

TV Licensing Helping Non-English speakers in Northern Ireland with iPlayer Law Change

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TV Licensing has launched a new initiative with the Consular Corps /Association of Northern Ireland (CA-NI) to help highlight recent BBC iPlayer law changes to those whose first language isn't English.

All viewers who download or watch BBC programmes on demand – including catch-up TV – on BBC iPlayer must now be covered by a TV Licence after new rules came into force in September. According to the last census 56,000 people across Northern Ireland didn't speak English as their main.

TV Licensing is working with groups such as CA-NI to provide information, foreign language leaflets and translation services to make sure people are aware of the BBC iPlayer changes. CA-NI brings together Northern Ireland-based diplomats and consuls who represent 40 countries across the globe. Each official is tasked to represent and provide assistance to their overseas nationals living in Northern Ireland.

Karen Grimason, spokesperson for TV Licensing, said: "TV Licensing has been speaking to a range of organisations across Northern Ireland over the past couple of months explaining the changes to the law and the need to be correctly licensed.

"We want to ensure all viewers understand that a TV Licence is still needed when watching live television, whether it's on a TV, laptop or smartphone. Anyone watching BBC programmes on iPlayer now also needs to be covered by a licence."

Dr Christopher Stange - Secretariat, CA-NI said: "Consuls play an important role in building international economic, educational, academic, sporting and cultural links within Northern Ireland. However, we also provide assistance to overseas Nationals in Northern Ireland and work with organisations such as TV Licensing to provide information about local life.

"With a growing diverse population living and working in Northern Ireland we need to ensure that those who may not be familiar with issues such as TV Licensing understand what is required – particularly when there are changes to the law such as with BBC iPlayer."

TV Licensing produces literature in 26 languages explaining licensing requirements <http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/languages> along with 180 languages on the translation line and 17 dedicated translated web pages <http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/languages>.

People who are not confident speaking in English can also call TV Licensing's language translation service on 0300 790 6044 which allows customers to set up or pay for a TV Licence over the phone in more than 180 languages.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

A short video is available for your use, which explains when a licence is needed. You can view the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5k4spkYbXw&feature=youtu.be> or embed the video using <https://youtu.be/I5k4spkYbXw>

Supporting images and graphics are available at www.flickr.com/tvlicensing

Contacts:

For more information or to arrange an interview please call the TV Licensing press office on 02890 245 691 or email media.enquiries@tvlicensing.co.uk

Follow us on Twitter at @TVLicensingNews for updates on the latest news and local advice from our community relations teams, or view our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/tvlicensing

More information:**Paying for a TV Licence:**

TV Licensing aims to make it as easy as possible for people to buy a TV Licence, which is why there are many different ways to pay.

- Online – people are able to pay online at www.tvlicensing.co.uk/payinfo by Direct Debit or with a debit or credit card
- Direct Debit - monthly, quarterly or annual Direct Debit payment schemes are available and can be set up online at www.tvlicensing.co.uk/directdebit
- Over-the-counter – people can pay at any of over 26,800 PayPoint outlets across the country or by cash or credit/debit card.
- Debit or credit card over the phone - this facility accepts payment from a range of debit cards including Maestro, Delta and Connect
- By post – send a cheque made payable to TV Licensing to: TV Licensing, Darlington, DL98 1TL

To find out more about paying in weekly instalments over the counter, online, by SMS or by phone on the cash payment plan, call 0300 790 6078 or visit www.tvlicensing.co.uk/cashplans

For more information about any of our payment options and concessions, to set up Direct Debit payments or to pay by debit or credit card please visit www.tvlicensing.co.uk or call 0300 790 6112.

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