



Rosie Cooper MP

Labour MP for West Lancashire

House of Commons

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Lord Tony Hall, Director General
BBC
Broadcasting House
Portland Place
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GD/ZA48236

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Dear Lord Hall,

I am writing about the consultation to bring in TV licence fees for those over 75, and other options upon which you are currently consulting. If this is allowed to happen, the most vulnerable in our society will suffer.

I am deeply concerned about the decision to end funding for the free TV licence to households with someone aged over 75. It should be the role and responsibility of Government to make such decisions about this allowance to over 75s and I believe the government should take back this responsibility.

One of the proposals in your consultation is means-testing the concession by linking the free licences to Pension Credit, which may seem a viable option and simple solution but as Independent Age has estimated that 1,209 households in my constituency are entitled to pension credit and fail to get it, it is not a fair nor appropriate one.

The Department for Work and Pensions estimates show that nationally 40% (two in five) of those entitled to receive pension credit are not in receipt of the benefit. The reasons for not claiming can include a lack of awareness about the entitlement or a stigma associated with claiming.

Because this proposal and other options will have a negative impact on some of the poorest pensioners in my constituency, and across the country, I believe the Government must take back responsibility and ensure that the poorest older people are protected.

For over a million of the oldest people in our country, television is their main form of company.

The BBC must go back to Government and discuss alternatives to these proposals, specifically, Government providing the funding so the BBC does not have to enact on any of the options put forward.

Yours sincerely,

ROSIE COOPER MP
WEST LANCASHIRE

