



DeafAction

Making the difference

Specialist Equipment Guide

Specialist Equipment

At Deaf Action, we have a range of equipment available to view in the display room at our Head Office in Edinburgh. The Specialist Equipment team can assess your need for equipment and install it in your home. In many cases, equipment is loaned free of charge to users in Edinburgh and the Lothians, through council funding. We also offer a free follow up advice and repair service.

Commercial Equipment

We are able to assess for and supply a range of equipment (loops etc) to organisations to help them ensure that their buildings and services are accessible to deaf people.

For information on any of our equipment services, or to arrange an assessment, please contact the Specialist Equipment team at our Head Office:

49 Albany Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3QY

Tel: 0131 556 3128 ▪ Text: 0131 557 0419
Fax: 0131 557 8283 ▪ SMS 07775 620757

What does it cost?

The good news is most of the equipment in this guide is given out with no charge to the receiver. We work in partnership with the local authorities of The City of Edinburgh, West Lothian, East Lothian and Midlothian to provide this service.

If you receive any equipment from us, it is given out on a 'permanent loan' which means it is yours for as long as you need it. In the event the equipment is no longer required it should be returned to us.

Council funded equipment:

- Ring Flash door entry alerter & doorbell
- Phone flash, text-phones & *telephone amplifier
- Television amplifier and television induction loop
- **Vibrating alarm clock & baby alarm
- Silent alert pager system & smoke alarms are subject to Council or Fire Service funding approval

Chargeable equipment:

- Amplified telephones
- Personal listeners
- Desktop loop
- Silent alert pager system (private sales)

* telephone amplifier only available in West Lothian

** vibrating alarm clock not available in West Lothian

Doorbells & Entry Systems

Ring Flash Door Entry System Alerter



What is it?

The Ring Flash alerts Deaf, deafened and hard of hearing people to the sound of a remote door entry buzzer.

How does it work?

A sensor picks up the sound of the buzzer & transmits a wireless signal to the base unit which alerts the user with a chime, flash or both.

Combined Doorbell and Telephone / Textphone Alerter



What is it?

This device alerts Deaf, deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing people to the doorbell and the telephone or textphone.

How does it work?

When the door bell push is pressed, or the telephone or textphone rings, the alerter will chime and flash. It can be freestanding or wall mounted.

The user can have sound, a flash, or both at the same time. There is also a choice of chimes and flashes.

It can be plugged into any room within 100m of the bell push. It is possible to have more than one doorbell receiver activated by the same bell push (extra units not funded).

Telecommunications

Phoneflash



What is it?

A Phoneflash alerts Deaf, deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing people when their telephone or textphone is ringing.

How does it work?

The Phoneflash is connected to the telephone or textphone through the phone socket. When the telephone or textphone rings, the unit flashes a light to alert the user and amplifies the sound of the ring. It uses a strobe light that can easily be seen during the day.

**West Lothian Phone Flash is a different model*

Textphone- minicom



What is it?

A minicom is a textphone that works alongside an existing digital or analogue telephone. It is ideal for Deaf, deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing people.

How does it work?

The telephone handset is placed on the acoustic cups of the minicom when a call is taking place. Text can then be written and received on the minicom screen rather than speaking through the handset.

Textphone- Uniphone



What is it?

A uniphone is a textphone that works independently of a telephone, and can be used as both a textphone and a voice telephone. It is designed for mixed deaf/hearing households.

How does it work?

When plugged into an analogue line, the uniphone works in the same way as a minicom, but without the need for a separate telephone.

Telephone Amplifier*



What is it?

The telephone amplifier attaches to the telephone earpiece to amplify the sound for hard of hearing users.

How does it work?

The telephone amplifier is a small, battery operated box that attaches onto the earpiece of a telephone, using the rubber strap. It has an easy to use volume control on the side for easy adjustment. The telephone amplifier can be used with or without a hearing aid.

*Only available in West Lothian

Amplified Telephones



What are they?

Amplified telephones have inbuilt volume controls to allow hard of hearing users to increase the volume during a conversation.



How do they work?

They work in the same way as any other telephone, with the added benefit of having controllable amplification. Some models have additional features, such as big buttons and flashing lights.

Try Before You Buy

Deaf Action is a registered centre for BT's Try-Before-You-Buy scheme.

This means that at Deaf Action's Head Office you can see, handle and try out BT telephones in a non-sales environment to ensure that you choose the most suitable product for you.

Television Amplifiers

Television Amplifier

What is it?

The television amplifier can be used for televisions, as well as other audio equipment, to amplify the sound for hard of hearing users, without raising the volume for others in the room.

How does it work?

