

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY S. Y. MÉZEC OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 5th OCTOBER 2015**

Question

What discussions, if any, have taken place with the relevant authorities to investigate the possibility of the BBC funding free TV licences for the over 75s in a similar arrangement to that which has been announced in the UK?

Answer

The BBC has agreed to take on the cost of free television licences for over-75s in the UK. This will be phased in from 2018/19 with the BBC taking on the full costs from 2020/21, at which point the BBC will decide on the future of free TV licences for over-75s in the UK.

Jersey Government officials are in contact with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on this matter. In early discussions it was established that the agreement between the UK Government and the BBC regarding over-75s licences only applies to over-75s in the UK and not to the Crown Dependencies. This is partly due to the fact that the social security systems of the jurisdictions are separate.

There has been further correspondence between Jersey Government officials and the DCMS to explore the options available for a similar agreement between the BBC and the Government of Jersey.

Discussion with DCMS and the BBC are continuing on this issue, as well as on the future of the BBC and the renewal of its charter.