



Information Policy & Compliance  
[bbc.co.uk/foi](http://bbc.co.uk/foi)      [bbc.co.uk/privacy](http://bbc.co.uk/privacy)

Mr Wayne Tully

By email: [request-417871-6ff84e30@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-417871-6ff84e30@whatdotheyknow.com)

09 August 2017

Dear Mr Tully,

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000 – RFI20171010**

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act ('the Act') of 12 July 2017, seeking the following:

- 1) *Does the BBC receive tickets for Wimbledon?*
- 2) *If yes, how many for each day?*
- 3) *Are the tickets given to presenters or other staff?*
- 4) *if yes, how are tickets allocated?*
- 5) *Why aren't tickets offered to licence fee payers, in view of the fact that the licence fee payer funds the BBC?*
- 6) *When a BBC weather presenter finishes their programme broadcast (e.g. 11/07/17 - Carol) do they then stay at Wimbledon and claim expenses from the BBC for meals etc?*

### **Response to Q1- 4**

It is normal business practice for all broadcast rights holders to be provided with complimentary tickets to sports events. We can confirm that BBC Sport receives such tickets as part of its rights contract with the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club (AELTC).

Tickets are used by BBC Sport for legitimate business purposes, staff reward or offered for personal use in return for a charitable donation. For example, at Wimbledon 2016, 421 tickets across the 14 days of play were allocated on this basis.

BBC Sport also utilised some of the tickets it received from the AELTC for production purposes. Where BBC Sport uses tickets for production purposes, the information is excluded from the Act because it is held for the purposes of 'journalism, art or literature.'

Part VI of Schedule 1 to the Act provides that information held by the BBC and the other public service broadcasters is only covered by the Act if it is held for “purposes other than those of journalism, art or literature”. The BBC is not required by the Act to supply information held for the purposes of creating the BBC’s output or information that supports, and is closely associated with, these creative activities.

### **Response to Q5**

The BBC is not permitted to sell Wimbledon tickets to members of the public - the sale of Wimbledon tickets to members of the public is the responsibility of the AELTC.

### **Response to Q6**

The information sought in question number 6 is excluded from the Act because it is information held for the purposes of ‘journalism, art or literature’. The BBC is therefore not obliged to provide it to you and will not be doing so on this occasion. Part VI of Schedule 1 to the Act provides that information held by the BBC and the other public service broadcasters is only covered by the Act if it is held for “purposes other than those of journalism, art or literature”. Accordingly, the BBC is not required by the Act to disclose information that is held for the purposes of creating its output or information that supports, and/or is closely associated with these creative activities.

That said, any expenses claimed by any on-air and off-air production staff would be done in accordance with the BBC’s expenses guidelines (a copy of which is available at [http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/foi/classes/policies\\_procedures/bbc\\_expenses\\_policy.pdf](http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/foi/classes/policies_procedures/bbc_expenses_policy.pdf)).

The above should not be taken as confirmation that any claims were made.

### **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. 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/>.

Please note that the BBC does not offer an internal review when the information requested is not covered by the Act. If you disagree with our decision your right of appeal is directly to the Information Commissioner. Should the Information Commissioner’s Office decide that the Act does cover this information, exemptions under the Act might then apply.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Land  
**Chief Adviser & Business Manager, BBC Sport**

## **Freedom of Information**

From January 2005 the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000 gives a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities. The Act also sets out exemptions from that right and places a number of obligations on public authorities. The term “public authority” is defined in the Act; it includes all public bodies and government departments in the UK. The BBC, Channel 4, S4C and MG Alba are the only broadcasting organisations covered by the Act.

## **Application to the BBC**

The BBC has a long tradition of making information available and accessible. It seeks to be open and accountable and already provides the public with a great deal of information about its activities. BBC Audience Services operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week handling telephone and written comments and queries, and the BBC's website [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) provides an extensive online information resource.

It is important to bear this in mind when considering the Freedom of Information Act and how it applies to the BBC. The Act does not apply to the BBC in the way it does to most public authorities in one significant respect. It recognises the different position of the BBC (as well as Channel 4 and S4C) by saying that it covers information “held for purposes other than those of journalism, art or literature”. This means the Act does not apply to information held for the purposes of creating the BBC's output (TV, radio, online etc), or information that supports and is closely associated with these creative activities.

A great deal of information within this category is currently available from the BBC and will continue to be so. If this is the type of information you are looking for, you can check whether it is available on the BBC's website [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk) or contact BBC Audience Services.

The Act does apply to all of the other information we hold about the management and running of the BBC.

## **The BBC**

The BBC's aim is to enrich people's lives with great programmes and services that inform, educate and entertain. It broadcasts radio and television programmes on analogue and digital services in the UK. It delivers interactive services across the web, television and mobile devices. The BBC's online service is one of Europe's most widely visited content sites. Around the world, international multimedia broadcaster BBC World Service delivers a wide range of language and regional services on radio, TV, online and via wireless handheld devices, together with BBC World News, the commercially-funded international news and information television channel.

The BBC's remit as a public service broadcaster is defined in the BBC Charter and Agreement. It is the responsibility of the BBC Trust (the sovereign body within the BBC) to ensure that the organisation delivers against this remit by setting key objectives, approving strategy and policy, and monitoring and assessing performance. The Trustees also safeguard the BBC's independence and ensure the Corporation is accountable to its audiences and to Parliament.

Day-to-day operations are run by the Director-General and his senior management team, the Executive Board. All BBC output in the UK is funded by an annual Licence Fee. This is determined and regularly reviewed by Parliament. Each year, the BBC publishes an Annual Report & Accounts, and reports to Parliament on how it has delivered against its public service remit.