Via email:

16th April 2014

Dear

**Request for Information – RFI20140469**

Thank you for your request of 15th March 2014 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (‘the Act’) seeking the following information:

“For each financial year over the last ten years, how many households made a No Licence Needed Claim declaration?”

Please note that “TV Licensing” is a trade mark 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 (‘Capita’). Over-the-counter services are provided by PayPoint plc (‘PayPoint’) in the UK, and by the Post Office in the Isle of Man and Channel Islands. Marketing and printing services are contracted to Proximity London Ltd. Media services are contracted to Mediaedge:Ci:\\ International Limited (“MEC”). The BBC is a public authority in respect of its television licensing functions and retains overall responsibility.

As you may be aware, you need to be covered by a TV Licence if you watch or record television programmes, on any device, as they’re being shown on TV. This includes TVs, computers, mobile phones, games consoles, digital boxes and Blu-ray/DVD/VHS recorders.

In accordance with the BBC TV Licensing No Licence Needed (‘NLN’) Policy, if you don’t use any of these devices to watch or record television programmes as they’re being shown on TV, you can contact TV Licensing to make an NLN declaration. The policy is available on the TV Licensing website at [http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/about/foi-policies-AB17/](http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/about/foi-policies-AB17/).

Please be advised that the Act Act gives a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities. As we started recording the number of NLN claims in 2009, I am providing you with figures for the calendar years 2009 to 2013. Please note that in 2010, following a BBC Trust review into the way we collect the Licence Fee, we made it easier for people to tell us if they no longer need a licence. This
may have contributed to the increase in NLN declarations between 2009 and 2010; and is supported by the fact that the number has since stabilised.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Licence Needed declarations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>299,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>438,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>425,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>428,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>463,846</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are a number of reasons for notifying TV Licensing if no licence is needed. These include: if the address is unoccupied; if no TV receiving equipment is being used at the address; if a TV is used only to watch DVDs or for gaming purposes; or if only catch-up or on-demand services are used at the address. This last exemption applies to a tiny minority of people, as the number of people watching only catch-up TV is well under 2%. Therefore the overwhelming majority of viewers require a TV Licence.

Please note that the BBC cannot guarantee that there are no businesses addresses included in these numbers as customers do not always declare the status of the address when making a no licence needed declaration. These numbers are not necessarily therefore an accurate reflection of the numbers of households with no television.

In addition, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of these figures as, when people who have declared they do not need a licence then move house, they often do not notify TV Licensing. Some of these no licence needed addresses may therefore have changed their status since the original declaration.

Please note that TV Licensing reserves the right to visit addresses that have made an NLN declaration to confirm that there is no television in use at that address or that television receiving equipment at the address is not used to receive television programme services. In 2012-13 when we visited people who told us that they did not need a TV Licence, almost one in five of those we made contact with was found to need a licence.

**Appeal Rights**

If you are not satisfied that the BBC has 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 under the Act 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 SK9 5AF. Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate) or see [http://www.ico.gov.uk/](http://www.ico.gov.uk/).

Kind regards