



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

10 April 2008

Dear

**Freedom of information request – RF120080254**

Thank you for your request received on 11 March 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:

- (i) *the number of people caught evading the television licence fee in Scotland in 2005-06*

I assume by your question that you are referring to the number of people from whom prosecution statements have been taken. According to this interpretation, the number of people caught evading the television licence fee in Scotland in 2005-06 was around 23,000.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

*(ii) the number of such people reported to the procurator fiscal*

13,628 such people were reported to the procurator fiscal in 2005-06. However, please note TV Licensing reviews all first offence cases on their individual merits and does not prosecute except where it is in the public interest to do so.

*(iii) the number of those reported who were prosecuted*

Prosecutions in Scotland are carried out by the Procurator Fiscal and not TV Licensing and we are not aware of the number of cases referred by us to the Procurator Fiscal that are carried forward. The Scottish Executive may have these figures.

*(iv) what, if anything, happened to those not reported.*

I estimate that providing this information would require an analysis of a large number of case files, which 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**