

CONCESSIONARY TV LICENSING IN SHELTERED AND EXTRA CARE HOUSING SCHEMES POLICY

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EIA Required?	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Revision number:	4
Lead officer:	Eva Holt

1 TITLE

- 1.1 Concessionary TV Licensing in Sheltered and Extra Care Housing Schemes Policy

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Stockport Homes Group (SHG) purchases a TV Licence for each Sheltered and Extra Care Scheme for watching and recording TV in any communal area.
- 2.2 TV Licensing has an 'Accommodation for Residential Care' scheme (ARC). The ARC applies to sheltered and Extra Care schemes and entitles tenants within sheltered and Extra Care schemes to a concessionary TV licence if they fulfil certain specified criteria.
- 2.3 The law says you need to be covered by a TV Licence to:
watch or record programmes as they're being shown on TV, on any channel
watch or stream programmes live on an online TV service (such as ITV Hub, All 4, YouTube, Amazon Prime Video, Now TV, Sky Go, etc.)
download or watch any BBC programmes on BBC iPlayer.
- 2.4 This applies to any device used, including a TV, desktop computer, laptop, mobile phone, tablet, games console, digital box or DVD/VHS recorder.
- 2.5 Tenants who do not qualify for the ARC Scheme and watch or record programmes as above must purchase their own TV Licence unless aged 75+ and in receipt of Pension Credit. Tenants aged 74 and 9 months can apply for an over 75's free TV licence either online or by calling 0300 790 6117.

3 STRATEGIC LINKS

- 3.1 This policy has links to Stockport Council's and Stockport Homes' Ageing Well Strategies.

4 KEY FEATURES OF THE POLICY

- 4.1 The ARC Scheme applies to tenants living in sheltered and Extra Care housing schemes with a dedicated Independent Living Officer (ILO)/on-site team such as the care team in Extra Care working for 30 hours or more per week at the scheme.
- 4.2 The ARC concessionary television licence is valid for one year from the date of original application.
- 4.3 For schemes where there is an on-site presence of an ILO or Care service of less than 30 hours per week, tenants are not eligible unless they hold a 'preserved right'. A preserved right is held for tenants who became a tenant of their current property when the sheltered scheme did meet the requirements. The preserved right remains where the tenant continues to live in sheltered housing of the same landlord.

- 4.4 For all other tenants under 75 years of age, the full price must be paid directly to the TV Licensing Authority.

5 Birch Court Extra Care scheme

- 5.1 Birch Court is the only current qualifying scheme. Most sheltered schemes no longer have tenants eligible for the ARC under the preserved rights criteria and no new Preserved Rights can be claimed by tenants moving out of Birch Court to our sheltered schemes.
- 5.2 Tenants must also meet the following criteria.
- 5.3 Tenants are eligible for the ARC concessionary licence if they are over 60 years of age, retired (or working no more than 15 hours per week) or have a disability (irrespective of age). Tenants over 75 and in receipt of Pension Credit receive a free concessionary TV licence in line with TV Licensing Authority regulations. Tenants will need to make an application for the free TV Licence either online or they can request a paper application form by calling 0300 790 6117.
- 5.4 Tenants who do not watch or record live television via any technological means (e.g. smart phone, tablet, PC download or watch BBC programmes on iPlayer) do not require a licence.
- 5.5 Tenants who do not qualify for a concessionary TV licence must purchase one directly from the TV Licensing Authority and pay the full amount due.
- 5.6 Tenants who move from a sheltered scheme to non-sheltered accommodation will no longer be eligible to preserved rights to the ARC a
- 5.7 Those moving to a temporary property that does not qualify under the ARC Scheme will not be eligible for the concessionary licence at the temporary property. Stockport Homes may contribute to out of pocket expenses as part of the decant process. The tenant retains their rights to the ARC at their original tenancy whilst decanted.
- 5.8 No refunds will be given to tenants when terminating their tenancy.

6 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This policy is governed by the regulations set by the TV Licensing Authority who offer older customers a reduced TV licence rate and ensures we are complying with the law in supporting eligible older customers.

7 OWNERSHIP, MONITORING AND REVIEW

- 7.1 The policy is owned by the SKYlight Directorate and will be reviewed in line with the Policy Review schedule on a three yearly basis.
- 7.2 Any queries with the policy should be forwarded to the Strategy and Insight Officer on 0161 474 4267.