

From: Heather.Jones@brighton-hove.gov.uk
To: "Colin B. Bennett" <colinbbennett@onetel.com>
Subject: Re: letter dated 7 February
Date: Tue, Feb 15, 2005, 10:52 AM

Hello, Please find below the letter pasted in as requested. Heather

Thank you for your letter of 3 February and I am sorry that you experienced some difficulty with the induction loop system in the Chamber. As you will be aware the Council and the Inspectorate have been liaising with you since November last year to ensure that the hearing loop system is in good working order and I understand you have previously met with the Council's property manager and electrician, who has a hearing disability, to personally check the hearing loop in the Council Chamber, Brighton Town Hall.

The Council and the Inspectorate have been involved in considerable preparations for the Falmer Planning Inquiry and Barbara Bay, the inspectorate programme officer had specific requirements that had to be met before the Council Chamber was deemed to be acceptable. One main area these covered was access and both the council and Barabara Bay involved you in this process. There is an existing induction loop that covers the entire public area in the Gallery and a second induction loop has been installed in the Chamber for the Inquiry to cover two designated rows of seating, approximately nine seats. A radio microphone has also been supplied that will enable people seated within the public area and at the rear of the Council Chamber to be heard.

All the required works for the Inquiry were finished and tested on the 31st January and found to be in working order. For the period of the Inquiry, the electrician checks the equipment, in particular the induction loops, at the beginning of every morning to ensure that all facilities are working.

continued over.....

I have been advised that you met with the building manager and the electrician on Friday. The Council Chamber facilities at the Falmer Inquiry were discussed, and explained, as it seems that it was not understand that there are designated seating areas with a hearing induction loop system. It also appears that user misuse of the microphone system may have made it difficult for you to hear and we will need to review the communication channels on how to use these.

I trust, having had an explanation of the system, the issue has now been resolved.

Yours sincerely,

Alan McCarthy
Chief Executive

Heather Jones
Leadership Support Manager
01273 291057
Room 143A
King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove
BN3 2LS