

Date: 24 July 2019

The Rt Hon Jeremy Wright MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media
and Sport
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our Ref: CE/DLF
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Dear Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport

At a recent meeting of the Council, consideration was given to a motion in connection with Free TV Licences. The Council approved the motion and I was asked to write to you accordingly. The approved motion is set out below.

"This Council calls on the Conservative led Government to stand by their 2017 Election manifesto promise and protect the free TV licences for the over 75s. Scrapping the free TV licences for the over 75s will hit approximately 6,620 households across Blackpool. This will leave many over 75s of modest means more than £150 worse off and will risk them being cut off from the outside world if they lose their access to the TV. People living on their own, particularly those with severe mobility issues or housebound, will be the ones most penalised by the decision to scrap the free TV licence to the over 75s. The Conservative led Government has drastically cut the funding for the BBC since 2010 and have disgracefully shifted the responsibility and costs of the licence concessions to the BBC. This is in stark comparison to the last Labour Government who properly funded the BBC and ensured all TV licences for the over 75s were free.

This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport with the above concerns and asking the Government to take steps to protect the future of the free TV licences for the over 75s."

We hope you will give this proposal full consideration and look forward to your response or any further opportunities to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely



Neil Jack
Chief Executive



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