

Brighton County Court – Witness Statement by Ann Crammer  
Claim Number: 5BN03502  
Hearing Date: 9 September 2005

I, Ann G. Crammer, 42 Overhill Gardens, Brighton BN1 8ND,  
As a retired member of the Sensory Loss Team, Social Services, Brighton & Hove Council, have had contact with Colin Bennett over a number of years.

Colin and I were also members of Hove Access Group and are presently members of the Disabled Access Advisory Committee (DAAG). Meetings for these groups are held in Council buildings and involve joint working with voluntary group workers, councillors, and council officials.

Over the years a number of surveys have been carried out by DAAG at the request of the Council. Recommendations have been made aimed at making both the physical environment and the functional activities accessible to all people of Brighton and Hove.

Regarding King's House, Hove Town Hall and Brighton Town Hall, much has been achieved to make these buildings serviceable and accessible for anyone with mobility problems. However, despite strong recommendations, the needs of hard of hearing and deaf people have not met with much success. Where a system has been installed, e.g. Hove Town Hall Council Chamber, there have been endless problems and little is done to put these right, or to have the system operational before the beginning of a meeting. The result has been that those with hearing difficulties have had to rely on brief paraphrased commentary from a neighbour or to rely on the Chair of a meeting to repeat questions and comments regarding issues of particular relevance to the deaf member or members. Much other business is missed altogether.

In committee room no. 1, Brighton Town Hall, where the majority of DAAG meetings take place, particular problems arise as the acoustics are poor and there is no evidence of any induction loop system.

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Ann G. Crammer