



Information Policy & Compliance

[bbc.co.uk/foi](http://bbc.co.uk/foi)      [bbc.co.uk/privacy](http://bbc.co.uk/privacy)

4<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Dear

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 – RF120140419**

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act ('the Act') of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014, seeking:

*"I have some questions regarding BBC iPlayer.  
I think BBC iPlayer's content is distributed to the viewers via CDN such as Akamai, Limelight, Level3 and Amazon.  
That's all? Or are any other CDNs providing the service for BBC iPlayer?  
How much does BBC pay to each CDN company for BBC iPlayer service per year?  
I appreciate it if you could reply to my question at your earliest convenience."*

In response:

***I think BBC iPlayer's content is distributed to the viewers via CDN such as Akamai, Limelight, Level3 and Amazon. That's all? Or are any other CDNs providing the service for BBC iPlayer?***

The BBC uses a number of CDNs to distribute iPlayer video and audio to users of the service.

Where iPlayer is syndicated to third party managed platforms (for example Sky and BT), the video and audio may be distributed through that third party's platform CDNs. Otherwise iPlayer video and audio is currently distributed via four CDNs, operated by Akamai, Atos, Level3 and Limelight.

Akamai, Atos, Level3 and Limelight currently provide these services to the BBC through the Technology Framework Contract (“TFC”) between the BBC and Atos. Information about the TFC can be found at this link:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/stories/2004/07\\_july/07/technology.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/stories/2004/07_july/07/technology.shtml)

***How much does BBC pay to each CDN company for BBC iPlayer service per year?***

In accordance with section 1(1) of the Act, the BBC confirms that we do hold information within the scope of your request. However we consider this information to be exempt from disclosure under section 43(2) of the Act as disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the BBC or third party or both by revealing a position that the BBC has negotiated with a third party supplier.

For example, disclosure would be likely to:

- damage the BBC’s (and/or a third party’s) business reputation or the confidence that customers, suppliers or investors may have in it;
- prejudice the negotiating position of the BBC (and/or a third party) in ongoing contractual negotiations;
- weaken the BBC’s bargaining position with suppliers of goods and services (which may in turn weaken a third party supplier’s bargaining position with other customers);
- have a detrimental impact on the commercial revenue of the BBC or a third party;
- weaken the BBC’s or a third party’s position in a competitive environment by revealing market-sensitive information or information of potential usefulness to competitors;
- harm the ability of the BBC or a third party to obtain goods and services in the future.

As section 43 is a qualified exemption, the BBC is required by section 2(2) of the Act to consider the public interest factors in this case. Specifically, we looked at whether in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

In favour of disclosure, we recognised that there is a public interest in the following:

- that there is transparency in the accountability of the BBC for public funds;
- that the BBC is using public money effectively, and that the BBC is getting value for money when purchasing goods and services;
- that the BBC’s commercial activities (including the procurement process) are conducted in an open and honest way; and
- that business can respond better to opportunities with the BBC.

On the other hand, in considering factors that might weigh in favour of the public interest in withholding, we took into account:

- That companies, or individuals provide the BBC with commercially sensitive information, so that the BBC is able to make robust decisions regarding its suppliers of goods and

services, including ensuring that the BBC obtains the best value for money from each transaction;

- That the BBC maintains a strong bargaining position vis-à-vis suppliers during contractual negotiations in order to ensure that the licence fee is spent effectively;
- That the competitive position of companies in their particular market is not disadvantaged by doing business with the BBC. It would not be in the public interest to disclose sensitive information about a particular company if that information would be likely to be used by competitors to gain a competitive advantage.

I am therefore satisfied, in terms of section 2 of the Act, that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

### **Appeal Rights**

If you are not satisfied that we have complied with the Act in responding to your request, 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/>

Yours sincerely,

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