

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 15 January 2014

Public Authority: The British Broadcasting Corporation ('the BBC')

Address: 2252 White City
201 Wood Lane
London
W12 7TS

Decision (including any steps ordered)

1. The complainant has requested information covering a range of information including how much money was spent on biscuits.
2. The Commissioner's decision is that the BBC did not deal with the request for information in accordance with the FOIA in the following way:
 - It failed to provide a response to the request within the statutory time frame of 20 working days.
3. As a response has now been provided, the Commissioner requires no steps to be taken.

Request and response

4. On 20 August 2012, the complainant wrote to the BBC and requested information in the following terms:
 - "1. Please provide summary data for leaving party expenses for the financial year 2011/2012 and details of the five largest claims accepting personal information will be withheld.
 2. How much was spent in 2011/2012 on water for dispensers?
 3. How much money the BBC spent on biscuits on 2011/2012?
 4. Can you please tell me what the BBC's annual expenditure was on

the purchase of alcoholic drinks for Corporation staff and their guests in 2011?

5. *Could you please tell me how much money was spent in 2011/2012 on food and drink for staff, including food and drink for meetings and the overall subsidy applied to staff canteens, plus an aggregate amount for expenses claims, broken down by region if possible."*

5. The BBC responded on 17 June 2013 with a response to the request.

Scope of the case

6. The complainant contacted the Commissioner on 1 October 2013 to complain about the way his request for information had been handled. Specifically he complained about the time the BBC had taken to respond to his request for information.

7. The Commissioner will consider the BBC's time for compliance.

Reasons for decision

8. Section 10 of the Act states that a public authority must respond to a request promptly and "*not later than the twentieth working day following the date of receipt*".

9. From the information provided to the Commissioner in this case it is evident that the BBC did not respond to the complainant within the statutory time frame.

10. As a response has now been provided to the complainant, the Commissioner requires the BBC to take no steps.

Right of appeal

11. Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)
GRC & GRP Tribunals,
PO Box 9300,
LEICESTER,
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0300 1234504

Fax: 0116 249 4253

Email: GRC@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber

12. If you wish to appeal against a decision notice, you can obtain information on how to appeal along with the relevant forms from the Information Tribunal website.
13. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

Signed

Rachael Cragg
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Wycliffe House
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Wilmslow
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SK9 5AF