

**Fiona Mactaggart, Member of Parliament for Slough**



3 November 2009

**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Sara Winter  
Ofcom  
Riverside House  
2A Southwark Bridge Road  
London SE1 9HA.

Dear Sara Winter

**OFCOM REVIEW OF TELEVISION ACCESS SERVICES**

I am writing to respond to this consultation and to pass on the letter I have received from the Chief Executive of the Berkshire County Blind Society, which has members in my constituency. I agree with Tom Conlin about the importance of audio description for blind and partially-sighted constituents and urge acceptance of the second option in the consultation: an increase in the audio description quota to 20% for all channels required to provide access services. Channels would be required to reach 20% in annual increments of 2%. This is still a very low proportion of services compared with the target of 80% of programmes being subtitled for those with hearing difficulties, and I urge that the proportion of programmes with audio description should be increased as proposed.

I also agree that television companies registered in the UK but broadcasting outside the UK should have to attain the same standard of audio description as those broadcasting in the UK.

I look forward to seeing the result of this review.

Yours sincerely

**Fiona Mactaggart**  
Member of Parliament for Slough