



Information Policy & Compliance

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

Mark

By email to: request-144619-270eedbb@whatdotheyknow.com

4 February 2013

Dear Mark,

Request for Information – RFI20130025

Thank you for request of 7 January 2013 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') seeking the following information:

"It has been reported that BBC/TVL uses Recorded Mail to send letters to certain unlicensed addresses.

By reference to BBC Policy documents, Staff training materials, emails and similar documentation, please can you tell me:-

- 1. How many items of recorded mail were sent to unlicensed addresses in each of the past 5 years.*
- 2. What is the purpose of the use of recorded mail, and how does it relate to the detection of Licence Fee evasion?*
- 3. What is the estimated additional cost of using recorded mail in these instances?*
- 4. What cost-benefit assessment has been undertaken of this exercise? What was the outcome?"*

Please note that "TV Licensing" is a trade mark of the BBC and is used under licence 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 mainland and Northern Ireland, 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 Mediaedge:CIA International Limited ("MEC"). The BBC is a public authority in respect of its television licensing functions and retains overall responsibility.

I shall address each of your questions below.

Request 1

42,143 items were sent by Recorded Delivery in March 2008. Recorded Delivery has not been used since this time.

Requests 2, 3 and 4

I can confirm under section 1(1) of the Act that the BBC does not hold any recorded information relevant to these requests.

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, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, telephone 01625 545 700 or see <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>.

Kind regards

Rupinder Panesar

Freedom of Information Advisor, TV Licensing Management Team

