



# Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

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24 February 2020

Our Ref: TO2020/02171

Ms Andrea Woodside  
Kirklees Metropolitan Council  
Civic Centre 3  
High Street  
Huddersfield  
HD1 2TG

Dear Mr Woodroffe,

Thank you for your correspondence of 16 January to the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, about the over-75 licence fee concession. Your letter has been passed to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport as this issue falls within the department's remit. I am replying as a member of the Ministerial Support Team.

The government is interested to note your council's resolutions on the over-75 television licence fee concession. The government are also disappointed by the BBC's decision not to continue to fully fund the over-75 licence fee concession. As stated in the Conservative party manifesto, the government recognise the value of free TV licences for over-75s and believe they should be funded by the BBC.

The government guaranteed the over-75 concession until 2020, however, following the 2015 funding settlement, the government agreed with the BBC that responsibility for the concession will transfer to the corporation in June 2020. The government and the BBC agreed this is a fair deal in return the government closed the iPlayer loophole and committed to increase the licence fee in line with inflation.

The future of the concession is therefore a matter for the BBC. An important way for audiences to hold the BBC to account is by telling them directly what they think about its services and programmes. If you wished to make a complaint related to the over-75 licence fee concession, details of the BBC complaints process can be found here: [www.bbc.co.uk/complaints](http://www.bbc.co.uk/complaints), or you can write to:

BBC Complaints  
PO Box 1922,  
Darlington,  
DL3 0UR

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Joseph Downing  
Ministerial Support Team

