



Information Policy & Compliance
bbc.co.uk/foi

Via email.

31 March 2008

Dear

Freedom of information request – RFI 20080195

Thank you for your request received by the BBC on 26 February 2008 seeking further information about TV Licensing. Your request is being dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”).

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.

In your request you asked the following:

Is it possible to obtain annual information on the numbers/value of licences issued in Scotland and in the UK as a whole? . . . I need a method of apportioning to Scotland the revenue raised from TV licensing in the UK.

The numbers of licences issued in Scotland and the UK as a whole as at 31 March 2007 is as follows:



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Region	Total licences in force (m)
England	20.415
Northern Ireland	0.624
Scotland	2.178
Wales	1.235
Channel Islands	0.092
Total	24.544

Please note these statistics are approximations of the numbers of licences in force and are not exact. They also do not include licences held by premises which are classed as Accommodation for Residential Care (ARC). This is because a detailed breakdown of ARC or other licences by nation is not held.

Regarding the value of licences issued in Scotland and the UK as a whole, the total licence fee income for 2007 is included in the enclosed document *TV Licensing Costs of Collection* under the heading "licence fee revenue". You will see that this was the total UK income in 2007.

Unfortunately, the BBC does not collate figures for licence fee income broken down by nation. This is because in order to calculate these figures, it would be necessary to commission a bespoke report analysing all the postcodes on the TV Licensing database and their associated licence payments (exact figures for numbers of licences in force broken down by nation are not held, as noted above).

I estimate that carrying out this activity 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

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