

If you live in the United Kingdom and use a television, a computer, or a mobile device ***that is capable of receiving a television signal***, you **MUST** purchase a television license.

British standard televisions (PAL signal) can receive a British television broadcast. If you bring a television from the United States (NTSC signal) that you use to watch AFN, you are still receiving a television signal in the United Kingdom, and must purchase a television license. If you only own a United States television (NTSC) for the purpose of watching DVD's, playing video games or using catch up services, such as Netflix or Hulu, then you do not need a television license. However, your home **may** be inspected by the television licensing agency in order to prove that you are not receiving any television signals.

### **Determining If You Need a License**

The location of your residence does not matter when determining whether or not you need a television license. Only one license is needed per residence no matter how many televisions you have at that location.

For students living in residence halls, you require a separate license if you use a television set in your own room. In the cases of shared accommodation, if you have all signed a joint tenancy agreement with your landlord, this is generally treated as an indication that it is one shared place; therefore, the license covers all the televisions in the house. However, if you have signed individual agreements with your landlord, this is generally treated as indicating separately occupied areas; therefore, you will require licenses for any additional televisions used in your own rooms. Students will not be covered by their parents' license when they move away from home.

If you're renting, here's what you should know.

### **You need to be covered by a TV License to:**

- watch or record programs as they're being shown on TV or live on an online TV service
- Download or watch BBC programs 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.

If you live in self-contained accommodation, such as a separate flat or annex, you need your own TV License.

Additionally, you need to be covered by a license if you watch TV either online or on a mobile device, as it is being broadcast on conventional television in the U.K.

### **You need to be covered by a TV License to**

- **watch or record live TV programs on any channel**
- **Download or watch any BBC programs on iPlayer – live, catch up or on demand.**

### **Obtaining a License**

Television licenses last for one year and cost £145.50 for color sets and £49.00 for black-and-white sets. You may pay for your license by:

- Mailing a check to:  
Customer Services  
TV Licensing  
Bristol BS98 1TL
- Over-the-phone with a credit or debit card (0300 790 6131)
- In person at the nearest Pay Point outlet  
<http://www.paypoint.co.uk/locator.aspx>
- Online at <http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/pay-for-your-tv-licence/payment-methods/how->

[would-you-like-to-pay-for-your-tv-licence-pay8](#)

You can pay weekly, monthly, quarterly or yearly.

If you return to the United States at the end of your assignment but before the expiration of your television license, you can apply for a partial refund from the Television Licensing Authority. You will only be eligible for a refund if you have at least three months left on your license. Refunds are calculated in blocks of three months. For example, if you had eight months remaining on your television license, only six months of your license fee would be refunded.

### **Additional Information**

The Wireless Telegraphy Act 1967 requires any dealer who sells or rents TV receiving equipment (whether the equipment is new or second-hand) to notify the TV Licensing Authority with 28 days of each transaction, giving full details of the buyer or renter.

*Using television-receiving equipment to receive or record broadcast television programs without the correct license is a criminal offense. You could face prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000.*

If you have questions about TV licensing, please refer to <http://www.tvlicensing.co.uk/> or call the TV Licensing Authority directly at 08702-416468.

This handout is for basic information on topic covered as it relates to military personnel stationed in the United Kingdom. It is not intended to take the place of legal advice from a Judge Advocate. There may be important exceptions in some states to the information presented here. Please contact the Legal Office for questions and further information. You may view more information on various legal topics at the Air Force Legal Assistance website found at <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>. Additionally, complete legal worksheets for Wills, Living Wills, Powers of Attorney (General, Special, and for Health Care), and access to the Online Survey are found on the Air Force Legal Assistance website.

Scan Below to Access the:

RAF Mildenhall Legal Office Website  
[www.mildenhall.af.mil/Info/Legal-Office](http://www.mildenhall.af.mil/Info/Legal-Office)



Legal Assistance Website  
<https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>



## Legal Assistance Information Series BRITISH TV LICENSING



**Hours of Operation** (Walk-ins)  
Notary Public & Powers of Attorney  
Monday – Friday: 800-1630 hrs

**Legal Assistance**  
By Appointment Only

100 ARW/JA  
APO AE 09459  
DSN 314-238-2028  
COMM (0)1638-54-2028  
E-mail: [100ARW.JAV3@mildenhall.af.mil](mailto:100ARW.JAV3@mildenhall.af.mil)

Scan Below to Access Our Website  
[www.mildenhall.af.mil/Info/Legal-Office](http://www.mildenhall.af.mil/Info/Legal-Office)

