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8 June 2020

Lord Foulkes of Cumnock
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Dear Lord Foulkes

Re: Free TV Licences for over 75's

Thank you once again for your continued support for older people, particularly those affected by the decision to only allow free TV licences to those on pension credit. Also, thank you for circulating your comments on the session during which you put your questions. We remain grateful for your intervention.

It was interesting that the Minister for Isolation and Loneliness did not connect the fact that those unable to pay for a TV licence would become more isolated and lonely without access to know and understand what is going on in the world.

TV has played an important part during the lockdown of the over 70's age group in the UK. It is not only a source of information on COVID-19; world events and other important issues that we all need to know about, but it has given alternative programmes that bring a little fun and humour into our lives.

In the age of digital exclusion from any form of online service, the TV is a life line for all those disconnected from technology. It is remiss of the government to underestimate the impact on the physical, mental and emotional well-being of those older people living in isolation. A free TV licence is little reward for a lifetime of work and giving.

The NPC will continue to argue for the Prime Minister to fulfil his promise to 'sort it out' and we are hopeful that the new Director General of the BBC will have a very different view to his predecessor on how to ensure that the free TV licence for over 75's is maintained now and in the future.

Once again, thank you for your interventions in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jan Shortt', written in a cursive style.

Jan Shortt
General Secretary