

Lack of accessible information



I think it is quite clear that ministers and government officials do not fully understand about accessible information and the importance of it for so many people.



People with learning disabilities and/or autism need guidance about face coverings, DNR, testing, Shielding, etc.

They rely on it just like the rest of us, but often need it in an easy read format.



Plus, the information changes so quickly that this needs to be in easy read on the day not 2 weeks later.

Even when easy read does come out it is far too late to even be needed by most people.

The guidance has often changed again by then.



I think lots of people believe that those with a learning disability or autism will have a support worker who can make sense of guidance for them.

But in fact, most live independently, so it is up to them to try and make sense of what they have.



It is false information like this that I think is the reason for accessible information not being seen as more important.



It is not just people with learning disabilities and/or autism being ignored either.

There has also not been interpreters doing sign language BSL and Makaton when guidance is presented on TV.



This means people with sight or hearing loss are often unable to follow all the updates as they come out.

Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland are already doing this, but England is falling short.



We have the Accessible Information Standards.

We have laws about accessible information.

So why is the government not sticking to them?



I would love to see people with learning disabilities and/or autism going on TV to ask ministers about these issues.

It would be good to see more people with a learning disability and/or autism on TV in general and not just because of their disability.



I am now working with others from different organisations to try and make accessible information be seen as more important.

We talk on zoom and we have written a few letters to government explaining what is needed and why.



The government have made some positive changes like an accessible comms campaign on social media, but more can definitely be done.

I am hopeful we might be able to get these changes made.



[You can find out more and add your name to the Accessible Information Campaign open letter here.](#)

By Gary Bourlet