

BBC Licence Fee (Civil Penalty) Bill

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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 Decriminalisation of non-payment of BBC licence fee

- (1) Section 363 of the Communications Act 2003 (licence required for use of TV receiver) is amended as follows.
- (2) In subsection (2), for “guilty of an offence” substitute “liable to a civil monetary penalty”. 5
- (3) In subsection (3), for “guilty of an offence” substitute “liable to a civil monetary penalty”.
- (4) For subsection (4) substitute—
“(4) A person liable to a civil monetary penalty under this section shall be liable to a fixed monetary penalty not in excess of twice the sum of the TV licence fee, as prescribed in regulations under section 365.” 10

2 Regulations

- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument make such transitional, transitory or saving provision as the Secretary of State considers appropriate in consequence of this Act. 15
- (2) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.

3 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. 20

- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of two months beginning with the day on which it is passed.
- (3) This Act may be cited as the BBC Licence Fee (Civil Penalty) Act 2018.

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

*Presented by Mr Christopher Chope,
supported by Mr Peter Bone,
Mr Nigel Evans,
Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger,
Eddie Hughes,
Esther McVey,
Martin Vickers,
Philip Davies,
and Sir Edward Leigh.*

*Ordered, by The House of Commons,
to be Printed, 5 September 2017.*

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