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TO

Make provision to decriminalise the non-payment of the BBC licence fee.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Civil penalties for non-payment of TV licence fee

(1) Section 363 (licence required for use of TV receiver) of the Communications Act 2003 is amended as follows.

(2) In subsections (2) and (3), for “guilty of an offence” substitute “is guilty of a civil offence”. 5

(3) Leave out subsection (4) and insert—

“(4) A person guilty of a civil offence under this section shall be liable to a penalty charge.

(4A) The Secretary of State shall specify by regulations subject to affirmative resolution by the House of Commons the levels of charges to be imposed under this section.” 10

2 Short title, commencement and extent

(1) This Act may be cited as the BBC Licence Fee (Civil Debt) Act 2013.

(2) This Act shall come into force on 1 January 2017.

(3) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. 15

BBC Licence Fee (Civil Debt) Bill

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To make provision to decriminalise the non-payment of the BBC licence fee.

*Presented by Mr Philip Hollobone,
supported by
Mr Peter Bone, Mr Christopher Chope,
Mr David Nuttall, Philip Davies,
Mr Douglas Carswell and Adam Afriyie.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 24 June 2013.*

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PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON – THE STATIONERY OFFICE LIMITED
Printed in the United Kingdom by
The Stationery Office Limited
£x.xx

Bill 46

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