

BBC

Threats For Not Paying Up 4TV

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This is a practice which has to be stopped

- 1 We are all familiar with news regularly coming to us about the latest fraud circulating. Typically, a call-out on social media will describe how villains, by their latest trick, are seeking to share in our financial information – and part us from our precious cash!
- 2 The story I am writing about here though, is not so much a fraud – and the people behind their scheme do not align with the usual profile of a criminal. But like the big boys operating in the criminal world, these boys are very well organised and persistent.
- 3 This is a story like no other. The people behind this atrocious behaviour – behaviour which amounts to harassment – are almost certainly robbing people of at least £159 a year through the tactics they employ.

Like in the case of so many other frauds that circulate, the people most at risk are those who live alone. Many older people are in that very position and due to that, they have no one on hand to talk to about this harassment.
- 4 According to Citizens Advice, [harassment](#) is defined thus:
Harassment is when someone behaves in a way which makes you feel distressed, humiliated or threatened. It could be someone you know, like a neighbour or people from your local area or it could be a stranger - for example, someone on the bus.

It can also be someone – anonymous maybe - who keeps sending you letters. Those letters could threaten to call on you at any time of the week – night or day. The letters could say that when they call at your home, they will have a permit to actually enter your home.

The tone of these letters is alarming for anyone and - again – particularly for those who might live alone. The route out of these threats – by means to end the constant flow of letters which arrive every few weeks - is to pay what they are asking.

If such villains were unlucky, and picked the wrong house, they could end up regretting ever starting these threats. But, if they ARE lucky, they just might encourage someone to part with £159, just to get rid of them.
- 5 So, who are these villains and what do these letters look like exactly?
Well, I can tell you who they are - and I can show you examples of the letters they send.

They come from an organisation you may have already heard of.

6 TV Licensing – and the company behind the strategy is Capita.

[Wikipedia](#) say this:

A major contractor is Capita.[18] Capita is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the TV licence fee.[16][19]

It is expected that Capita will earn £1.10bn – £1.55bn from its contract with the BBC if it runs its maximum 15 years from July 2012.[5]

Capita's TV Licensing Headquarters is based at India Mill, Darwen, Lancashire.

The services carried out by Capita on behalf of the BBC include dealing with TV licence queries, processing TV licence applications and payments and the maintenance of the licence database.[20] Enforcement tasks include visiting addresses, identifying people watching TV without a licence, taking statements, and achieving prosecutions of TV licence evaders.[21][22][23] TV Licensing debt collection is carried out by Akinika,[24] which is a debt collection agency owned by Capita.[25]

Capita's TV Licensing headquarters is at India Mill, in Darwen, Lancashire.[26] Capita employs a number of subcontractors for part of its TV Licensing operations – one important one being Computer Sciences Corporation which provides and modernises the required IT infrastructure.[5] Since 2004, Capita has undertaken a proportion of TV licensing administration at locations outside of the UK and "has progressively increased the amount of work processed overseas each year".[5] However, as of 2013, Capita has not set up any overseas call centres to carry out TV Licensing work and it would need the BBC's permission to do so in the future.[5] Some of Capita's TV Licensing work is carried out in Mumbai, India[27] but after reportage in Panorama about scammers from India, the Indian office of Capita was closed permanently.

7 Yes - scammers indeed.

Who do you know that sends you threatening letters – without cause – from people you may once have done business with? In fact, you may never have done business with these particular people before - but that will not make you safe from their harassment.

8 Consider this comparison. Let's say you once had vehicle rescue cover with the RAC and you ditched it to go with Green Flag or the AA. Would you expect to get threatening letters from the RAC? And if you did, what do you think might happen?

I would guess, that if that was RAC policy – to harass you in this style - there would be a major public outcry and the guilty party would be dealt with appropriately. So why isn't TV Licensing? Or the corporate behind it, Capita?

9 There are two possible reasons:

1. The truth is, any of us could be breaking the law by watching or recording live transmission and doing so without possessing the necessary license which permits such things.

A point to take on board here – is that the system would be relying on us all being truthful. A bit of an ask maybe in some cases – but how many really, I wonder? This is a risk which those behind TV Licensing are NOT prepared to take – to just accept your word on the issue!

Being, I don't need you license thank you – I don't watch live broadcast, BBC iPlayer or any other download not permitted without permit – or a licence.

