

15th March 2004.

Dear Sirs,

BBC Charter review public consultation.

The BBC should be financed by a method other than the TV licence.

I do not have a TV but I listen to BBC radio programmes. I get letters about not having a TV licence and once had a visit from an 'officer' to confirm my not having a TV (he did not attempt to get into my house). I received a letter last December saying I could expect another visit. I enclose a copy of TV licensing's letter 24 February 2002 and refer to the fourth paragraph and the letter dated December 2003 and refer to the second paragraph.

I am a pensioner and am aware of my vulnerability to con artists with fake IDs and how frequently records are accessed by computer hackers. I am therefore distressed by this sort of correspondence. I don't think I am alone, I enclose copies of letters to the Independent 26 February & 1 March 2002. The public utilities have pass words when their employees visit.

Recently TV licensing have had an advertising campaign of posters on sites, bus sides and on Croydon's Tramlink. The message has been intimidating. I enclose a photograph of one such. The main slogan varies. It is not until you read the whole poster you see in small print (under the phone number) that it doesn't apply if you don't have a TV.

Financing the BBC from general taxation would be fairer - and probably more cost effective than TV licensing with its letters, posters, office at Bristol and officers (not forgetting detector vans)

Yours faithfully,
P. Taylor

71173



Bristol BS98 1TL
24 February 2002

Dear Mr Taylor

Thank you for informing us recently that you do not use television receiving equipment and do not require a TV Licence.

Our experience has shown that a small but significant minority of people who inform us that they do not have a television set are found to be using one when visited. We therefore need to verify the position for all households who inform us they do not have a television set, as standard procedure.

By visiting these households we hope to identify all such evaders and we can also ensure that those who, like yourself, legitimately need no contact from Television Licensing are not troubled unnecessarily in the future.

Therefore, we would appreciate your co-operation when one of our TV Licensing Officers visits you in the near future. These visits are routine and take a matter of minutes. Once our officer has confirmed that there is no need for a TV Licence at your address, we will ensure that you do not receive further letters or visits for at least two years. We will then contact you again, simply to check that your circumstances have not changed - for example, you may have moved and the new occupants might use a television.

**If you now use or are planning to use a television,
please let us know before the officer visits.**

If your circumstances have changed since you contacted us and you are now using or planning to use a television, simply complete and return the form below, with this whole letter, in the envelope provided. Remember, if you use television receiving equipment to receive or record television programme services, you must have a TV Licence, otherwise you are risking prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000.

A colour licence costs £109.00 and a black and white one costs £36.50. You can choose one of a number of payment options by simply calling 0870 240 2934. All payment methods are listed overleaf, along with the concessionary licences that we offer for people aged 74 and over or who are blind.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Val Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Val Smith
Customer Services

NSA1

STUCKUNSI/203/E

70440



Bristol, BS98 1TL

December 2003

Ref: 2588421854



We need to confirm your current situation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Some time ago we were informed that there was no television in use at this address and therefore, that no TV Licence was required.

Our Enquiry Officers will be visiting your home shortly to confirm that this is still the case.

If your circumstances have changed and you now use a television at this address, it is important that you purchase a TV Licence straight away. Watching or recording TV programmes without a valid licence is against the law.

A colour TV Licence costs £116 per year (£38.50 for black and white). The quickest way to pay is by phone - by Direct Debit or debit/credit card. Just call **0870 242 3350** now. Details of other ways to pay are shown overleaf.

If you still don't use a TV, you needn't take any action - but expect a brief visit from our Enquiry officers just to confirm the situation.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Val Smith'.

Val Smith
Customer Services

Please do not write below this line.

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25884218544



TV licence snoopers

Sir: It is not only in car-use and passports that our freedom and privacy are being eroded (letter, 25 February). I have recently received yet another letter from the TV Licensing Authority pursuing me for the fact that I do not have a TV licence.

In the past I simply used to drop their letters in the bin, as I do not see why I have to explain myself for not having a TV – a state of being I would recommend to all your readers, especially those with children. Finally, the pressure got to me – and I think their letters got a little more polite as well. So I wrote and explained that I don't have a licence because I don't have a TV.

Still, however, the letters come: why haven't I got a TV licence? But this time they say they will stop pestering me by post if I will permit one of their employees to search my house, so that they can verify for themselves the absence of TV receiving equipment. If I will submit to this indignity, they will stop writing to me for two years.

So much for the Government's desire that we should "assert our own identity". In order to choose not to have a TV, you are expected to submit to having your house searched by strangers every other year.

Dr NIGEL HALLIDAY
Liss, Hampshire



Television-free

Sir: I sympathise with Nigel Halliday (letter, 26 February). My husband and I live perfectly happily without the "idiots' lantern". We too have been incensed at the regular letters from the TV Licensing Authority.

Now though, we have another problem, we are expecting our first child in June and friends, family and colleagues insist that we must install a television when the baby arrives. It will be deprived of Teletubbies etc, and be deemed freakish by its peers. It is reassuring to have the lone voice of Dr Halliday on our side.

He may also have an answer to the oft-repeated question inquired of us on discovering we have no television, "But what do you do?" At the moment, my stock response is to point to my swollen belly and smile demurely.

ANGELA ELLIOTT
Welton le Marsh, Lincolnshire

Sir: Like Dr Halliday, I have been told by the TV Licensing Authority that they will send an official to my home every two years despite my written assurance that I do not have a TV set.

I am not prepared to have my family subjected to the humiliation of watching an official search from room to room in our home, in order to determine whether I am telling the truth. We are a law-abiding family, simply exercising our right to live without a television. Why can't we be left in peace?

CHRISTOPHER STOKES
Norwich

Sir: In support of Nigel Halliday, I am also outraged by the arrogance of the TV Licensing Authority. Following a recent move, I bought a new TV licence, but they still sent an insulting letter addressed to "The Occupier" threatening to prosecute me.

No other public body bullies people this way. The Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, local authorities, DVLC – all these manage to collect taxes without starting from the presumption that the customer is dishonest. How does TVLA get away with it?

ANTHEA WEST
Wokingham

**A TV Licence or a £1,000 fine.
You decide.**

01203 551 520 www.tv-licence.co.uk

TV
LICENCE

