

**Hannah Bardell MP** – email response

I am writing to voice my concerns over proposals to scrap the concessionary TV licence for over 75s. Television is a lifeline and source of news and entertainment for older people, and is particularly vital for vulnerable older people.

There are 6,981 people in my Livingston constituency who will be detrimentally affected. And according to the BBC's own figures, scrapping of the over 75s concessionary licence will take an average of more than £22,000 a week out of the pockets of over 75s in every MP's constituency.

Age UK has also warned that scrapping the concession would push 50,000 over 75s into relative poverty, which is disturbing to say the least.

It's a shocking fact that dozens of people, many of whom are women, are sent to prison every year for non-payment of their licence. As if this is not bad enough, to potentially prosecute people in their 80s and 90s and send them to prison for not being able to afford a TV licence is absolutely unacceptable.

I find it incredulous that, despite the cost cutting exercises proposed in the consultation paper, several senior managers earning sizeable six figure sums have received double digit percentage salary increases in the last year.

However, the SNP believes the BBC should not be paying for a welfare policy - that is the responsibility of the UK Government, which should make a long term commitment to doing so, not effectively cut it from the BBC budget.

**Hannah Bardell MP**  
**Member of Parliament for the Livingston Constituency**  
SNP Spokesperson for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport