

## **The cuddly Manx kitten is told off.**



**“Reprimand your cat gently. Cats should not be yelled at for bad behaviours, but there should be consequences”- source: How to train your cat, by Brian Bourguin.**

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022, information was requested from Manx Radio relating to the number and cost of persons working at the station.

Significantly, Manx Radio receives over **£1 million per year** in Government subsidy but serious concerns have been expressed in effect that it is overstaffed and underperforming.

Manx Radio (affectionately nicknamed the cuddly Manx kitten) refused to provide the statistics sought via a Freedom of Information request, stating that the information was exempt from disclosure because it related to, “*Journalism, Art & Literature*”.



**“How many employees can you fit in Broadcasting House?”  
Competition answers to the Corporate Transparency Coordinator, Manx Radio,  
Head Road, Douglas.**

A review was requested but Manx Radio responded on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 with a further stubborn refusal to provide the data.

This prompted our news article titled "***Guardians of Truth?***" (see below).

We subsequently appealed to the IOM Information Commissioner and following a comprehensive analysis of the journalism exemption under Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2015, the Information Commissioner has now issued an important *Decision Notice* dated 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 which requires Manx Radio to provide the requested statistics.

But should a legal *Decision Notice* really be necessary?

The answer sadly is yes because public accountability is clearly not the top priority for the management of Manx Radio, and so consequences follow.

*Please see below for the Information Commissioner's full Decision Notice.*

[https://www.inforights.im/media/2068/dn2023\\_01\\_radiomanxLtd\\_17jan2023.pdf](https://www.inforights.im/media/2068/dn2023_01_radiomanxLtd_17jan2023.pdf)

*Our "Guardians of Truth" article can be found in our Latest News page dated 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022.*