



Information Policy & Compliance  
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Mark

Via email: [request-171869-92931139@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-171869-92931139@whatdotheyknow.com)

04 October 2013

Dear Mark

**Request for Information – RFI20131305**

Thank you for your request of 6th September 2013 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') seeking the following information, further to your previous request :

*I am aware of a number of instances where a Summons for TV Licence evasion has been withdrawn by TV Licensing following protestations of innocence by the (alleged) defendant, before the case appears in Court.*

*Please can you tell me:-*

*1. The number of such instances during March 2013.*

*2. Any relevant breakdown of the numbers, for example:-*

*a) Proven/provable irregularity with the 178 form (differences between copies).*

*b) Non-provable irregularities with 178 forms.*

*c) Issues with BBC processes.*

*d) Issues with PACE requirements.*

*3. The number of TVL operatives subject to criminal, fiscal or disciplinary penalty, or retraining following the withdrawal of a summons during this period.*

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 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 your requests in turn below.

*Question1: The number of such instances during March 2013.*

One case was withdrawn in March following a protestation of innocence by the defendant.

*2. Any relevant breakdown of the numbers, for example:-*

*a) Proven/provable irregularity with the 178 form (differences between copies).*

*b) Non-provable irregularities with 178 forms.*

*c) Issues with BBC processes.*

*d) Issues with PACE requirements.*

TV Licensing don't record results against the categories given above. The case referred to in 1 above was withdrawn due to a case of suspected identity fraud.

*3. The number of TVL operatives subject to criminal, fiscal or disciplinary penalty, or retraining following the withdrawal of a summons during this period.*

No TVL operatives were subject to criminal, fiscal or disciplinary penalty in relation to the cases examined for the given period.

## **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

Louise Wright

**Senior Policy Advisor, TV Licensing Management Team**

