



Information Policy & Compliance
bbc.co.uk/foi

18 February 2008

Dear

Freedom of information request – RFI20080077

Thank you for your request received on 21 January 2008 seeking further information about TV Licensing. Your request is being dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”). In your request you asked the following:

I have not received a reply to my question of a couple of weeks ago so I will now make it a Freedom of Information Request. My question is: During the 12 months of 2007, what action did you take to ensure equality of TV Licence Enforcement activity between those racial and ethnic groups which live predominantly at permanent UK addresses and those racial and ethnic groups which predominantly do not have permanent UK addresses, e.g. Irish and Roma/Gypsy Traveller Communities?

I am very sorry that you did not receive a reply to your earlier enquiry from our agents, TV Licensing. This was unacceptable and I have brought this to their attention.

Please note that “TV Licensing” is a trading name 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 (which undertakes the majority of the administration of the TV Licensing system), with the administration of our cash related payment schemes contracted to Revenues Management Services Ltd (RMS). PayPoint Network Ltd and PayPoint Collections Ltd are contracted to provide over-the-counter services. The marketing and public relations activities are contracted to the AMV Consortium. The consortium is made up of the following four companies: Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO Ltd, Fishburn Hedges Boys Williams Limited, PHD Media Limited and Proximity London Ltd. The BBC is a public authority in respect of its television licensing functions and retains overall responsibility.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

It may be helpful if I clarify that a licence is only valid at the address stated on the licence unless the licensee has requested a transfer. TV Licensing's enforcement operations therefore centre around the address itself and whether it is currently licensed; we do not base such activities on individuals, hence issues such as racial and ethnic groupings should not affect our enforcement activities. Therefore if a travelling site contains unlicensed addresses TVL will conduct the necessary enforcement action in the same way as they would for any other addresses.

In relation to your specific question, it is worth noting that not all Irish and Roma/Gypsy Traveller Communities are without a permanent UK address. However, I can confirm that for the calendar year 2007 TV Licensing conducted enforcement activities on traveller communities in the usual way, as they would for other types of communities.

Appeal rights

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to an internal review by a BBC senior manager or legal adviser. Please contact us at the address provided, 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, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, telephone 01625 545 700 or see <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

I hope this response is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Natalie Saunderson
Policy Adviser
BBC TV Licensing Management Team