**Taking action**

First, you should ask for information from your child’s Teacher of the Deaf on why your child cannot have a radio aid to use at home. You should ideally ask for a radio aid in writing. You should also ask for your child’s Teacher of the Deaf to give their reasons in writing why a radio aid cannot be provided.

In some cases, there may be good reasons why a radio aid is not the right option at this time. It’s also possible that a Teacher of the Deaf may have concerns about loss or damage to equipment. Having an open discussion may help to find possible solutions to any issues.

If the answer is still no, there are two main ways in which you can take action:

1. Making a disability discrimination complaint

If you live in England, Scotland and Wales, local authorities are required, under the Equality Act 2010, to provide ‘auxiliary aids’ (which includes radio aids) as a reasonable adjustment to disabled people. Given the importance of good language and communication, particularly in the early years, we think it should be seen as unreasonable to deny a family with a deaf child a radio aid unless there are good reasons why not.

Overleaf, you can find two versions of template letters that you can use.

* Version 1 is for families that do not currently have a radio aid.
* Version 2 is for families that have a radio aid which they have bought themselves because the local authority would not provide.

If the local authority still says no, the next step will be to then consider legal action. We’re looking for families who, with lots of support from us, might be interested in taking legal action on radio aids in the early years – you can find more information about this in our [short video](https://www.instagram.com/p/Bn04WwrgLwo/?hl=en&taken-by=ndcs_uk).

The Equality Act does not apply in Northern Ireland. Whilst there are disability discrimination laws in place, local authorities do not have to provide radio aids as a reasonable adjustment. Please contact [our Helpline](https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/services-for-families/helpline/) for more information about your options here.

1. Using laws around special or additional needs

If your child already has an Education, Health and Care plan (England), a statement of special educational needs (Wales and Northern Ireland) or a co-ordinated support plan (Scotland), you can also ask for a review of the plan/statement so that a radio aid can be added to it. You also have the right to request an assessment for a plan or statement if your child does not already have one. [Our website](http://www.ndcs.org.uk/family_support/education_for_deaf_children/education_during_school_years/deaf_children_with.html) has more information about your rights under laws for children with special or additional needs.

If, after a complaint, the local authority still says no, you then have the option to escalate your complaint to a special Tribunal that hears cases around laws relating to special or additional needs. There are time limits, so it is important to get more advice or information as soon as this happens.

We would encourage you to make a complaint as soon as you are told or learn that your child cannot have a radio aid. This is because there are sometimes time limits on when you can take follow-up action if you need to.

For more information and advice on any of the above, you can contact [our Helpline](https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/services-for-families/helpline/). We’ve also explained some of the common issues around the provision of radio aids below.

If you do decide to make a formal complaint, please do let us know via [our Helpline](https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/services-for-families/helpline/). Our campaigns team may be able to support. We may also be put you in touch with other parents in the area, including parent representatives at Children’s Hearing Services Working Group meetings.