

Our Ref: FOI2016-140

Date: November 2016

**Subject: TV phone-in programmes (BBC)**

This request asked about the SFO's handling of allegations in 2008, about the BBC's use of funds from phone-in programmes.

The SFO announced in October 2008 that it would not investigate TV phone-in programmes and competitions. Among others this included the BBC and Audiocall (a trading division of BBC Worldwide).

After a full consideration of the allegations, the then Director decided that this case and similar activity did not meet the SFO criteria for investigation as it was then. The case acceptance criterion at that time can be viewed at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090105075630/http://www.sfo.gov.uk/cases/cases.asp>

A press release relating to this matter is available on the SFO's archived website, at:

[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090105075630/http://www.sfo.gov.uk/news/press/pr\\_581.asp?id=581](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090105075630/http://www.sfo.gov.uk/news/press/pr_581.asp?id=581)

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