### CHRISTOPHER JONESDEAF ACCESS TO COMMUNICATIONS (DAC)



In the early 1970’s, as a local leader of Breakthrough Trust (Hull area), Mr. Christopher Jones raised funds to develop a small network of 24 Teleprinters as precursor to text telephones for the local deaf people enabling them to communicate across the telephone network for the first time in their lives. Within a couple of years, this led to the development of UK’s second local Text Telephone Relay Service, many years before RNID’s TED. He was a founder member of TAG for over 20 years – Telecommunication Action Group, an umbrella organisation consisting of members of deaf organisations and individuals in the UK to further enhance access to electronic communications.

During 1980’s, Mr. Christopher Jones was involved in European multimedia projects: - Europa Lingua Surda, Horizon and PETRA. In 1987, he received the Churchill Fellowship into multimedia and language development for deaf children. From 1991 to 2007, as Vice President he joined Teletec International, later as Managing Director – distributor of text telephones. In 2000, a captioned telephone relay service was started until its closure in 2007 due to lack of government funding towards a range of alternative relay services.

From 2007 onwards, Director, AccEquE Ltd, a consulting company into enhanced accessibility and equality into electronic communications for deaf, deafened, deaf blind and hard of hearing people. In 2010, he was appointed as one of the three Vice Chairs of the JCA-AHF, Joint Coordinating Action on Accessibility and Human Factors at ITU International Telecommunication Union, an UN agency based in Geneva, Switzerland. He is the Editor of ITU-T F.703 document relating to Total Conversation and co-editor of the ITU-T F.Relay document at Study Group 16/Question 26. In 2013, he was appointed Chair of DAC – Deaf Access to Communications, a SIG (special interest group) under the UKCoD – United Kingdom Council on Deafness.