

## **Advice UK – email response**

I am writing to provide feedback on behalf of AdviceUK regarding the consultation on television licences for people aged 75 and over.

After reviewing the options in the consultation, our preferred approach would be to means-test the concession and make it only available to people in receipt of Pension Credit. We believe that this is the fairest way to offer a concession to those aged 75 and over. We would recommend that the BBC receive information from the DWP to determine eligibility.

We do not believe that the BBC should continue the concession currently in place unchanged. The estimated cost of £745m by 2021/22 would be extremely difficult to absorb and would inevitably result in cuts to programming. We also do not think that it is fair that individuals over the age of 75 who can afford to pay for the licence should continue to receive the concession. However, we believe the BBC should not get rid of the concession entirely because this would have a significant impact on people in this age group who would struggle to pay. It is for these reasons that means-testing is our preferred option. That said, we recognise that with an ageing population, the pressures on this concession will continue to grow for the BBC and that the challenge facing TV Licensing is only one aspect of the overall challenge to society that this demographic change is creating.

For your information, AdviceUK is the largest network of independent advice centres in the UK, with over 700 member organisations that provide advice to the general public.

Best wishes,

David

David Hawkes  
National Money Advice Co-ordinator  
AdviceUK