



Information Policy & Compliance
bbc.co.uk/foi

By email to

29 January 2008

Dear Mr

Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your request of 25 January in relation to the amount raised via Licence Fee in England. The reference number for your request is RFI2008000070.

We are dealing with your request under the UK Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act") which applies to the BBC in respect of information held for purposes "other than those of journalism, art or literature".

You noted that I had previously provided you with figures which related to Scotland. You requested, in particular:

(1) Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, I now request that you provide me with the figures for England.

I would note that I subsequently indicated to you, in an email of 21 November 2007, that :

"as it pertains to Scotland, the figure of £240 million income via licence fee collection (as per my communication of 7 September) is simply a rough estimate, based on a percentage calculation relative to the total licence fee income for the UK as a whole. It does not take into account the specific circumstances of the administration and enforcement of the licence fee in Scotland (for example, it does not include consideration of the level of non-payment in Scotland as a result of factors such as evasion)."

In this respect I would add that the usefulness of the figure as a breakdown of licence fee income is very limited.

In that correspondence I further noted, in relation to your request for licence fee collection information pertaining to England, that:



"I consulted with the BBC Licence Fee Unit, based in London, in order to further your enquiry. The unit has advised me that, in order to provide a completely accurate calculation of actual income broken down by specific nations, it would be necessary to commission a bespoke report analysing all the postcodes on the TV Licence database and their associated licence payments.

I am afraid that I am not, consequently, in a position to be able to provide you with the information that you seek."

I estimate that to deal with your request - to undertake the bespoke report construction, as indicated above - would take more than two and a half days; under section 12 of the Act, we are allowed to refuse to handle the request if it would exceed 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).

Appeal Rights

You may request an internal review of our decision that your request exceeds the appropriate limit. You can either email foi@bbc.co.uk or write to the address above. If you are not satisfied with the result of the internal review you then have the right to seek a further review from the Information Commissioner. Please see <http://www.ico.gov.uk> or contact the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, telephone 01625 545700 for details.

Yours sincerely

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BBC Scotland