

**FOI Release**  
***Information released under the Freedom of Information Act***

**Title:** Streaming services

**Date of release:** 23 March 2017

**Information request:**

You are cited in the BBC Article on Kodi stating you believe it is illegal to watch streams that are unlicensed. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-39206185>. Can you supply information regarding

- How you came to this conclusion - preferably citing which legal acts you believe apply to this activity
- Any advice you've assembled on the subject of legality of streaming for copyright holders and consumers

**Information released:**

In answer to the first part of your request, the fraudulent reception of subscription broadcasts is a criminal offence under section 297 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. A copy of the legislation can be found at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1988/48/section/297> .

In answer to the second part, please see the accompanying emails which detail the advice the Intellectual Property Office has given in response to questions on the subject of streaming. Please note that advice was correct at the time of issue, but should not be taken necessarily as correct today.

The emails have been redacted to remove personal names, contact details and other information which could possibly serve to identify the individuals involved in the correspondence. Such personal information is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act.