



Information Rights

[bbc.co.uk/foi](http://bbc.co.uk/foi)      [bbc.co.uk/privacy](http://bbc.co.uk/privacy)

Michael John Pavey

[request-718780-5260b991@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-718780-5260b991@whatdotheyknow.com)

12 February 2021

Dear Mr Pavey

**Request for Information – RFI20210100**

Thank you for your request to the BBC of 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act') seeking the following information (these have been numbered for ease of reference):

*"I would like to know exactly 1) which groups of people are entitled to free (or is exempt from) the TV license fee across the UK, 2) how many there are and 3) how much it costs in lost revenue for the BBC."*

Please note that "TV Licensing" is a trade mark used by companies contracted by the BBC to administer the collection of television licence fees and enforcement of the television licensing system. The majority of the administration of TV Licensing is contracted to Capita Business Services Limited ('Capita'). Over-the-counter services are provided by PayPoint plc ('PayPoint') in the UK, and by the Post Office in the Isle of Man and Channel Islands. Target Group Limited ('Target') is the supplier for the Simple Payment Plan. Marketing and printing services are contracted to RAPP Limited (formerly Proximity London Limited). Media services are contracted to Havas Media Limited. The BBC is a public authority in respect of its television licensing functions and retains overall responsibility.

Please be advised that the Act gives a general right of access to all types of recorded information held by public authorities; and that we are not required to create new information to respond to a request, or give a judgement or opinion that is not already recorded.

**Part 1**

General information on which groups get a concession on the licence fee is readily available on the TV Licensing website at <https://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/about/foi-licences-facts-and-figures-ABI8>. With regard to your specific request, in August 2020, the BBC introduced a new scheme that offers some over 75 households a free TV Licence. You can get a free TV Licence if you, as the licence holder, are 75 years or older **and** you, or your partner living at the same address, receive Pension Credit.

## **Part 2**

The BBC has previously been reimbursed by the government for the cost of issuing free TV Licences to any person aged 75 years and older. Immediately before the new policy took effect on 1 August 2020 there were around 4.2 million free over-75 TV licences in force. In line with our duty to advise and assist requestors, we can advise you that, in December 2020, the overall figures for over 75 licences were more than 2.7m licences purchased and 750,000 free licence applications received.

## **Part 3**

I can confirm that the BBC does not hold any recorded information on projected revenue from paid for Over 75 licences for the first full year following the introduction of the new scheme: this is because the BBC operates on a financial year basis. Consequently, we are unable to respond to this part of your request.

## **Appeal Rights**

If you are not satisfied that we have complied with the Act in responding to your request, you have the right to an internal review by a BBC senior manager or legal adviser. Please contact us at the address above, explaining what you would like us to review and including your reference number. A request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of receiving the BBC's response to your original request.

If you are not satisfied with the internal review, you can appeal to the Information Commissioner. The contact details are: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, Tel: 0303 123 1113 or see <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

Rupinder Panesar

**Freedom of Information Advisor, TV Licensing Management Tea**

