



Government to blame for scrapping of free over 75 TV licences

11 Jun 2019

Stripping over-75s of their free TV licences is outrageous and unfair, GMB Congress will say

A motion put before GMB's Annual Congress in Brighton condemned the announcement as "outrageous and unfair".

“ The scrapping of free TV licences for over-75s is outrageous and unfair. The Tories clearly don't value pensioners – they've palmed off the responsibility for free TV licences and snatched away the cash.

Tim Roache, GMB General Secretary

The Labour Party had originally awarded TV licences to all 75-year-old pensioners.

But the Conservative Government has passed responsibility for funding the policy to the BBC from June 2020.

At the same time, they are putting pressure on the BBC to cut costs.

The withdrawal of TV licences would leave up to 3.7 million pensioners worse off and hit physically and mentally disabled in particular.

It is currently enjoyed by 4.5 million households but only ones where one person



receives Pension Credit will now be eligible.

“ The scrapping of free TV licences for over-75s is outrageous and unfair.

The Tories clearly don't value pensioners – they've palmed off the responsibility for free TV licences and snatched away the cash <https://t.co/BzzjjUrMmP>

— GMB UNION (@GMB_union) June 11, 2019

Tim Roache, GMB General Secretary said:

“The scrapping of free TV licences for over-75s is outrageous and unfair.

“The BBC's decision is regrettable, but the Conservative Government gave them little choice by shifting the burden and reducing their funding.

“The Tories clearly don't value pensioners – they've palmed off the responsibility for free TV licences and snatched away the cash.

“They vowed at the 2017 election to keep this policy in place - but they've shown once again why you can't trust the Tories.”