



Information Rights

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

Sean Moran

request-833931-b965e140@whatdotheyknow.com

14 March 2022

Dear Mr Moran,

Freedom of Information Request - RF120220341

Thank you for your request to the BBC of 17 February 2022 seeking the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act'):

- 1. What editorial control does Bill Gates (and/or the Gates Foundation) have over the BBC (or one of their subsidiaries)?*
- 2. How much money has Bill Gates (and/or the Gates Foundation) paid to the BBC (or one of their subsidiaries) in each of the last 20 years? Please provide figures yearly.*
- 3. What is the official reason for Bill Gates's (and/or the Gates Foundation) payments to the BBC (or one of their subsidiaries)?*
- 4. Do Bill Gates's (and/or the Gates Foundation) payments to the BBC (or one of their subsidiaries) give him any influence? If so please describe.*

In response to Parts 1 and 4 of your request, neither Bill Gates, nor the Gates Foundation, have any editorial control, or influence of any nature, over the BBC or its output.

With regards to Parts 2 and 3 of your request, please be advised that the BBC is funded through the licence fee and may only take funding for content from limited exceptions that conform to Clause 49 of the BBC Framework Agreement. We can confirm that it does not receive income from Bill Gates or his associated companies.

As set out in section 6(1)(b)(ii) of the Act, our subsidiaries (including BBC Studioworks Limited, UKTV, BBC Global News Ltd and BBC Studios Ltd), as well as the charities BBC Media Action and BBC Children in Need, are not subject to the Act. Therefore information regarding their activities is also not subject to the Act.

However, we can confirm that the Gates Foundation have provided funding to BBC Media Action. BBC Media Action is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. As an independent charity, it receives funding from institutions, foundations, corporate and individual donors to carry out life-saving and life-changing work. It does not receive any Licence Fee funding. BBC Media Action's accounts are publicly available at Companies House, the Charities Commission and on our website. You will also find information about how the work is funded at the following link:

<http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/annualreports/2019-2020.pdf>

Appeal Rights

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 your reference number. A request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of receiving the BBC's response to your original request.

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, Tel: 0303 123 1113 or see <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

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BBC Legal