



FREE TV-LICENCE

For ALL over 75s

Write to your MP

The purpose of writing is simply to try and influence your elected representative. You don't need to be an expert to tell your MP what you think.

Writing to your MP to demand the government steps in and pays for free TV licences for over 75s

- Introduce yourself by name, and let your MP know you are their constituent.
- Tell them you are writing to them about the free TV licences for the over 75s.
- Tell them why this is unfair (you can use points in the box).
- Tell them why you are writing – make your letter as personal as possible. .
- Tell them you look forward to receiving their response.
- End with your full name, address and postcode.

Tips for contacting your MP

- Be polite – don't give them an excuse to ignore your letter.
- Keep it simple: be brief & concise.
- Ask at least one question – this shows you expect an answer.
- Follow up – if you are not satisfied with your MP's answer, say so; write again – or even phone and ask for a conversation.
- Encourage family, friends and colleagues to get involved. The more people your MP hears from, the harder it is to ignore.

How to find your MP

If you don't know who your MP is, you can find out their name and contact details at the **Find Your MP** website. Alternatively, you can google your MP to find contact details.

Some useful points on why over 75s should have free TV licence

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

The BBC have now introduced means testing for a free TV licence for the over 75s. This means they are only free for people receiving Pension Credit.

We believe this change will harm millions of older people who rely on their TV and the most vulnerable will be forced to cut back on essentials to make ends meet, or lose out on TV altogether.

Removing older people's access to TV would be an unthinkable cruel blow when many are already facing huge challenges.

- Half of all over 75s are living with a disability, and many rely on their TV for companionship and entertainment.
- For those who don't have the internet, TV lets them stay up to date with what's happening in the world.
- Nearly a third of over 75s are living in poverty or just above the poverty line. Paying a hefty extra bill would simply be impossible when they're barely scraping by as it is.
- Research by AgeUK shows that more than 2 million over 75s will have to go without TV or cut back on heating and food if free TV licences were scrapped.
- Loneliness is already a problem in the UK – new figures show two thirds of people rely on the TV for company in lieu of real social interactions.
- Removing the free TV licence for Over 75s in the middle of a pandemic is particularly cruel. Many older people have been left isolated and frightened by lockdown and it is vital that they have access to the news and public health announcements

