

Question 1: Which of the three options do consultees favour, and why?:

I favour option 2. I am 84 years old and registered blind. Life is exceedingly difficult and frustrating. The only social enjoyment that I can enjoy unaided is listening to the TV, radio and talking books supplied by the charity Calibre. I enjoyed many TV programs when I had limited vision but as my sight completely disappeared I have to listen and on many occasions guess what is happening during the silent parts. Often it is impossible to understand the "story" and I give up as it is pointless. Having only 10% of programs audio described is limiting. My daughter checks each day if there is anything on the TV with audio description and I try and remember when! A task in itself when only 10% of programs carry the description. My daughter also takes me to the theatre when a performance is audio described. However here there is only one performance. This can be a problem when a production is popular and runs for several months but only ONE out of the hundred or so is an audiodescribed performance. We could not buy tickets for the Sound of Music in Bradford as immediately the audiodescribed performance (with special equipment for 50 blind people) was sold out.

I also enjoy sport and again can only really follow a football or cricket match when it is on the radio because when broadcast on TV the commentary is inadequate if you are unable to see. The more programs that can be audiodescribed the better. I challenge anyone to "watch" ordinary TV with their eyes tightly closed in order to appreciate how frustrating and pointless it is without audio description.

I am unable to leave my house independently and as such can feel a prisoner. Anything that can be done to make life for blind and partially sighted people better is welcomed.

My daughter has completed this on my behalf as she "saw" there was a consultation. I would not have known this consultation was even happening even though I have been registered blind for several years.....a point for consultation at a later date perhaps!

Question 2: Do consultees have any further suggestions for future access service provision? If so please provide the rationale for these suggestions:

Comments: