



Policy & Research Update October 2019

It feels like a lot of water has flowed under the bridge since the Queen's Speech, which now seems a very long time ago. The speech did at least mention social care – but we've been here before with promises of reform that have not materialised. [Read our response](#)

- Jane Vass

News

[Our response to DCMS Committee report on TV Licences](#)

Age UK responded to the DCMS Committee report: BBC Annual Report and accounts 2018-19: TV licences for over-75s.

Caroline Abrahams, Charity Director at Age UK said:

"We strongly agree with the committee that the Government should never have passed responsibility for the over-75s' free TV licence onto the BBC and that both parties should now get together and work out a solution that ensures this important entitlement continues.

"There's no doubt that the TV is incredibly important to many over-75s; research for Age UK shows it's the main form of company for two in every five (38%) and nine out of 10 watch TV every day.

"Countless older people have told us just how much their TV matters to them, using phrases such as a 'lifeline', 'my link to the outside world', 'not just a pastime but a necessity... my life support machine'".

[Read our full response](#)

Feature

[The hidden face of domestic abuse](#)



Research released shows at least 200,000 older people experienced domestic abuse last year – but the experiences of over-75s are being entirely overlooked.

Age UK are [calling on the Government to make sure the voices of older people are heard](#), their rights are protected, and their needs included in future legislation addressing domestic abuse.

This call is made after Age UK published a new report, The Hidden Face of Domestic Abuse, which highlights the fact that domestic abuse can happen at any age, including extreme old age. It also includes disturbing new figures about the extent of domestic violence among older people.

[Read the full report](#)

Policy & Research

Publications

Age UK has published [The hidden face of domestic abuse](#) report on domestic abuse which highlights that one in four (23%) victims of recorded domestic homicides are over the age of 60.

Consultation Responses

In line with our campaign for [Security for private renters](#), Age UK has responded to the consultation, [A new deal for renting: resetting the balance of rights of and responsibilities between landlords and tenants](#).

Age UK has submitted evidence to the Justice Select Committee's consultation on the [Ageing prison population](#). We are concerned that older prisoners are facing significant barriers to accessing essential services.

Age UK have responded to the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee's consultation on [Ageing: science, technology and health living](#). We believe it is essential that we support older people to live as well as possible for as long as possible. Technology can form a part of this but should not be seen as a silver bullet.

There is increasing interest in how to tackle preventable illnesses in England. Age UK has responded to the Department of Health and Social Care's consultation on [Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s](#).

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) consulted on guidance for firms on the [fair treatment of vulnerable customers](#). Age UK has responded to the consultation welcoming guidance as a way of encouraging the industry to develop its own best practice and change the industry culture.

Discover



Digital inclusion for older people, ensuring no one is left behind.

Find out how Age UK Leeds and the One Digital programme provides older people with skills that grow their confidence.

[Read more about people's experiences of learning digital skills in the One Digital drop in sessions](#)

You can see all of our **Discover** articles [here](#).

More from Age UK

Age UK information guides and factsheets

The following factsheets have been updated:

- FS20 NHS continuing healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care
- FS58 Paying for short-term and temporary care in a care home
- FS17 Housing Benefit
- FS56 Benefits for people under Pension Credit age
- FS92 Universal Credit
- FS38 Property and paying for residential care

[All factsheets can be found on our website](#)

[Large Print versions of all factsheets are also available to download](#)

Our previous Policy and Research Updates are available [here](#) to download.