



## The new licence fee for the general public

**EINFACH.  
FÜR ALLE.**  
DER NEUE RUNDFUNKBEITRAG

### Your licence fee

#### ONE FLAT, ONE FEE

From 2013, a new licence fee for members of the public will be established. How many radios, TV sets or computers are in the flat no longer matters as the fee is conform to the principle "one flat, one fee". It is not linked to the number of devices, so complicated enquiries will be a thing of the past.

Financially, the change will make no difference for most people. Over 90% will pay the same as today, or even less. The fee will remain stable at €17.98 per month. It is payable once only per flat and is valid for everyone who lives there. That will be a money-saver for families, cohabiting partner, and flat sharers, who have hitherto all been liable to pay more than one licence fee. The new licence fee also covers the car radios of everyone who lives in the flat. Owners of second homes will still have to pay extra.

Only adults have to pay the licence fee. Where several people share a flat, one person must pay the fee and be registered as living at that address.

To find out more, visit [www.rundfunkbeitrag.de](http://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de)

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## Licence fee facts and figures

### Example 1: Licence fee paid by a family

The family has two children; one is over 18 and earning a separate income. Hitherto, he or she had to pay a separate licence fee for a radio or computer. That is about to change. From 2013, with only one fee per flat, the family will pay €17.98 per month in all.




Licence fee for 2012		
	Family TV, computer, radio	€17.98
	Child over 18 computer, radio	€5.76
Total for the flat		€23.74


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Licence fee from 2013				
	+		=	€17.98

### Example 2: Licence fee paid by a flat share

In a flat shared by three people there are three computers, three radios and two TV sets. From 2013, only one licence fee is payable and the number of devices will no longer matter. The flat sharers will pay €17.98 per month, or €23.74 less than at present.

Licence fee for 2012		
	Flatmate 1 TV, computer, radio	€17.98
	Flatmate 2 TV, computer, radio	€17.98
	Flatmate 3 computer, radio	€5.76
Total for the flat		€41.72



Licence fee from 2013						
	+		+		=	€17.98

## Licence fee facts and figures

### A MODEL BASED ON SOLIDARITY

The new licence model eases the burden on people in receipt of income-based welfare benefits. They can apply for exemption. Handicapped people pay a reduced fee. Here are the most important provisions at a glance:

#### ▪ Recipients of welfare benefits

If you receive certain welfare benefits, such as Arbeitslosengeld II, Sozialgeld or Grundsicherung, you can apply for exemption from the licence fee. You will need to submit documentary evidence from the benefits agency in question.

#### ▪ Recipients of student loans

If you no longer live at home with your parents and receive a student loan (BAföG) or vocational training grant (Berufsausbildungsbeihilfe or Ausbildungsgeld), you can apply for exemption from the licence fee, submitting evidence of your status.

#### ▪ Disabled people

People with disabilities who have an RF mark in their disabled person's ID card can apply to pay the licence fee at a reduced rate of €5.99 per month. The deaf-blind and people who receive Blindenhilfe continue to be exempt, subject to providing documentary evidence of their disability.

For further information about exemption or the reduced rate, visit [www.rundfunkbeitrag.de](http://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de)

## What must I do now?

### If I already pay a licence fee:

If you already pay a licence fee, your status will be upgraded automatically at the end of the year regardless of whether you have been paying a licence for a radio, a TV or a computer. We will be writing to licence payers for whom the new licence fee means a change in what they have to pay.

From 1 January 2013, only one licence-fee payer needs to be registered per flat. Any others can deregister.

### If I have not been paying a licence fee:

If you have not been paying a licence fee, you must register for one by 1 January 2013 with the Beitragsservice, which compiles data for public broadcasters ARD, ZDF and Deutschlandradio. Please note that you will need to register for a second home if you have one.

### If I would like to apply for exemption or a reduced rate:

If you fulfil certain conditions you are entitled to apply for exemption or to pay a reduced rate. Application forms are available at [www.rundfunkbeitrag.de](http://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de) and at local government offices and appropriate authorities. We will need to receive your application along with the documentary evidence in December 2012 if you are to be exempted or will be entitled to pay a reduced rate from January 2013.

