

Mr. Frank Armstrong
email: frankarmstrong2@yahoo.com

18th September 2018

Re: Freedom of Information (FOI) request

RTÉ reference: FOI 2018 – 151

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

I am contacting you in relation to your recent FOI request where you sought the following;

“records (if they exist) of payments or payments in kind from Piaggio (the manufacturer of Vespa) or any of its agents or subsidiaries in Ireland to Ryan Tubridy over the course of 2018. I am making this request in response to photographs and an article that appeared in the September edition of the RTÉ Guide featuring Tubridy on his Vespa with the logo prominently displayed (see attached).

Further to this I am seeking records (if they exist) of payments or payments in kind from Piaggio (the manufacturer of Vespa) or any of its agents or subsidiaries in Ireland to the RTÉ Guide arising from the same article.”

RTÉ response

I have contacted several individuals in RTÉ by email and in person to establish if the records you sought exist. I have been advised that they do not. Mr. Tubridy does not have relationship with Piaggio or any of its agents or subsidiaries in Ireland where he receives or received payments or payments in kind.

I have also been advised that there is no relationship between Piaggio or any of its agents or subsidiaries in Ireland and the RTÉ Guide.

This means that Section 15(1)(a) of the Act applies; that the record concerned ‘does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken.’

As I outlined to you in an email on September 4th I was advised that the Vespa which was used in the photoshoot for the RTÉ Guide was actually owned by a member of staff in the Human Resources Department. The person was asked if it could be used as a prop and they agreed.

Right to review

In the event that you are not happy with this decision you can make an appeal in relation to this matter. You can do this by writing to Mr Cillian de Paor, Group Secretary, RTÉ Freedom of Information Unit, RTÉ, Administration Building, Donnybrook, Dublin 4. You should make your appeal within four weeks (20 working days) from the date of this notification. However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. There is a €30 fee for an internal appeal.

Mr de Paor has three weeks from the date of receipt of your request to respond. If after Mr de Paor's response you wish to seek a further review you are entitled to request this from the Office of the Information Commissioner at 18 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2. Should you write to the Information Commissioner making an appeal, please either refer to this letter or enclose a copy.

Alternatively you may appeal using the Office of the Information Commissioner on-line application form which can be located at:

<https://www.oic.gov.ie/en/apply-for-review/apply-for-review-online/>

If an appeal is made by you and accepted, the Information Commissioner will fully investigate and consider the matter and issue a fresh decision. You have six months from the date of receipt of the internal review decision to request the Commissioner to carry out a review of the initial and internal review decisions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Dowling". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Richard Dowling

Freedom of Information Officer, RTÉ