People with complex communication needs may have physical, hearing and/or vision needs which can make it difficult to access communication apps and software of touch screen devices. There are device accessibility features which can facilitate the user’s access to touch screen devices despite physical and sensory needs.

**Accessibility Features**

**Touch Features**

**Touch assistance:** Replaces all hardware buttons, swiping and gestures with ‘taps’ which can be performed using a single finger/stylus

**Ignore repeat:** Suitable for people with tremors or uncontrolled movements

**Use initial touch for selection:** Suitable for people who can target the correct cell with their finger/stylus, but have trouble keeping it on the desired target. Their finger/stylus might slide on or activate other undesired keys after their initial selection

**Use final touch for selection:** Suitable for people who need to slide their hand, finger or stylus across the screen in order to place it on the desired cell/key

**Hold duration:** Increasing the hold duration required to activate a cell/key helps ignore accidental hits cause by uncontrolled movements or tremors

**Switch access:** Suitable for people who are unable to use direct touch access despite trialling styluses, keyguards, and touch accessibility features

**Guided access:** For stopping users from exiting a communication app, changing the volume, changing the screen orientation, or accessing the settings
Vision Features

**Speak text***: Suitable for people who have some degree of vision loss, they can see cell/icons, but are unable to read labels/text. Users can tap on the cell/icon to hear what it is before selecting it

**Auditory scanning***: Used alongside switch access, suitable for people who cannot see the screen/page. The system reads the items aloud, the user hits a switch to select the desired item when it is read aloud

**Zoom**: Suitable for people who benefit from magnification

**Colour filters**: Suitable for people who benefit from high contrast, inverted colours, black and white filter, dimmed colours, or reduced brightness/glare

**Size**: Change size of icons and text

**Braille display**: Connect to a Braille keyboard, which could be used to control a device

* It is recommended to choose a ‘prompt’ voice that is different to the communication app/speech generating device ‘speaking voice’. Prompt voice can also sometimes be channelled to the user through private earphones.

For more information, please contact:

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