

**TV Licence Survey**  
**CATI Fieldwork : 5th - 10th March 2020**

Absolutes/col percents

Table 1

**Q0. Who, if anyone, is responsible for paying the TV licence fee in your household?**

**Base: All who saw Q0 before Q1a/b [Split 1]**

	Total	Sample Split	
		Split 1 - Saw Q0 before Q1a/b (a)	Split 2 - Saw Q0 after Q1a/b (b)
Unweighted base	503	503	-
Weighted base	496	496	-**
I am solely responsible	235 47%	235 47%	- -
I am partially responsible and share the cost with others	86 17%	86 17%	- -
Someone else pays	96 19%	96 19%	- -
I / we are given it for free currently as somebody in the household is over 75	35 7%	35 7%	- -
I / we don't have a licence	16 3%	16 3%	- -
I / we don't have a TV set / watch BBC iPlayer	28 6%	28 6%	- -
Don't know	-	-	-

**Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - a/b**

**Overlap formulae used. \*\* very small base (under 30) ineligible for sig testing**

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Table 2

**Q1a. All UK households who watch any TV as it is broadcast or use the BBC iPlayer are required by law to have a TV licence. Failure to do this is known as TV licence evasion and is a criminal offence which carries a fine of up to £1,000 depending on a court's assessment of the evader's ability to pay. No one is sent to prison for not having a TV licence. However, if an offender wilfully refuses to pay the court fine, this can ultimately lead to imprisonment.**

**As it is, the vast majority of households that need a licence by law do pay the TV licence. The money from the licence fee mainly goes to fund the BBC and also Welsh TV channel S4C and local TV in other parts of the UK.**

**The Government is currently considering whether to turn TV licence evasion from a criminal offence into a civil offence, and perhaps administered in the same ways as the non-payment of parking fines or consumer debts. There have been concerns that the criminal sanction is disproportionate. But there have also been concerns that a civil system would lead to an increase in TV licence evasion.**

**Base: All respondents**

	Total	Sample Split	
		Split 1 - Saw Q0 before Q1a/b (a)	Split 2 - Saw Q0 after Q1a/b (b)
Unweighted base	1003	503	500
Weighted base	1003	496	507

**I'm now going to read out some statements and I'd like you to tell me which, if any, comes closest to your view or if you have no preference either way.**

**Statement A : A criminal sanction for TV licence evasion should end as it is unfair and out of proportion with not paying for a TV licence**

**Statement B : A criminal sanction for TV licence evasion should remain as a deterrent because it's unfair to those households who pay for a TV licence if there are others who evade doing so.**

**On balance, do you agree more with statement A or more with statement B or do you not agree with either or have no preference either way?**

Agree more with statement A	416 41%	197 40%	219 43%
Don't agree with either / have no preference either way	180 18%	91 18%	90 18%
Agree more with statement B	404 40%	206 41%	198 39%
Don't know	3 *	2 *	1 *

**Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - a/b  
Overlap formulae used.**

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Table 3

**Q1b. Supporters of keeping the criminal sanction for TV licence evasion say that ending it would lead to an increase in the number of people who do not pay for a TV licence when one is legally required.**

**And that if TV licence evasion increased, it would mean less money for BBC programmes and services, reducing the quality of service being offered for people who are paying for the TV licence.**

**Which of the following comes closest to your view?**

**Base: All respondents**

	Total	Sample Split	
		Split 1 - Saw Q0 before Q1a/b (a)	Split 2 - Saw Q0 after Q1a/b (b)
Unweighted base	1003	503	500
Weighted base	1003	496	507
I am in favour of ending the criminal sanction for TV licence evasion in principle even if it means an increase in TV licence evasion	272 27%	137 28%	135 27%
I am in favour of ending the criminal sanction for TV licence evasion in principle but not if it means an increase in TV licence evasion	231 23%	119 24%	112 22%
I am not in favour of ending the criminal sanction for TV licence evasion	246 25%	114 23%	132 26%
I have no strong view on this	243 24%	118 24%	125 25%
Don't know	12 1%	8 2%	4 1%

**Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - a/b  
 Overlap formulae used.**

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Table 4

**Q0. Who, if anyone, is responsible for paying the TV licence fee in your household?**

**Base: All who saw Q0 after Q1a/b [Split 2]**

	Total	Sample Split	
		Split 1 - Saw Q0 before Q1a/b (a)	Split 2 - Saw Q0 after Q1a/b (b)
Unweighted base	500	-	500
Weighted base	507	-**	507
I am solely responsible	237 47%	-	237 47%
I am partially responsible and share the cost with others	86 17%	-	86 17%
Someone else pays	99 20%	-	99 20%
I / we are given it for free currently as somebody in the household is over 75	28 5%	-	28 5%
I / we don't have a licence	22 4%	-	22 4%
I / we don't have a TV set / watch BBC iPlayer	24 5%	-	24 5%
Don't know	10 2%	-	10 2%

**Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - a/b**

**Overlap formulae used. \*\* very small base (under 30) ineligible for sig testing**

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Table 5

**Q0. Who, if anyone, is responsible for paying the TV licence fee in your household?**

**Base: All respondents**

	Total	Sample Split	
		Split 1 - Saw Q0 before Q1a/b (a)	Split 2 - Saw Q0 after Q1a/b (b)
Unweighted base	1003	503	500
Weighted base	1003	496	507
I am solely responsible	472 47%	235 47%	237 47%
I am partially responsible and share the cost with others	172 17%	86 17%	86 17%
Someone else pays	196 20%	96 19%	99 20%
I / we are given it for free currently as somebody in the household is over 75	62 6%	35 7%	28 5%
I / we don't have a licence	38 4%	16 3%	22 4%
I / we don't have a TV set / watch BBC iPlayer	52 5%	28 6%	24 5%
Don't know	10 1%	-	10 2%a

**Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - a/b  
Overlap formulae used.**