



Information Policy and Compliance
bbc.co.uk/foi

20 September 2007

Dear Mr

Freedom of information request – RFI2007000731

Thank you for your request dated 24 August 2007 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 just moved to rented accommodation in August 2007, and applied for a TV Licence. When it arrived I was surprised to see that I was charged for the whole year, and not part of the year. Please send me any information regarding Fee charges, with respect to this matter.

I assumed that as I am requesting for a Licence part way through the year, I would only be charged for that part and not the whole year?

I was previously lodging with a family member and agreed to pay half of the TV Licence there, thus I have already paid for the earlier part of the year?

Please clarify.

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.



Before answering your Freedom of Information request, I should begin by explaining that a TV Licence is a legal permission to install and use a television receiver at an address. It is not a payment for a period of service and the full fee specified in legislation is payable.

A licence covers the named person and members of their family living with them at the single address specified on the licence. A licence can be transferred to another address when the licensee and their family move away permanently.

In your case, I understand that you were lodging with a family member who holds a licence in their name at their address. While I appreciate that you agreed with your family member to pay half the fee for their licence, this was a private arrangement in which we cannot become involved. If the licence is in the title of that family member at their address then unfortunately your payment towards their licence cannot be offset against the cost of your own licence at a separate address. It is also worth noting that your current licence authorises your use of television at your new address until 31 July next year and you will not have to renew it until then.

I am sorry if my letter is disappointing to you but I hope it explains the situation.

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