



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

Mr M. Whitfield
Via email: request-340499-4ef8e396@whatdotheyknow.com

14th July 2016

Dear Mr Whitfield

Request for Information – RFI20161218

Thank you for your request of 21st June 2016 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') seeking the following information:

"Please can you supply any information that would help the Public understand the official remit of TV Licensing?"

Specifically:-

- 1. Any official/published statements made by the BBC on the remit of TV Licensing.*
- 2. Any internal references to, or discussion of Legislation (or lack thereof) concerning the remit of TV Licensing.*
- 3. Any information pertaining to TV Licensing and the compliance of its activities and remit with Article 8 of the Human Rights Act.*
- 4. Any further information, not covered above, relating to the withholding of similar information during the BBC/BBC Trust response to a complainant within the BBC Trust CAB rulings dated Oct/Nov 2015, page 38 (where Legal Privilege was cited)."*

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, please be advised that information about the role of TV Licensing and the legal basis for the requirement to hold a TV Licence and pay a fee for it is available on the TV Licensing website at <http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/about/foi-legal-framework-AB16>.

I can confirm that the BBC may hold information that is relevant to your request. However, as you have not specified a time period, or a sufficiently specific issue to which your broad request relates, I estimate that to locate and extract the information requested would take more than two and a half days. This is because relevant recorded information could potentially be held by several BBC departments and we would need to liaise with all of them to ascertain whether they hold that information.

Under section 12 of the Act, we are allowed to refuse to handle the request if it would exceed what is referred to as the 'appropriate limit'. 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). In line with our duty under section 16 of the Act to provide reasonable advice and assistance to you, please note that when considering how to narrow your request, it may be helpful for you to be aware that legally privileged information would never be included in Complaints and Appeals Board bulletins. If you wish to submit a revised request, we would be happy to consider it.

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

