

Response from Sense

Sense is a national charity that supports and campaigns for children and adults who are deaf/blind. We provide specialist information, advice and services to deaf/blind people, their families, carers and the professionals who work with them. In addition, we support people who have sensory impairments with additional disabilities.

Sense is represented on the Consumer Expert Group, where a great deal of work has been done on the core receiver requirements for the targeted assistance scheme for older and disabled people. We would like to congratulate the DCMS, the DTI and the BBC on the constructive way in which they have worked with the Expert Group and the work they have done on usability and accessibility.

The targeted help scheme provides an opportunity to promote inclusive design by commissioning accessible equipment. Public procurement of large quantities of accessible equipment in this way should have the effect of making it more affordable.

We very much welcome the fact that the draft document includes the recommendations from the Consumer Expert Group, which were published as *Digital TV Equipment: Vulnerable Consumer Requirements*. **We strongly support the specification as outlined.**

Yours sincerely

Katie Hanson
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