

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

Option 2. This would give the greatest access for visually impaired people, who would have more choice of channels to watch.

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

In programmes where parts of the dialogue are in other languages, it would be helpful if audible translation could be provided. This sometimes happens in documentaries when people from other countries are interviewed and they don't speak English. Indeed, anything which is just shown on screen and not verbalised detracts from a blind person's enjoyment of and participation in a programme. Sometimes telephone numbers are displayed but not spoken, and this means that blind people do not have the option to phone in with votes, competition entries, etc.

Comments:

I am totally blind, and audio description has been a huge bonus for me when watching many programmes. It is particularly helpful in drama programmes, as often there is just music or silence, and I know something important is happening, but without audio description I cannot guess what. Many blind people now live alone and have no sighted person on hand to describe what is going on. Others, like me, have only a sound receiver, so even if there was sighted help available it could not be given, as we don't have a proper television. I am always delighted when I start listening to a programme and audio description begins. Making it available on as many programmes as possible will be of great value to everyone who has a sight problem.