the Isle of Man performing his TV Licensing duties, accommodated in a hotel paid for by TV Licensing and at the time of his offence was driving a hire car paid for by TV Licensing. There is little doubt that his offence was directly related to his employment with TV Licensing.

Given the passage of time since my last request, and recent events on the Isle of Man, please provide me with the following information:

- 1. The number of TV Licensing employees that have been convicted of criminal offences committed during the course of their TV Licensing duties since the date of my previous request (5 July 2015).*
- 2. In relation to those convictions disclosed in response to question 1: Also provide details of the offences they were convicted of, their dates of employment with TV Licensing and the geographic location (county, town or city) they were based.*
- 3. The number of TV Licensing employees that have received a formal police caution for criminal offences committed during the course [sic] of their TV Licensing duties since the date of my previous request (5 July 2015).*

4. In relation to those formal police cautions disclosed in response to question 3: Also provide details of the offences they were cautioned for, their dates of employment with TV Licensing and the geographic location (county, town or city) they were based."

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 Media Planning Limited trading as Havas Media UK. The BBC is a public authority in respect of its television licensing functions and retains overall responsibility.

Firstly, with regard to the news article you have referenced, I should make it very clear that the individual in question was not on duty at the time of the incident. As you are aware, TV Licensing enquiry officers are engaged by Capita and the BBC works closely with Capita to ensure the highest standards of conduct from its enquiry officers at all times.

I shall address your requests in turn below.

Requests 1 and 2

I can confirm that for the time period 6th July 2015 to 21st September 2017 (the date of this request) there have been no convictions relating to offences committed in the course of their TV Licensing duties by any person employed by the BBC or any of the TV Licensing contracted companies (acting on the BBC's behalf).

Requests 3 and 4

I can confirm that to the best of our knowledge we are not aware of any person employed by the BBC, or any of the TV Licensing contracted companies (acting on the BBC's behalf), that has received a police caution relating to offences committed in the course of their TV Licensing duties during the relevant time period.

However, I estimate that to conduct a fully comprehensive search in order to confirm this conclusively 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'. This is because in order to ascertain the information we would need to review every retained personnel file for every individual who has worked either for the BBC or any of the TV Licensing contracted companies during the time period in question. 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).

If you plan to publish a story on this information, please include the following statement:

A TV Licensing spokesperson said:

"We take employee conduct very seriously and work closely with Capita to ensure TV Licensing representatives uphold a high standard of professionalism, abiding by the law. No TV Licensing employee has received a conviction relating to an offence committed in the course of their TV Licensing duties, in the past two years".

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

