

## Dundee Older People's Services Network – by email

I am submitting this response on behalf of the Dundee Older Peoples Service's Network.

We urge you to reconsider reforming or restoring the concession for over 75's to receive the free tv license on the basis of the following:

The older you get, the less mobile you become and therefore find yourself stuck at home more often. We already have a problem across the country with loneliness and isolation, with many of our elderly suffering from pensioner poverty. For many, who are housebound or alone, the TV serves as a constant companionship which helps to while away the long days of loneliness. Depressingly for many, it is often the only interaction, 'chatter' and entertainment they have. The TV serves as companionship and gives the pensioner the ability to keep the brain learning and sharp.

We completely disagree with the government passing this decision over to the BBC given that they had given a commitment to providing this concession until 2022. Whilst we understand the reasoning behind the BBC's options, we feel it has been too easy to focus on this free concession for over 75's instead of looking at other ways to cover the costs such as selling adverts and commercials as other channels do. This would surely help to cover any short fall to funding.

We feel that the sudden charge offered to pensioners in 2020 might plunge some into further financial hardship, particularly when those who survive on the state pension often have to choose between heating and eating. This could have serious implications for their health and well-being plunging many into further loneliness and isolation.

We completely disagree with the option to reform or restore the concession, and vote for the option **The BBC should be copying the current concession**, however acknowledge the challenges faced.

We discussed the consultation, and whilst unanimously agreed that the concession should remain as is, we did acknowledge that if it couldn't be free for over 75's then the next best option would be to reform it by asking for a small contribution only of **no more** than 25%.

We again urge you to reconsider and thank you for taking on board our views.

✂



**Dundee Voluntary Action**  
**Community Planning & Organisational Development**