To whom it may concern,

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, I would like to make the following request:

Please provide me with a breakdown of how many, and what percentage, of households in each county in Ireland, had a TV Licence in 2014?

Yours sincerely,
04/02/2015

FOI Request Reference: FOI/2015/14

I refer to your request dated 29/01/2015 which was received by this office on 30/01/2015 which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this FOI body. Your request sought:

A breakdown of how many, and what percentage, of households in each county in Ireland, had a TV Licence in 2014.

The decision maker handling your request is Ms Maria Owens, Broadcasting Policy Division, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, 29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2 and they can be contacted at 01 6783097. A final decision on your request would normally be sent to you within 4 weeks, where a week is defined as 5 working day excluding the weekend and public holidays. This means that you can expect a decision letter to issue not later than 27/02/2015.

There are some limited situations under the FOI Act which could mean that the period for a final decision may be longer than this 4 week period. If this occurs in the case of your request, you will be advised promptly in writing setting out the reason and the new decision date.

Should our final decision not reach you on time, please feel free to contact the decision maker named above to discuss any problems that may have arisen. If you have not heard from us once the allotted time has expired, you are automatically entitled to appeal for a review of the matter. This review proceeds on the legal basis that the initial request is considered to be refused once the specified time for responding to it has expired. The review is a full and new examination of the matter carried out by a more senior member of staff.

In the event that you need to request such a review, you can do so by writing to FOI Unit, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Elm House, Earlscourt Rd, Cavan, Co Cavan or alternatively by sending an e-mail to FOI.UNIT@dcern.gov.ie. You should state that you are seeking this review because an initial decision was not sent to you within the time allowed for a response. In that event, you would normally have 4 weeks (after the initial decision should have been sent to you) in which to make the appeal. Consideration will be given to late applications in appropriate circumstances.

Should you wish to discuss the above, please contact me by telephone at 01 6782902.

Yours sincerely,

Carmel Conaty
FOI Unit

Féiltear roimh comhshreagrás i nGaeilge

Teach Leamháin,  Bóthar Ghìlchom an Iarla,  Elm House:  LóGhlao 1890 44 99 00 LoCall
An Cabhán  Feates +353 1 6782000  Feates +353 1 6783057  Fax
Boithar Ghilchom an Iarla,  Earlsvale Road,  Cavan
27 February 2015

Re: FOI request [FOI/2015/14]

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for records held by this body.

I have now made a final decision on your request and I may be contacted by telephone on 01-6783097 in order to answer any questions you may have, and to assist you generally in this matter.

The records you are seeking do not exist. Records on TV licence sales by County are not provided to this Department by An Post who are the designated collection agent and I must therefore refuse your request. As is explained below, this decision is made under section 15(1)(a) of the Act.

Section 15(1)(a) of the Act states that an FOI request may be refused if:

‘the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken’

I have carried out a complete search of all TV licence files held in this Department to establish if any historical records were held in regard to licence sales by County and have located no relevant records.

Decision

I have listed above the searches undertaken, and the results of those searches. In accordance with the requirements of section 15(1)(a) I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to identify and locate the records requested [or to identify any records in relation to your request as they do not exist]. I am unable to locate the records concerned and must therefore refuse your request on this basis.

Rights of Review

In the event that you are not happy with this decision you may seek a review of this decision by writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, [Insert address] seeking an internal review of the matter and referring to or enclosing a copy of this letter. [Insert for non-personal records - Please note, that a fee applies for such a review. The level of this has been set at €30 (€10) and payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque, and made payable to [Insert details]. Should you wish to pay payment by electronic means please contact [Insert name and contact details]. You should submit this within 4 weeks from the date of this notification, where a day is defined as a working day excluding the weekend and public holidays. The making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The review will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this body and the decision will be communicated to you within 3 weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Maria Owens
Broadcasting Policy Division

29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2
29-31 Bóthar Adelaide
Balle Átha Cliath 2

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LoCall: 1890 44 99 00
Fax: +353 1 678 2449