



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

Peter Jones
Via email: request-330307-96fad746@whatdotheyknow.com

20 May 2016

Dear Mr Jones

Request for Information – RFI20160899

Thank you for your request of 23rd April 2016 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') seeking the following information:

"I am making this request in accordance with section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Sometime over the last few days TV Licensing, acting on behalf of the BBC as Licensing Authority, has sent a press release about TV licence court cases heard at Lincoln Magistrates' Court to the Lincolnshire Echo.

In accordance with the Act, please provide a full copy of the information provided in any such TV Licensing press release (that mentions Lincoln) created/distributed since 1st April 2016.

As this information is intended for newspapers to publish ad nauseum and without corroboration, the BBC should have no problem in releasing it.

For the avoidance of doubt, please interpret "press release" as many any relevant information sent to the Lincolnshire Echo or an agent/employee thereof."

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, I should explain that we have interpreted your request as relating to following article published by the Lincolnshire Echo on 22nd April 2016:

<http://www.lincolnshireecho.co.uk/170-Lincolnshire-people-court-having-TV-licence/story-29159080-detail/story.html>

I can confirm that on 22nd April, the TV Licensing press office was contacted by a journalist at the Lincolnshire Echo newspaper and subsequently provided an email response to that journalist's enquiry. Please note that whilst the TV Licensing press office will respond to general media enquiries, TV Licensing does not issue press releases about individual prosecutions. We do not collect or release this data and therefore journalists will obtain this directly from the relevant court. Whether a local paper publishes information about TV Licence fee evasion cases heard in court is an editorial decision taken by the publication in question.

I have attached as Disclosure document 1 a copy of the email referred to above. Information which constitutes personal information has been redacted and primarily consists of names and direct contact details of BBC staff and individuals who do not work for the BBC who are not senior managers; and therefore do not have a reasonable expectation that their details will be disclosed in this context. We are withholding this information under section 40(2) of the Act.

Personal information about living individuals is exempt under the Freedom of Information Act if disclosure to a third party would breach one or more principles of the Data Protection Act 1998. As junior members of staff at the BBC and individuals from other organisations do not expect their details to be disclosed, to do so would be unfair; therefore, disclosure would breach the first principle of the Data Protection Act 1998 which requires data to be processed fairly and lawfully.

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

