

I have been asked to write to you on behalf of several concerned relatives (as well as myself) regarding the television licence fee.

Quite a few relatives of mine are pensioners who struggle to pay the licence fee. £116 might not sound like a lot of money but to an elderly person on a small pension with other concerns such as trying to keep warm in winter, it's just another ^{bill} they can not pay.

Most older people have a television set as it stops them from feeling isolated. The only solution at the moment to not paying the licence fee is to not have a television. What happened to freedom of choice?

It is unfair that everyone who has a TV has to pay £116 soon to be £121 even if they do not watch the BBC and prefer to watch Sky etc.

If we do not pay up we receive threatening letters, have licence officers calling at our homes and face heavy fines.

Don't you think this is all going too far? Just to make people pay for something that they might not even want.

Please give us the choice to pay for the channels that we do want.

I do not have answers to all the questions in your leaflet. Perhaps you should look at the way other TV channels pay for themselves, in this country and abroad.

What I do know is that most if not all the people I have discussed the TV licence with agree with me that it is out of date and needs to be abolished quickly.

Miss J. Smith.