



Home Office

RECEIVED 14 JAN 2019

Caroline Nokes MP
Minister of State for Immigration

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Ms Cathy Magee
Chief Executive, Dyslexia Scotland
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17-21 Maxwell Place, Stirling
FK8 1JU

HOCS Reference: MIN/0018340/18

10 JAN 2019

Dear Ms Magee

Thank you for your letter of 10 December 2018 to the Home Secretary about the Life in the UK test for dyslexic/neurodiverse individuals. I am replying as the Minister of State for Immigration.

The tests have a number of accessibility features built in which candidates can self-access when they attend the centre. The candidate is not required to request these, they are available to all candidates. These are:

- background and font colour: the candidate can select a light grey background with black text, a cream coloured background with black text, or a black background with yellow text.
- audio: headphones are provided at every workstation and the candidates can press the 'Play Audio' button to hear the questions.

If additional access arrangements are required then these are determined on a case by case basis and we request that the candidate provides evidence such as an Educational Psychologist Assessment or documentation confirming previous Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) agreed exam arrangements, to support their request.

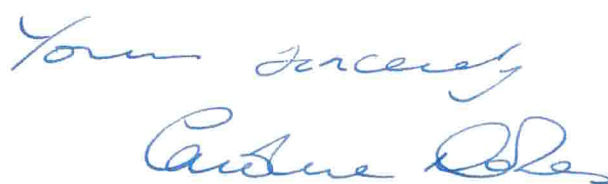
As these are based on the individual there are no set arrangements in place to support dyslexia but examples of arrangements that can be delivered are:

- 100% extra time (where rest breaks are required 100% extra time is given to allow for the breaks)
- online test with reader and scribe who will select the answer as given by the candidate
- British Sign Language interpreter
- closed session with no other candidates
- use of own coloured filter on the screen
- adaptive equipment such as high contrast keyboard, larger screen or ergonomic mouse

The list above is not exhaustive but covers the most common access arrangements. We would advise people with dyslexia to contact their local test centre to discuss their specific needs.

There is discretion to waive the knowledge of language and life in the UK requirement if, because of a person's long-term physical or mental condition, it would be unreasonable for them to meet it. To apply for a waiver the applicant would need to ask a relevant medical practitioner to complete the medical waiver form which can be found on the Gov.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/life-in-the-uk-test-exemption-long-term-physical-or-mental-condition>

Each application is considered on its own merits and will depend on the facts in each case.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Nokes', is centered on the page.

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Minister of State for Immigration