

RECEIVED 06 APR 2006

Mrs Tessa Jowell MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

04/04/2006

Dear Mrs Jowell

I read recently that you are going to consult members of the public concerning ways of financing the BBC in the future and a possible increase in the Licence fee. I have strong feelings concerning both any increases in the Licence fee and the method of providing funding the BBC.

I believe that the licence fee is not cost effective and in some cases unfair. The cost of collecting the fees includes:- Staff wage and pensions for the personnel collecting the fee, T/V detector vans, keeping records and chasing non payers, accommodation and profit for the collection agencies plus others too numerous to mention.

A more efficient method would be to add a charge to the licence fees already being paid by the commercial T/V channels such as Sky, ITV 1,2,3,4, and 5 plus all the new channels now available. All of these Channels show adverts and have what is in effect a licence to print money. The non BBC radio programmes that run adverts should also pay this increased fee. It would cost no more to raise the money this way because the method of collection is already in place.

Think of the benefit to those on restricted incomes such as OAPs under the age of 75 whose only form of entertainment is the T/V. Patients in hospital and care homes would no longer need to worry about the cost of the Licence fee. There would be no more wasting the Courts time with unnecessary prosecutions. Gone the need for Detector vans and checking endless records to see who had not paid their licence fee. The money saved would be considerable. There would be no more chasing full time students living away from home for their licence fee. A separate question here, considering the punitive expenses students already face to pay for their education and the fact that their parents are all ready paying a licence fee should students have to pay a licence fee?

The value in goodwill to a Government with the courage to abolish this unnecessary and in many cases unfair fee would be considerable. Please do not make us wait until just before the next election for this much needed change.

I hope you find this letter of interest.

Yours sincerely

R. Robbins

Department for Culture, Media and Sport	
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