



Access to Public Information Response

September 3rd 2015

REQUEST UNDER THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION

Request sent on September 3rd 2015:

I'm writing a report on TV licence evasion in the UK. I already have the data for Jersey, the Isle of Man, Wales, Scotland, England and Northern Ireland. I hope you will be able to help me complete the picture of TV licence evasion in the UK.

I would like to know **how many people were prosecuted** and **how many were convicted** in the Isles of Guernsey for TV licence offence, and **how much they were fined**, if possible ("average fine"). It would be nice if evaders were split by gender and age, if the information is available.

Also **how many people were jailed for fine default in relation to TV offences**. If any, can you tell me **how long they were given?**

States of Guernsey response sent September 10th 2015:

For your information it appears the TV Licensing Inspectors visit the island once every three to four years, therefore offences are usually reported to us following these visits.

From 2008 onwards, there appears to have been two visits by TV Licensing, once in 2009 (resulting in several referrals) and 2013, resulting in a fairly large quantity of convictions.

As I said in my email below, my understanding is that someone referred to Guernsey Police for a TV licence infraction has the opportunity to purchase a licence before the matter is referred to court.

2008: 0

2009: 0

2010: 8 offences reported, but I cannot find the detail on whether these cases were all resolved before going to court, or whether some (or all) went to court.

2011: 0

2012: 0

2013: 19

2014: 0

2015: 0 (to date)

Breakdown of 2013 offences:

Female, pleaded not guilty but changed to guilty plea, fined £80
Male, pleaded guilty, fined £250
Female, pleaded not guilty, case dismissed (no evidence offered)
Female, pleaded guilty, fined £150
Female, pleaded guilty, fined £150
Female, pleaded Not Guilty but changed plea to guilty, fined £250
Male, pleaded Not Guilty, found guilty at trial, fined £300
Female, pleaded guilty, fined £250
Female, pleaded guilty, fined £100
Male, pleaded guilty, fined £150
Male, pleaded guilty, fined £150
Female, pleaded guilty, fined £150
Female, pleaded guilty, fined £200
Female, pleaded guilty, fined £250
Female, pleaded guilty, fined £150
Female, pleaded guilty, fined £200
Male, pleaded guilty, fined £150
Female, pleaded guilty, fined £200
Male, pleaded Not Guilty, case dismissed (no evidence offered)

As far as I can tell, no one has gone to prison for not paying their fine.

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