

Hello.

I would like simply to register the following point as a result of the current consultation. I am writing this as a private individual and no doubt my organisation will have something to say about it more formally.

We live in a world where around 1 in 6 of the population have a disability as recognised in official terms; where 3.4 million people with disabilities are part of the working population; where technology is of an age that means there are no barriers whatsoever to alternative access methods and as shown by the likes of Amazon (delivering tablet based products at £39 that are accessible or Alexa – with its various methods of delivering information).

We live in a world where information access should be a given; where we are lucky enough to live in a democracy with moral values such that we even talk about broadband connectivity becoming a right.

In these contexts, I simply cannot understand why the answer is equally simple – accessibility should be part of the offer; it should be a requirement – there are no technical or any other reasons why this should not be the case.

I'm afraid the issue is simply not being given the level of priority that is needed and responsibility for it is not being taken.

I am highly technical, have been in this business for many years, and have worked alongside industry. There is no reason at all to have a simple statement: accessibility should be part of any offering.