

John Grogan MP – email response

My strong view is that the BBC has to restore the universal licence fee whilst asking all the United Kingdom's political parties to consider carefully whether they want the taxpayer to continue to fund the over 75's concession. Any other course of action will require the BBC to withdraw from whole genres of broadcasting. The commitment given by the BBC was to consider whether to fund concessions for the elderly post 2020 not to automatically fund them. In the intervening years competition from the likes of Netflix and Amazon has intensified. Any forms of means testing is likely to involve the BBC in controversy whilst still requiring fundamental cuts. Parliamentary approval for any delegated legislation that may be necessary would not be assured. The plain fact of the matter is you are now no more likely to be poor if you are old than if you are in your 20's. It is Parliament's job to decide on age related concessions . This is as much a challenge for opposition parties as it is for Her Majesty's Government but it is a challenge that the BBC must embrace if it is to maintain its long tradition of independent public service broadcasting.

John Grogan MP

Keighley