



Department for
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Julian Knight MP
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Dear Julian,

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 March about the consultation on decriminalising TV licence evasion. The Government believes that it is right to look again at whether the criminal sanction remains appropriate for TV licence fee evasion given ongoing concerns that the criminal sanction is unfair and disproportionate.

The consultation opened on 5 February and since then we have received over 70,000 responses. From conversations with campaigners, we expect this to be over 100,000 responses by the deadline. It is therefore clear that there has been a high level of engagement from the public throughout the consultation period.

On this basis, we do not believe that there is a need to extend the consultation, so I can confirm that the consultation will still conclude at 5pm on 1 April 2020.

Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport