

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

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

Codes of practice laying down standards of quality of audio description: e.g. correct timing of commentary within programmes and appropriate volume balance between sound track and commentary.

Comments:

I have used audio description for 20 years in theatre and elsewhere, but nowhere is AD more successful as an access service than in television. Television, by definition, is chiefly a visual medium and in its undescribed form is becoming less accessible to blind people the more busy and interactive it gets. AD has fundamentally changed my relationship with television: I use it more, gain from it more, and consequently feel that as a result of benefitting from it, I am able to engage more with other people to share the experience, and my increased awareness and understanding of television culture means I have more to offer others. In short, it helps me as a blind person to be more included in a shared culture and zeitgeist, and less isolated from the mainstream community.