

James Frith MP

Working hard for Bury, Tottington and Ramsbottom



Sent via email

12th February 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

Over 150 of my constituents have contacted me to express their views on your current consultation on the future of the age-related TV licence policy. The overwhelming majority of these are opposed to any outcome which would see those over the age of 75 required to pay for their TV licence. I strongly support this view.

For many older people in my constituency and across the country, watching television is an important way to combat loneliness and isolation as they struggle to live active lives. Many people have shared with me stories of being housebound due to illness who see their television as a way of staying connected to the outside world.

Many are concerned that they will not be able to afford a TV licence should they be required to pay for it in full or in part.

Whilst I sympathise with the position the BBC has found itself in due to the government placing the burden of finding the cost of funding the free TV licence on the organisation, I hope that you will take these concerns very seriously and either rule out scrapping the free licence or at worst ensure any payment is means tested so that those who cannot afford to pay for it will not need to do so.

I would also hope that the BBC is looking at other ways it can save money and fund this commitment, including tackling high pay and making efficiency savings.

Please take this letter as my response to your consultation and I hope you consider everyone's feedback carefully.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of James Frith MP.

James Frith MP
Member of Parliament for Bury North

