Technical Report for Ofcom's research into

Disabled consumers' access and use
of communications services and devices 2016

Preface

This volume contains the full computer tabulations for the 2016 Disability study, which was run as part of the British Population Survey (the BPS) omnibus survey on behalf of Ofcom. The objective of the survey is to track the access and use of communications devices and services among non-disabled and disabled consumers, plus monitoring disabled consumers' limitations and preventions of use caused by their disability.

The BPS interviews a quota of 2,000 individuals aged 15+ face to face in-home each week across Great Britain to provide a representative sample of the population. Ofcom commissioned a series of questions on the BPS omnibus between 29th July and 24th November 2016, achieving a sample of 21,498 adults (16,792 non-disabled and 4,706 disabled).

Sample Design & Quotas

The BPS create samples by first randomly selecting pairs of Census ONS Output Areas within each Postcode district (e.g. PE1), each pair consisting of around 250 addresses.

The next stage is to select the first half of these required sample points, check these points against various Geodemographic models, and then select the second half of the sample points from within the under-weighted profiles to increase the probability of representative selections.

Finally, the team of Interviewers are given quotas for Gender, Age, Working Status and Social Grade according to the Census statistics for each sample point. The Team then have a set period of days within which to achieve their quotas of interviews within the sample point. The final process is to ensure, via the interview process, that no respondent is interviewed twice, over time.

This methodology ensures the sampling of an accurate cross-section of the British Population, and as the same methodology is used every week, it also ensures that trends will be equally accurate over time.

Data presented in the tables has not been weighted as reporting is based on sub-groups of interest (for example, each disability group) and not the total GB sample.