

# **Additional costs of living for people who are Deaf**

Research Findings

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**Research to establish how much more it costs, as a minimum, to live with hearing loss was carried out by researchers at Loughborough University and University Campus Suffolk.**

This study estimated the additional expenses of someone who is profoundly deaf and uses British Sign Language. It covered extra

# Summary findings



activities was vital for a Deaf person's wellbeing, particularly for someone living alone, in order to avoid the risk of becoming lonely and depressed. As one participant explained:

*at home.*

Holidays are more expensive, as a minimum, for a Deaf person, as it is based on hotel accommodation. Groups felt that hotels were more likely to have necessary safety features like vibrate-alert / flashing smoke alarms than self-catering accommodation – which is considered a minimum in the budget for a hearing person.

### **Technology**

A higher grade mobile phone was seen as a necessity for Deaf people to allow its use for sign language through Skype or Facetime. It is important to have a good quality model to provide reliable 'instantaneous' communication for a Deaf person who cannot make a standard telephone call, as a participant explained:

*example, and actually have that conversation to get there. If you were*

The higher cost phone and monthly package accounts for most of the additional cost of technology. Changes to a few computing goods in the

*Deaf culture, this is what we do as Deaf people, we travel*

## Conclusions and policy implications

This research clearly shows how someone who is D

The full research report also includes budgets for people who are sight impaired. It sets out the method in more detail, and describes how groups discussed additional needs and the rationales given for including items in the budgets.

The report:

‘Disability and minimum living standards: The additional costs of living for people who are sight impaired and people who are Deaf’

There is a separate Research Findings on the additional costs for people who are sight impaired:

Both can be obtained from the Centre for Research in Social Policy

[www.crsp.ac.uk](http://www.crsp.ac.uk)

## **The status of this research**

The research reported here is independent research commissioned by Thomas Pocklington Trust. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of Thomas Pocklington Trust.

The research was undertaken to trial an established methodology that defines Minimum Income Standards (MIS) for certain population groups. It applied the methodology to people of working age who are eligible for certification as sight impaired or who are Deaf and use British Sign Language. The findings estimated additional costs of living and defined a Minimum Income Standard for each population group.