

Over 75s TV Licence fee

tvl.co.uk/age



Background

- Free licences were introduced by the then Government in November 2000.
- In 2015 the BBC agreed to take responsibility for any future scheme and its funding from 2020.
- The BBC carried out a 12-week consultation on the future of the scheme.
- In June 2019, the BBC announced that from June 2020, those aged 75 and over in receipt of Pension Credit would receive free TV Licences, paid for by the BBC.



What happens next?

People aged 75 and over who currently receive a free licence (or those acting behalf of someone who is over 75) do not need to take any immediate action.

TV Licensing has written to those affected to let them know about the new scheme and make clear that they will remain fully covered by their free licence until **31 May 2020**.

We'll write again before the changes next summer...

If the licence-holder already has a free over 75 licence and receives Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit and/or Savings Credit), they will continue to be eligible for a free licence. We will let them know how they can apply for their new free licence.

If the licence-holder does not receive Pension Credit and is unlikely to qualify for it, they will stay licensed until **31 May 2020**. We'll explain how they can pay for their next licence.

If you deal with the TV Licence on behalf of someone who is over 75 and would like correspondence to be sent to a different address, you can let us know at: www.tvlicensing.co.uk/update

If you live with someone who is over 75 and has Pension Credit, you will be able to transfer the licence to their name. You don't need to do anything yet. We will write to you in good time before **31 May 2020**.

Supporting people through the changes

We are very conscious of the needs of our vulnerable customers and our Vulnerable Customers Policy (available via our website) describes our approach towards these customers and how we support them.

We will also raise awareness of the Pension Credit, which is extra money for pensioners to bring their weekly income up to a minimum amount as well as access to a range of other benefits (including a free TV Licence).

You can check eligibility at www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator or by calling **0800 99 1234**.

There will be face to face assistance through specially trained support staff within the community and at home. They will not arrive unannounced - we will always contact people several times by letter first. They will not be involved in enforcement action.

- There will also be more staff in our customer support call centre.
- Before the changes come into effect in **June 2020**, we will introduce a new payment scheme which gives the option of paying smaller, regular instalments (weekly/ fortnightly/ monthly).

Concessions – Blind or sight-impaired

Remember people registered blind or severely sight-impaired qualify for a 50% reduction to the licence - £77.25 colour and £26 black and white.

Accommodation for Residential Care (ARC)

- Over-75s who currently receive an ARC licence will continue to receive a free licence.
- The Government sets the criteria for which residential care homes, supported housing or sheltered accommodation are eligible.
- We will contact wardens or administrators to explain to them what they will need to do and TV Licensing's ARC team will be available to guide them through the application process.
- There is more information at www.tvlicensing.co.uk or via our customer care number **0300 790 6112**.

When you need a TV licence and how much it costs



- TV Licences are required by individuals who watch or record programmes as they are being shown on TV, live on an online service, or downloaded and watched via iPlayer, and this applies to any provider and any device (for example TV, laptop, tablet or DVD/video recorder).
- From April 2019, the cost of a colour licence is £154.50 and a black and white licence is £52.

Further information on the new scheme is available at:

- Telephone: **0800 232 1382**
- BBC website (for information on the decision): www.bbc.co.uk/age
- TV Licensing website: www.tvl.co.uk/age