

Title: Proximity interpreting: Day to day policing and delivering access for deaf citizens.

In the UK police forces have begun introducing a bespoke signed language video mediated interpreting (VMI) service to promote greater communication between the police and deaf citizens. Currently these services are designed to handle 101 non-emergency police calls. For the police using technology in this way may appear to be an attractive solution in responding to a particular social problem, how do deaf people initiate on-demand contact with the police?

This PhD study is therefore interested in the effectiveness of VMI as a tool to facilitate first point (ad-hoc) interactions. The unique challenge is how all of parties involved in the interaction are engaged in a conversation not experienced before. Previously the use of interpreters in police contexts has been confined to on-site police premises, more specifically police interviews. Interpreters who work with the police are encouraged to understand police procedure to facilitate a style of interaction that is determined by institutional goals (Berk, 2009; Mulayim, Lai, & Norma, 2014). Police officers are also advised to recognise and consider the atypical approach to managing interviews when assisted by an interpreter (Berk, 2009; Mulayim et al., 2014; Perez & Wilson, 2007). The introduction of VMI technologies now means the opportunity for interaction on a range of every day policing subjects has increased. Much can be learned about the way police officers provide their service to citizens who do not share a common language or cultural background and how can interpreters facilitate general police-deaf citizen interactions.