The base unit has a microphone that is attached to the speakers of the television. This then sends the sound to a set of portable, wireless headphones. The volume can be adjusted by the user by turning the dial at the front of the headphones. This does not affect the volume on the television itself.



The television amplifier should be used without hearing aids.

The headphones are battery operated and should be charged in the base unit overnight. Extra/replacement batteries are available to purchase.

Induction Loop

What is it?

An induction loop system amplifies the sound of audio equipment, e.g. television, radio etc, directly in to a hearing aid when it is set to the T setting.



How does it work?

A thin 1mm cable is placed around the circumference of a room (usually around the skirting board) creating the 'loop', with both ends of the wire connecting into the loop box which in turn is attached to the TV or radio. It can be attached either with a microphone on the speaker, or with a scart plug directly into the TV. When the loop box is switched on, the area within this loop will now amplify sound for hearing aid wearers with the T setting. It is mains powered and can be plugged into any standard socket.

Other Amplifiers

Desktop Loop

What is it?

Desktop loops amplify sound for a hearing aid wearer using the T setting.

How does it work?

A desktop loop is used for one-to-one discussions and runs on a rechargeable battery. The desktop loop has (approximately) a 1m radius.



Personal Listener

What is it?

A personal listener is used to amplify sound for a hard of hearing person during one-to-one conversations.

How does it work?

The user will wear headphones and hold a unit, which has an external microphone and volume controls. It also allows users who do not wear hearing aids to use an induction loop system. Neckloops are available instead of headphones for those who have the T setting on their hearing aids.



Alerting Systems

Vibrating Alarm Clock

What is it?

A digital alarm clock, designed specifically for Deaf, deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing people.

How does it work?

When the alarm is activated it beeps, a light on the top of the clock flashes and an under pillow vibrating pad is activated to wake the user. The clock is mains powered.

**Not available in West Lothian*



Silent Alert Paging System

What is it?

A wireless system that alerts Deaf, deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing people to a range of important sound based signals around the home. It can be used to draw the person's attention to a range of sounds including the smoke alarm, telephone and doorbell.

How does it work?

The user carries a pager unit, which can clip to a belt, clothing etc. When the pager is activated, the monitor sends a radio signal to the pager unit, which then vibrates with a unique pattern and the relevant keypad symbol lights up.

A vibrating pad can be placed under the user's pillow at night to alert them if the pager is activated during the night. This system is battery powered. While the unit is charging, it is still working.



Baby Alarm

What is it?

This specialist baby alarm is designed to alert Deaf, deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing parents to their baby crying.

How does it work?

A monitor is placed near the baby and the parent will have the receiver, in the same way as a baby alarm for hearing parents works. When the alarm is activated, a light flashes to alert the parent.

A vibrating pad is placed under the parent's pillow at night and vibrates when activated by the sound of a baby crying.



Hard Wired Smoke Alarm

What is it?

The hard wired smoke alarm system has been designed specifically to meet the needs of Deaf, deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing people. The system is wired into the mains, but also has a backup battery in case of a power failure. If the system detects smoke, it alerts the user with a strobe light during the day and a vibrating pad under the pillow at night.

How does it work?

The base unit can be placed beside the user's bed and a vibrating pad placed under their pillow. If a fire is detected, the strobe light will flash and the vibrating pad will vibrate.



About Us

There are just over 1 million people living in Scotland with some degree of hearing loss – that is 1 in 5 of the total population.

Deaf Action is a deaf-led registered charity working across Scotland. We provide a range of services to deaf people and those who work with them, including:

Social Care - including Social Work provision and the Lothian Deaf Community Mental Health Service (LDCMHS);

Specialist Equipment (also part of Social Care) – assessed for and fitted in the home or in a place of work, often loaned free of charge through council funding;

Information, Advice and Guidance – on a range of topics, including welfare benefits and making the most of hearing aids;

Including You – Information, Advice & Guidance on a range of issues and topics to improve the quality of life for hard of hearing people;

Communication Support – including provision of British Sign Language / English Interpreters; Notetakers; Deafblind Communicators; and Lipspeakers;

Training & Leisure opportunities – including British Sign Language and Deaf Awareness courses as well as adult learning opportunities for British Sign Language users and hard of hearing people, on topics such as patchwork, history, English and computing;

Multimedia Translation - of information and websites to make them more accessible to British Sign Language Users. Deaf Action works with those who use British Sign Language as well as those that are deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing. We aim to raise awareness of the needs and rights of deaf people, challenge discrimination, and provide services to promote independence and quality of life.

**Please note that throughout this guide, the term 'deaf' includes those use British Sign Language (BSL), and those that are deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing.*



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Email: specialistequipment@deafaction.org