



Information Policy and Compliance  
[bbc.co.uk/foi](http://bbc.co.uk/foi)

By email to

27<sup>th</sup> June 2007

Dear Mr

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, about the cost of TV licences, which was received on 27<sup>th</sup> June. The reference number for your request is RFI2007000560.

The information you have asked for is available from our publication scheme at [www.bbc.co.uk/foi](http://www.bbc.co.uk/foi). You can find a document of key facts about the TV licence at [http://www.bbc.co.uk/foi/docs/finance/licence\\_fee/The\\_TV\\_Licence\\_Fee\\_Key\\_Facts.pdf](http://www.bbc.co.uk/foi/docs/finance/licence_fee/The_TV_Licence_Fee_Key_Facts.pdf) - this includes the licence fee costs from its introduction to 2007. I have attached a copy to this letter.

I hope you find this useful.

*Appeal rights*

If you are not satisfied with this response you can apply for an internal review. To apply for an internal review please email [foi@bbc.co.uk](mailto:foi@bbc.co.uk) or write to, BBC Information Policy and Compliance, MC3D1 Media Centre, 201 Wood Lane, White City, London, W12 7XH. Please quote the reference number at the top of this correspondence. If, after the internal review, you are still not satisfied, you can ask the Information Commissioner to review our response. Please see <http://www.ico.gov.uk> for further details.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Hallett  
Adviser, Information Policy & Compliance



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## **The TV Licence Fee - Key Facts**

The BBC's domestic broadcasting services are financed by the TV Licence.

The Government sets the level of the licence fee.

The current fee, from 1 April 2007, is £135.50 for colour and £45.50 for black and white.

The licence fee pays for:

- the television channels BBC One, BBC Two, BBC Three, BBC Four, BBC News 24, BBC Parliament, CBBC and CBeebies;
- five network radio services, plus the BBC Asian Network, and digital radio services 1Xtra, BBC 7, 6 Music, and Five Live Sports Extra;
- regional television programmes and Local Radio services in England;
- national radio and television in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland;
- BBCi and bbc.co.uk.

Anyone aged 75 or over is entitled to a free TV Licence for their principal address.

Blind people only pay 50% of the full licence fee.

The Accommodation for Residential Care (ARC) Concessionary Licence is available to those who live in certain types of accommodation and are either retired and aged over 60, or are disabled or mentally disordered.

An ARC Concessionary Licence costs £7.50 for each person's home in the accommodation.

The BBC became the Licensing Authority with responsibility for the administration of the television licensing system in 1991.

In turn the BBC subcontracts the collection to third-party suppliers.

The first licence fee - for radio - was issued in November 1922. The amount was 10 shillings (50p).

The first combined Radio/TV licence - for £2 - was issued in June 1946.

Radio only licences were abolished in February 1971.

The first supplementary licence fee for colour TV was introduced in January 1968.

### Broadcast Receiving Licences: 1922 - 2006

Date	Radio	TV B&W (with radio)	TV Colour (with radio)
November 1922	10s	--	--
June 1946	£1	£2	--
June 1954	£1	£3	--
August 1957	£1	£4 *	--
October 1963	£1	£4 +	--
August 1965	£1 5s	£5	--
January 1968	£1 5s	£5	£10
January 1969	£1 5s	£6	£11
July 1971	--	£7	£12
April 1975	--	£8	£18
July 1977	--	£9	£21
November 1978	--	£10	£25
November 1979	--	£12	£34
December 1981	--	£15	£46
March 1985	--	£18	£58
April 1988	--	£21	£62.50
April 1989	--	£22	£66
April 1990	--	£24	£71
April 1991	--	£25.50	£77
April 1992	--	£26.50	£80
April 1993	--	£27.50	£83
April 1994	--	£28	£84.50
April 1995	--	£28.50	£86.50
April 1996	--	£30	£89.50
April 1997	--	£30.50	£91.50
April 1998	--	£32.50	£97.50
April 1999	--	£33.50	£101
April 2000	--	£34.50	£104
April 2001	--	£36.50	£109
April 2002	--	£37.50	£112
April 2003	--	£38.50	£116
April 2004	--	£40.50	£121
April 2005	--	£42	£126.50
April 2006	--	£44	£131.50
April 2007	--	£45.50	£135.50

\* Excise duty of £1 imposed, not receivable by the BBC.

+ Excise duty abolished, BBC given full amount.