

As a blind person, digital television is one of the main ways of finding out news and information, through its television and radio services. When there were 5 channels to flick through, it was easy to get a braille magazine and know what was on each, but now there are more channels, it is difficult to keep track unless we have access to talking programme guides. However, the issues go much deeper for us in that we need fully accessible devices. There is no use a talking programme guide unless when the device is turned on, we are given information on how to access it, since we cannot see the screen or remote to know what button does what. There are services we really rely on, like audio description, which we need to be able to enable. Given that no effort has been made to help us access digital radio, in a similar way, digital television could become the only way a blind person can really access digital radio, and I would call on OfCom to ensure that digital radio is also made accessible to blind people, after all, radio is the most non-visual medium there is, so the one we use the most, and the greater the number of stations, the harder it is to keep up.

Regards
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