



**Age-Related TV Licence Policy Consultation**  
**Written response from GMB**

## About GMB

GMB is the United Kingdom's third largest trade union with around 630,000 members in all sectors of the UK economy ranging from low-paid workers to highly paid, highly skilled, technical and managerial grades.

This includes thousands of retired workers who wish to remain within the union, organised within the Retired Members Association (RMA).

GMB is a member-led organisation, and union policy is determined democratically by Annual Congress.

## Age-Related TV Licence Policy

It is long-standing GMB policy, affirmed at successive Congresses, that TV licences should be available to all retirees free of charge.

The trend of declining quality employer-pension schemes over recent decades has left too many pensioners in poverty, with the state provision inadequate for a decent quality of life. For many, including those who have retired due to ill-health or because they could no longer meet the physical demand of manual industries, working longer is simply not an option- nor should anyone be forced to keep working later just to be able to keep their heads above water financially.

The provision of free TV licences for all retirees will ensure that pensioners have a free form of entertainment and means of keeping up with current events to stay engaged with the world around them. This is especially important for an age group at increased risk of social isolation, particularly those in rural areas.

The BBC's mission to educate and inform makes it a vital resource for retirees, who may not be able to access other resources outside of the home, or have the skills or access to be able to use the internet.

Importantly, the provision of free TV licences will give pensioners more money to put towards their living costs, helping to alleviate pensioner-poverty and acting as a small step towards dignity in retirement for everyone.

## GMB

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