

## WITNESS STATEMENT BY EILEEN BOOTHROYD

Colin Bennett v Brighton and Hove City Council  
Claim No 5BN03502

My name is Eileen Boothroyd. I am editor of Deafblind International Review and I am a specialist in children's education at Sense.

Colin Bennett has is a member of Deafblind International and attends events and activities in the UK and Europe as a participant and presenter.

In recent years we have called upon Colin, because of his experience and knowledge, to act as our "communications checker". In the Netherlands, in 2001, Professor Jan van Dijk and his scientific committee called upon Colin to test the loop system installed in the main conference hall and all the breakout rooms, prior to the start of the conference. The main hall accommodated over 500 participants and it was essential to the comfort of the many deaf and deafblind participants that they could sit where they chose and still take a full part in the proceedings. Colin's assistance was highly valued because of his ability to be clear about his role in this respect and his willingness to help.

Last summer, Colin again was again invited to help colleagues in Slovakia to get things right for the deaf and deafblind people at a study group and conference there. The facilities were quite a challenge as it was a very old school and so were the antiquated systems being applied, but Colin was able to help by alerting colleagues to equipment that wasn't working effectively and thereby increase participation.

Eileen Boothroyd