

STATEMENT OF CLAIM: CONTINUATION FROM CLAIM FORM N208
COLIN BRUCE BENNETT v BRIGHTON AND HOVE CITY COUNCIL

It has been suggested to me that I issue this claim 'protectively' as I have not had time to seek legal advice . However, if I have correctly submitted this claim, I wish it to go ahead without delay. I did intend to make this claim through the Disability Rights Commission but time constraints led me to act for myself. However, I have had some advice from the DRC.

For many years, I have been trying to get Brighton and Hove City Council to honour their duties under the Disability Discrimination Act. It is like wading through treacle. The Council is in a permanent state of reorganisation and no one seems to know what the grandiosely- named departments and chief officers are responsible for. A big problem with the Council is that , unlike most LA's , it does not employ an Access Officer to make sure the Council meets its obligations. Another problem is that a building such as Hove Town Hall is not run by a single person but its management is divided between many departments and no one seems to know who is responsible for what. The result is often chaos.

I have been slow to take this step but the correspondence I attach shows that the Council just will not do what it should do under the DDA. I am seeking that the following chambers in the Council's ownership be equipped with functioning induction loops (or infra-red technology) and that they be maintained.

1. Brighton Town Hall Council Chamber
2. Hove Town Hall Council Chamber
3. Committee Rooms 1,2/3 in Brighton Town Hall
4. Committee Rooms 1,2,3,the Great Hall and the Banqueting Suite in Hove Town Hall

When this has been achieved I hope to get the Council to do the same thing for all its public chambers including those in Portslade Town Hall.

I am also seeking that all the telephones in Council buildings that are available for the public have induction loops within and volume control.

I attach documents 1-6 which show in sequence the steps I have taken and the background to this case. Documents 1-4 show the correspondence between myself and Mr. McCarthy. Document 5 is an e-mail to the Disability Rights Commission which fleshes out my claim. Document 6 is an e-mail to my Councillors Paul Elgood and David Watkins showing that even despite their efforts they have not been able to get the induction loop in Hove Town Hall Council Chamber to work. I am not seeking any money order in compensation for not being able to use Council facilities. However, if the judges chooses to make a money order than I would not refuse it but insist that it be made payable to SENSE which is the National Deafblind and Rubella Association.

Colin Bruce Bennett
29 July 2005