

Lord Rennard – email response

I am absolutely convinced that the BBC needs the income that would derive from most people over 75 paying the TV licence, and that most of them are able to pay for the licence without discomfort.

I did not like the way in which the government effectively cut the BBC's income by making it pay for the consequences of a previous decision they made to make the licences free for this group of people.

It seems to me that it may be appropriate for them to remain free only for people over 75 whose income does not reach the level at which they pay income tax. This would ameliorate public concern.

The Government/HMRC should be able to provide a certificate saying that no income tax has been paid in the previous financial year and this (with proof of age) should provide for an exemption.

In general it should be the job of government, not the BBC, to provide for pensioners to retire, but not in poverty.