

**Huw Merriman MP – email response**

I write this submission as Chairman of the APPG and as the Member of Parliament for Bexhill and Battle constituency.

I supply my views as to the future funding of the licence fee for over 75 year olds. Whilst I would like all over 75 year olds to continue to receive a free television licence, the cost to the BBC taking on the funding (with a cost of £745 million per year rising to £1 billion by 2029), would lead to a much reduced BBC as a result. I am therefore of the view that the free TV licence should only be available to those who lack the means to pay for it themselves. As a benchmark, I would support this being available to those who are in receipt of Pension Credit.

I recognise that this will not be greatly received by impacted constituents but I also recognise that all generations are required to find the fees for a licence fee so I believe it would be better for inter-generational fairness as well as for the future state of the BBC.

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