## What must I do now?

### If I have to pay less in the future:

If the new licence fee model entitles you to pay less in future, you will need to notify us of the change. It could be that you pay a licence fee now but will no longer need to do so because someone else is paying it for the flat. That will be the case for, for example, cohabiting partners, flat sharers and families with children aged 18 or over with an income of their own.

Please notify the Beitragsservice at 50656 Köln of any changes. The Beitragsservice compiles data on behalf of ARD, ZDF and Deutschlandradio. You will need to include your registration number and, if you are deregistering, the name and, if appropriate, the registration number of the person who will be paying the licence fee in the future.

## Where do I find out more?

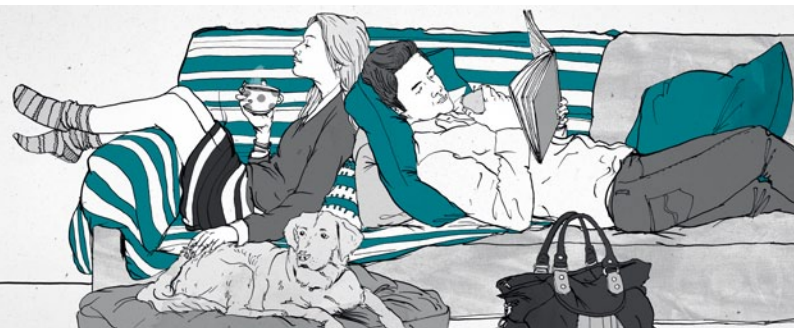
You can also find information about the licence fee on the Internet in German language. The information portal [www.rundfunkbeitrag.de](http://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de) lists details of the licence fee, answers frequently asked questions and explains the background to the reform of public broadcasting funding.

For any further queries, fill in and submit the contact form at [www.rundfunkbeitrag.de](http://www.rundfunkbeitrag.de) or call the hotline at 0185 9995 0100. Calls cost 6.5 cents per minute from a German landline; mobile phone network call charges vary.

## What is changing

### SIMPLE AND IN TUNE WITH THE TIMES

The new licence fee comes into force on 1 January 2013. It takes the place of the old licence fees, puts the funding of public service broadcasting on a modern footing – and ensures that the rules are clear-cut. A licence fee must be paid for every flat, regardless of how many people live there or how many broadcasting devices they have. It no longer matters whether it is just a radio and a computer or if there is a TV too. If all you had registered was a radio or a computer, you will now have to pay the full licence fee.



The new licence fee is in tune with the times. It is becoming increasingly difficult to distinguish between device categories. Today you can listen to the radio on your smartphone or watch TV on your computer. The new licence fee covers all services on all platforms. It also ensures the continued existence of a wide range of public service broadcasting.

## Public service broadcasting

### Independence – For democracy and a variety of views

Public service broadcasting in Germany is an independent and reliable medium for everyone. Established as an alternative to what had been the Nazi propaganda media, it provides independent news coverage and supports democracy and modern society. It guarantees freedom of access to information and provides space for societal debate.

### Quality – Up-to-the-minute, comprehensive, reliable

ARD and ZDF transmit programmes of special value: the comprehensive, up-to-the-minute news coverage provided by "Tagesschau" and "heute" and the background, analysis and information supplied in magazine programmes and political talk shows. They also stand for exciting and relaxing entertainment in TV plays, series, sports programmes and variety shows. And quality and viewing figures are not mutually exclusive, as many media awards have shown.

### Diversity – Topics to suit all tastes

ARD and ZDF provide more than the two main TV channels. On a variety of channels and platforms they provide a wide range of programmes with topics to suit all tastes and all manner of interests. They do so on ARD's Third Programmes, on 3sat, ARTE and PHOENIX, on Ki.KA and the additional digital channels and, of course, on the radio and the Internet.

For more about public service broadcasting in Germany, visit [www.ardzdf.de](http://www.ardzdf.de)

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