






If you decide to buy rather than apply to social work services, some manufacturers may offer a discount. Social work services can always advise about reliable, honest commercial firms. Some manufacturers and suppliers offer trial periods where you can see how the equipment suits you before deciding to buy.

### **Vat exemption**

In general, you will be eligible for VAT exemption on a product if you are deaf or hard of hearing (or you are buying the product for a deaf or hard of hearing person) for your domestic or personal use and the product is made for use by a deaf or hard of hearing person. If you believe you are eligible for relief from VAT, you will need to complete a VAT exemption form and send it to the supplier with your order. The supplier should be able to give you a form.

### **Where to find lists of equipment and their manufacturers & suppliers**








You may get lists from one of the following sources:

-  Your local social work services and resource centre
-  Your local audiology clinic
-  Your lipreading group
-  Your hard of hearing club
-  The Internet (e.g. [www.scod.org.uk](http://www.scod.org.uk), [www.rnid.org.uk](http://www.rnid.org.uk) and [www.ndcs.org.uk](http://www.ndcs.org.uk) whose databases will include such lists)

### **The Scottish Council on Deafness (SCoD) is:**

The Scottish umbrella body representing the interests of local and national voluntary organisations, local authority social work, education and health departments working with Deaf Sign Language users, deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing people.

### **SCoD's aims are to:**

-  Enable deaf people to contribute in shaping the policies which affect their lives
-  Work to challenge negative attitudes and to combat discriminatory practice
-  Raise public awareness of issues affecting deaf people and their views and experience
-  Campaign for equal opportunities for deaf people
-  Improve the social inclusion of deaf people
-  Support the recognition of British Sign Language
-  Promote the rights of deaf people and encourage improved practice

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**Text** 0141 248 2477

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**Web** [www.scod.org.uk](http://www.scod.org.uk)

**Charity No** SCO16957



**Scottish Council  
on Deafness**

*How to get your aids for  
daily living*

*.....the Lead  
Organisation for  
Deaf Issues  
in Scotland*

## Hearing loss

When you have a hearing loss, you may experience frustration in many situations, for example:

- Following a family conversation in a noisy room
  - Understanding your favourite TV programme
  - Difficulty having a telephone conversation
- You may rely on people to alert you to a door bell, alarm clock ringing, etc., thus losing your independence. However, there are equipment & aids that will give you freedom to move around your home without missing important sounds and enhance your communication with your family, friends and colleagues.

## How to get equipment & aids

The first step is to ask your local social work services to assess your needs. An assessment will determine which type of equipment suits you best for your needs. To find your local social work services, you can do one of the following:

- Ask your Audiologist
- Ask your Hearing Therapist
- Ask your local Librarian
- Contact a local Deaf Voluntary Organisation\*
- Visit our website:  
[www.scod.org.uk/directory](http://www.scod.org.uk/directory)

(\*to get their address, contact SCoD or look up the Yellow Pages).

## Types of Equipment

There are four main types:

1. Listening devices
2. Alerting devices
3. Telecommunication aids
4. Video products

## 1. Listening devices

What are listening devices? They are loop systems, infra-red listening systems and radio aids. These devices can help you to hear particular sounds. This may be the television or radio although some devices can be used to assist with hearing conversations. These devices allow you to adjust the volume without affecting anyone nearby. They can be portable, allowing you to take them with you on holiday or to appointments and meetings. Radio aids help remove the unwanted background noise between a speaker and a deaf person. They are commonly used by deaf children and young deaf people at school or college, although some deaf adults do use them at work.



## 2. Alerting devices

These devices help alert you to particular sounds like door bell, smoke alarm, telephone ringing and baby crying. They work by flashing light, vibrating, sound or a combination of these.

There are many examples of alerting devices:

- Baby alarms
- Door bells
- Smoke detectors
- Alarm clocks
- Telephone indicators
- Vibrating pagers
- Mobile phone alerters



## 3. Telecommunication aids

You may have experienced problems with the telephone because you cannot hear the other person well enough to have a conversation. You may only require a **telephone amplifier** or **inductive coupler** to help make the sound of incoming speech louder, regardless of whether you have a hearing aid or not.



If you are not able to hear speech with the aid of an inductive coupler or amplifier, an alternative is to use a **textphone**. A textphone enables deaf people to use the existing telephone network, but instead of speaking, the conversation is typed on a keyboard and displayed on a small text screen as it is sent down the telephone line.

If you have a mobile phone, there are **inductive loopsets** which consist of an inductive wire loop which slips around the neck and connects to the base of mobile phone.

## 4. Video products

There is a type of equipment that allows you to record subtitled TV programmes - it is called a teletext adaptor.

Also available are **closed caption readers** - they enable you to watch pre-recorded video films which have had subtitles added.