2. The alternative reason could be something far more sinister.
Could it be that the tactics involved here are really meant to get you to watch your television. This will sound very strange to many I do realise – but I know there are many who would not disagree with such an idea and the reason has shown up very clearly for them.

We have seen the massive push by the government - through corporate advertising, the soap dramas and not least the mainstream news programmes - to follow the herd and get the job. The proportion of people who still watch live television is large in this country. If the government have a message to get out, then TV is a powerful and effective medium to deliver their strategy.

If someone doesn't normally watch TV – but has a license to do so, because they have been harassed into paying for one – they are perhaps much more likely to turn on the news occasionally - or watch some advertising between news programmes or a drama with an underlying message.

TV is the most powerful medium there is and – for whatever reason – the government in this case – via the BBC and their partners Capita – really DO WANT US to part with £159 and watch the messages they want us to receive.

Before closing on this point – consider this.

Millions of us complete HMRC declarations every year. The scope for fraud is considerable - in the form of under declaring income. Do we get harassed every few weeks from HMRC inspectors wanting to call on us - any day or evening - to check our accounting?

The answer is, NO SIR we don't.

So, the government are not interested in the millions of pounds which the country could be cheated out of by such a fraud. But they are interested in that £159 from you – so opening the door to YOU WATCHING YOUR TELEVISION, legally.

Think about this – it could be more relevant than at first it appears and certainly in the context of the last two years. In that time, the TV has bombed each household and frightened the population stiff with fear.

As a result, people have given up all kinds of freedoms willingly.
Ask yourself, WHY would they want us to give up our freedoms?
And here, we leave that subject for another day.

- 10 Have a listen to [Chilli Jon Carne](#) on the subject of TV licences. Jon explains what you need a licence for exactly and what you CAN watch on your TV if you don't have a licence.

Also explained and shared, are the different types of threatening letters Capita send out to frighten people into parting with that £159.

Jon also tells us about the people Capita send round on house visits and what they can and cannot do. In fact, he tells us what WE can and can't do.

In Jon's video about Capita's [Procedures Handbook](#), he points to this:

Section 1.2: Concerns an Enforcement Officer making a visit

Item 5: NEVER threaten or intimidate – and STOP the enquiry if asked to leave [That means for us – that they should leave at that point]

This point is powerful – and Jon recommends asking the person to LEAVE your property at the outset – and closing your door. END OF IT!

- 11 In fairness, the letters they send out repeatedly do indicate ways in which you can advise TV Licencing that you do not need/want a licence. There however is no legal obligation on you to do this. The sheer act of not answering should be enough to let these people know, what they want to know.
It is only obligatory on you to acquire a licence should you need one.

NOTE:

It has been said by others, that despite letting TV Licencing know – by phone, by letter or online – that you neither want nor need a licence, it doesn't necessarily stop the harassment. Amazing – but apparently true!

- 12 One of the things we can do – according to Citizens Advice – is take them to court for harassment. And that is something we may come back and write about as a follow up to this article.

- 13 The thing which sticks in my throat – and possibly yours too – is that there will be an untold number of elderly or vulnerable people who have been intimidated by these evil people into parting with their £159.

There will be more to write on this whole topic in the coming months – including having these people in court – before the licence scheme finally gets binned for good.

- PS1 If anyone has had problems with TV Licencing and either needs some friendly advice or to tell us of your own experience, then do please get in touch with us at CONNECT. We'll be only too pleased to assist however we can.

PS2



CONNECT'S Maxim and Oath

Connect is only interested in finding and sharing the TRUTH.
In search of that TRUTH, we only pose questions – we have no answers.

By: David Charles

Source: Tetbury CONNECT: [Magazine](#)

- 4 [LINK](#): Taking action about harassment
- 6 [LINK](#): Wikipedia: Capita are the villains behind TV licensing harassment
- 10 [LINK](#): Chilli Jon Carne: Expert on TV licences and the intimidation tactics
- 10 [LINK](#): Chilli Jon Carne: Enforcement Officer Visiting Procedures Handbook

FURTHER READING

- [LINK](#) Daily Mail: Undercover Investigation of TV Licensing UK
- [LINK](#) 24 TIPS for dealing with TV Licence Agents
- [LINK](#) BBC licence fee to be frozen at £159 for two years

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