

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

I prefer Option 2. It is only since I have had access to audio-description that I have realised how much of programmes I was missing out on and it has increased my enjoyment considerably. However, I am still disappointed and frustrated by the lack of audi-description outside of the mainstream programming. Whether or not audio-description is available or not does quite often determine whether I "watch" a programme or not especially if I think I am likely to miss out on important parts of the programme without the audio-description to help me follow what is going on.

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

I would like to see audio-description provided for comedy shos such as stand up comedy shows and satirical news comedy shows. Although much of the humour is in the jokes themselves, the nature of a TV comedy show as opposed to a radio show, is that much of the humour is also in the visual elements. I understand that some of these shows deal with current affairs and the quick turn-around of recording may make it difficult for audio-description to be provided but attempts should be made wherever possible for prime-time shows. Not all blind and partially sighted people only want to watch soap operas and historical dramas although, I do believe that in the main most genres of programmes are covered.

Comments:

In my experience, over the last couple of years, the quality and availability of audio-description has improved significantly but there is still a way to go. It still happens quite regularly that the audi-describing voice calls a character in a show by the wrong name and this can be very confusing. There is also still a lot of inconsistency in the quality of the description with important parts of the action still not described at all. However, in all cases, it is fair to say, that any audio-description is always better than none at all and hope it will be available on as many programmes as possible in the future.