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PM WARNS BBC OVER BIGGEST LICENCE FEE INCREASE FOR 40 YEARS

RISHI Sunak has told the BBC to cut costs amid warnings ministers could intervene to limit next year's licence fee hike.

The Prime Minister said all public organisations should 'cut their cloth accordingly' during a difficult time for households.

The TV licence fee has been frozen

By **Claire Ellicott**
Whitehall Editor

for two years at £159 but is due to rise in line with inflation for four years from next spring. This will add nearly £15 to the fee next year, taking it to £173.30 – the biggest hike in 40 years – if it is increased to match wider price rises.

The Government stressed last night that the precise method for calculating inflation-linked licence

fee increases in the coming years is 'yet to be confirmed', suggesting it could insist the rise be based on more recent, lower inflation levels.

It comes amid reports that ministers could cancel the hike ahead of a major review into how the corporation is funded.

In a clear signal that the Government could intervene to prevent or reduce the increase, Mr Sunak said the BBC should 'do what it can'

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