

What is a TV licence and do I need one?

In the UK, you need to be covered by a TV Licence to:

- a) watch or record live TV programmes on any channel, and
- b) download or watch BBC programmes on iPlayer.

This could be on any device, including a TV, desktop computer, laptop, mobile phone, tablet, games console, digital box or DVD/VHS recorder.

What happens if I don't have a TV licence?

If you do any of the above without a valid licence, you risk prosecution and a maximum penalty of up to £1,000*, plus any legal costs and/or compensation you may be ordered to pay. You will also still have to buy a TV Licence if you need one.

Only watching non-UK satellite programmes?

You still need a licence, even if you only watch or record programmes broadcast from outside the UK.

How much does it cost?

For up-to-date information about cost and details on the many ways you can pay, please visit the [TV Licensing website](#).

Please note that there is no discount or a shorter length TV Licence to students. But TV Licensing do offer refunds. [Find out if you are eligible for a refund](#).

Don't need a licence?

You don't need a licence if you never watch or record programmes as they're being shown on TV (or live on an online TV service) and you don't watch or download BBC programmes on iPlayer.

Please let us know at tvlicensing.co.uk/noTV or by calling 0300 790 6044.

[You can read this information in a number of different languages.](#)

© UKCISA

This information may be printed and reproduced provided it is copied unaltered and in its entirety, including UKCISA's logo, disclaimer, copyright statement and the reference to UKCISA's website as a source of further updates, and provided that no charge is made to any persons for copies. **NO PART OF IT MAY BE REPRODUCED IN ANY OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.**

This information is given in good faith and has been carefully checked. UKCISA, however, accepts no legal responsibility for its accuracy.

UKCISA is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (Company Number: 4507287) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (Charity Number: 1095294). Its registered office is at 9 - 17 St Albans Place London N1 0NX.