
To whom it may concern,

re: 2009 Ofcom Access services review

I work as a Rehabilitation Officer for a charity called _____ and assist people experiencing sight loss in learning how to adapt their lives to regain or increase their independence.

As I am sure you will be aware, watching television with a visual impairment may be impossible for some people or at the least, enjoyment is greatly reduced due to missing information. Many of the people I work with rely on their television a great deal, especially when other past-times may not be possible anymore or involvement in daily-living tasks in the home due to their sight loss.

I understand from the people I meet, how Audio description has revolutionised many peoples' enjoyment of television through it's narratives of body language, facial expressions or scenery – and other things that otherwise would be missed. It has enabled people with sight loss access to the 'world of television' and be a part of that, such as being able to discuss programmes 'watched', as many of us do in general conversation.

I understand the Ofcom Access Services review includes three options for the future of audio description. I am requesting that **Ofcom choose option two: and increase audio description to 20% across all channels**; so people have greater access to a variety of programmes that people without sight loss take for granted.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Smethurst
Rehabilitation Officer