



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

Via email:

21 April 2008

Dear

**Freedom of information request – RFI20080303**

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“the Act”) dated 25 March 2008. You request:

*Does the BBC ever pass on and or sell information relating to and or acquired from licence fee payers and or members of its audience to any organization (s) (private or public) outside the Corporation? If so could you please detail the nature of the information handed over and or sold and the organizations who are in receipt of this information. I am only interested in information from January 2006 to the present day. In each case can you please name the organization, the date the information was handed over, the nature of the information and whether the information was handed over free of charge or sold. Can you please detail how much money has been raised by the BBC through the sale of this information?*

The BBC does not under any circumstances sell information relating to licence fee payers or its audiences to any organisation.

In the course of the BBC’s programme making and on-line content production we do pass details provided by members of the public to third parties involved in these processes. For example, when an independent production company is making a programme for the BBC, details of potential contributors may be collected by the BBC and then passed on to that third party production company. We only do this with the consent of the individuals supplying their information.

In addition, it is important to note with regard to the TV Licensing database, that it can only be used for exclusive purpose of administering the television licensing system and cannot legally be used for any other purpose.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

It is also important to emphasise that the BBC and TV Licensing does not disclose personal data relating to licence fee payers to any third parties without obtaining the payer's prior consent unless we are required or permitted to do so by law. This is in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and is stated in TV Licensing's Privacy Policy (available at <http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/privacypolicy/index.jsp>).

I note that you have asked in your request for specific details relating to each case of potential transfer between January 2006 and March 2008. I estimate that to deal with your request would take more than two and a half days. Under section 12 of the Freedom of Information 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).

However, I can provide you with some broad examples of occasions where TV Licensing may be required or permitted by law to pass on information concerning licence fee payers to external organisations. These include:

- Applications from a police force. For example, the police may need access to TV Licensing data in order to verify the identity of a victim or suspect.
- Applications from local authorities. For example, an authority may request access to TV Licensing data in order to verify whether a benefit claimant has an undeclared individual living with them.
- Forthcoming applications from the BBC Digital Switchover Help Scheme (designed to provide practical help for those people who will have the most difficulty in making the switch to digital TV). The Scheme may request access to TV Licensing data in order to verify whether those eligible for help are properly licensed."

### **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 above, 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/>

Please note that the BBC's commercial subsidiaries are not covered by the Act (see section 6(1)(b)(ii) of the Act).

Yours sincerely

Fern Kersey  
**Adviser, Information Policy & Compliance**