

# Government and BBC's joint statement on delaying the TV licence fee for over 75s

Changes to the TV licence for people aged over 75 had been due to come into effect on 1 June. But during this time the government and the BBC do not want anyone to be worried about any potential change.

The BBC's priority over the coming period is to do everything it can to serve the nation at this uniquely challenging time. As the national broadcaster, the BBC has a vital role to play in supplying information to the public in the weeks and months ahead.

Recognising the exceptional circumstances, the BBC Board has decided to change the start date to 1 August and the issue will remain under review as the situation continues to evolve.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said:

I am pleased the BBC has worked with us and agreed to delay their licence fee changes for over 75s from coming in and will keep this under review. It will be welcome news to millions of older people who now don't need to worry about their TV licence during this challenging period. It is right that the BBC have recognised the exceptional circumstances posed by the coronavirus outbreak and the need for the whole country to pull together in the national effort.

BBC Chairman, David Clementi said:

The BBC board has decided to delay changes to over 75s licence fees. We are in exceptional circumstances. Now is not the right time. We are fully focussed on delivering our services to the public at this difficult time.