



Policy News

Merry Christmas from all at TV Licensing and very best wishes for 2018. Welcome to the final Policy News email for 2017, an alert to keep you informed about various TV Licensing changes which may affect you or your clients, or the advice you provide in relation to TV Licensing.

Changes to our Licensable Places Policy

This newsletter goes out to over 450 charities and support organisations across the UK. Organisations like yours help us identify customers who may need additional support – whether that be help meeting payment deadlines or improving awareness of when a licence is needed.

We've recently been working with the charity Wavelength to help people who are fleeing domestic abuse. Currently where an individual is resident in a women's refuge, TV Licensing will, of course, not proceed with a prosecution if a licence is not held, if we know the address of a refuge (understandably, it is not always apparent that an address is a refuge due to the security requirements of the inhabitants). However, we wished to further support this group by changing our Licensable Places Policy so that refuges which already have a television licence for communal areas, no longer require licences for individual rooms. This change has now been completed and Wavelength has been communicating the change to relevant stakeholders.

Our Licensable Places Policy can be read [here](#). The relevant section is 6.1.

Simple Payment Plan Trial

We're always looking for ways to help keep people licensed, but we need to operate within the payment plans laid out in legislation. In July 2015 the Perry Review recommended the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS), in conjunction with the BBC, should explore ways of amending the current regulations to allow simple and flexible payment plans for those facing difficulty in paying the licence fee. The BBC

welcomed this recommendation.

As referenced in our last Policy News, we've been working on this and – subject to the relevant Regulations being laid to Parliament – TV Licensing will be launching a Simple Payment Plan trial in 2018. The trial will enable eligible customers to pay for a TV Licence in 12 equal monthly payments – or 26 fortnightly ones. On this scheme only, customer do not need to pay for a first licence in six months, as required under current Regulations for cash scheme customers and monthly Direct Debit customers.

We'll be able to communicate further details, including the eligibility criteria for the scheme, nearer to the proposed April 2018 launch date.

Switch to a Paperless Licence

We'd also like to share with you our campaign to reduce the amount of paper used in our communications and help people switch to an e-Licence. We're letting customers know they don't need a paper licence, as their licence details are already safely stored online. Customers can view their licence whenever they like, check payments, and view their expiry date.

We even visited friends at [Age UK Northern Ireland](#) in Ballynahinch this month to host an origami workshop – why not turn your TV Licence into a swan, and switch to an e-licence today?

[Switch to an e-licence here.](#)