

**Kevan Jones MP**

*Requested BBC Public Affairs feed the following comments into the BBC's consultation:*

1. He thinks the BBC should hand this back to Government and fight the case not to take on the policy despite originally agreeing to it (he knows the position in relation to Charter and DEB). The BBC shouldn't have the policy and they are in a no win situation. He said the BBC should not forget how many supporters it has. He was clear this is his position but as he thinks the BBC won't do this he said:
2. There is no option to reinstate the concession as it is because it would change the BBC forever (financial implications and growing).
3. He is concerned about the options to raise the age to 80 or introduce a sliding scale – these options are too fiddley; you risk the WASPI women issue; and pensioners will see something in their grasp only to have it taken away again (5 years from TV licence, and then suddenly 10 years away)
4. Clearly the very well off over 75s do not need the TV licence but he says although means testing seems the only option, if the BBC won't fight to give the policy back, there is a huge risk in linking it to the pension credit. He says the bar is set very low to receive this and the squeezed middle (who are often on basic state pension and maybe v. small work pensions) are the groups who (1) will suffer most (2) use BBC services most (3) are the BBC's biggest supporters. Wouldn't be a good idea to alienate this group  
He said to try and create another means testing system will be hard and expensive BUT the BBC cannot ignore this group of people as these are the ones who would suffer – and potentially lose faith in/be angry with the BBC - if means testing is linked to pensioner credit. Also if we were to means test, what would the deciding factor be based upon- income/savings? There are also more emotional factors to consider such as loneliness/ quality of life?
5. He will encourage his constituents to take part in the consultation