

Richard Stamp

My wife and daughter both have multiple sclerosis, both use wheelchairs and both are avid users of e-mail.

My wife can and does take advantage of my broadband system at home.

My daughter (aged 25) has a good degree but is too ill to work and therefore very isolated; she badly needs a means of keeping in touch with the world. A Broadband connection and computer would be a godsend if she could afford it. I know this because she monopolises mine on Sunday visits.

Both my wife and daughter are entitled to lease a Motability car. Payments are deducted at source and paid to Motability directly by the DSS. The procedures used could easily be simplified to fund computer, printer and modem.

Microsoft, Apple and other firms give discounts to students but not to disabled people. The collaboration of such major players would be essential; several already have procedures that could be adapted.

Qualification to use the scheme could be related to a given level of disability benefit entitlement (as per Motability) or the possession of a 'blue badge' parking permit. (Broadband enables one to travel and shop electronically and therefore 'fits'.)