

Deaf Calling

by Michelle K. Beckett



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Four decades after telephones became commonplace in British homes, many deaf people still have difficulty using the telephone network and some people cannot use it at all.

Deaf people are asking politicians in the UK for more access to technology that helps them use the phone.

At the moment, deaf people can communicate using phone systems which convert speech into text and vice versa or use sign language interpreters via video link.

TAG (Telecommunications Action Group) promotes equal access to electronic communications, including telecommunications, and TV and radio, for deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind people and sign language users.

TAG said deaf people are limited in their jobs and lives because phone technology is not easily available or affordable.

Chairman Ruth Myers said “No one can participate completely in today’s society without easy and affordable access to the telephone”. “Deaf people don’t have key telephone services to help them gain social, educational and professional equality with the rest of society.”