

Lord Blunkett – email response

I'm happy for you to treat this letter as a formal response. My own thinking is that it would be important to keep this as simple as possible – which is why straightforward means test would be extraordinarily complicated and difficult to implement.

Perhaps therefore lifting the age to 80 (or even 85), and making entitlement to a free license available only to those living alone would both reduce the enormous cost that the BBC had been asked to shoulder and at the same time keep the scheme simple.

I mention 'people living alone' because self-evidently anyone in a household with more than one person will from whatever source, have a wider income.

One way of dealing with this might be to phase the scheme, with the new cut off of 80 moving to 85 over a period of time – as both longevity and income levels change the landscape.