

Royal Mail regulations for free postal services

The RM regulations for Articles for the Blind freepost are detailed and add formality to the TTN application process.

These are the details:

The Postal Services (Universal Postal Service) Order 2012 Paragraph 2 (Interpretation) of the Order the following definitions are found:

- “blind” means registered as blind under the provisions of the National Assistance Act 1948
- “partially sighted” means certified by an ophthalmologist, doctor or ophthalmic optician as having vision which cannot be improved using optical aids (including magnifiers) or additional illumination to allow 12-point sized print to be read at a comfortable reading distance

The above is Arial 12-point.

Does a potential listener ‘qualify’ for TTN?

The font style and font size of the Hexham Courant is not Arial (sans serif) 12-point.

At least Arial 14- or 18-point are recommended for type-written communications with people who are blind or partially sighted.

Newsprint generally is Times 10-point or 10.5-point, which, albeit ‘sans serif’, do not offer the clarity of Arial.

Newsprint in the Courant is at best 10.5-point Times.

Potential listeners may have difficulty with this. They may deservedly receive TTN as they find reading the following difficult and even impossible, with any usual spectacles.

The following is an example of Times 10.5-point:

The restaurant initially opened as Eleven in 2021, and quickly earned praise in the Michelin guide, but closed in March 2023 to rebrand as Bawn with a new focus on pizza and small plates. Posting to Instagram owners Danny Land and Stephen Pitfield said in a statement: “It is with the heaviest of hearts that we announce the immediate and permanent closure of Bawn”.

Potential listeners may self-assess and sign the application form, seeking subsequent confirmation by a doctor or optician.