



Sources of second hand equipment

DLF Factsheet

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INTRODUCTION

Buying new equipment is often expensive and may not be an option for some people. Buying second-hand can be a cheaper way of finding solutions to daily living difficulties, but choice is more limited. You must make sure that you do not compromise on your essential requirements. If you are unsure about what you need, contact the occupational therapist at your local social services for advice; or find out if there is a Disabled Living Centre (DLC) near you. DLC s are non-commercial organisations set up to provide information and advice on disability equipment. They all have equipment demonstration centres where you can visit to see and try out ranges of equipment.

You must check that what you are buying is in good working order. You do have certain consumer rights when buying second-hand, e.g. the seller must accurately describe the product he/she is selling to you; and you should be made fully aware of any faults that need attention. If possible, obtain a written description of the product from the seller before you buy so that should you find any faults, you can more easily get your money back. There are basically two sources of second-hand equipment: disability equipment retailers and private individuals.

Advice and information for consumers from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

The MHRA has a useful webpage explaining Do's and Don'ts of buying:

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/Generalsafetyinformationandadvice/Adviceandinformationforconsumers/Buyingmedicaldevices/CON019611>

Buying from a Disability Equipment Retailer

Some commercial suppliers of equipment buy unwanted items, recondition them, then offer them for sale with a short guarantee of, for example, three months. Some might also sell ex-demonstration models. Buying second-hand from a retailer is generally more expensive than buying from a private individual, but the equipment is likely to have been serviced and should be in reasonable working order.

Buying from a Private Individual

Some mainstream magazines and several disability organisations publish journals that contain advertisements for second-hand equipment. If you are buying second-hand from a private individual, you must make sure that:

- the equipment has been regularly maintained;
- that you also receive accompanying literature, for example a care manual;
- that batteries have been regularly charged (usually once a month is sufficient if the equipment is not being used); and that you receive instructions on how to use the equipment properly and safely.

You will also need to find a local company able to service the equipment and carry out future repairs.

SOURCES OF SECOND-HAND EQUIPMENT

Websites

The following web sites carry advertisements for second-hand disability equipment:

- **Disability Equipment Register**
www.disabilityequipment.org.uk
- **DisabledGear.com**
www.DisabledGear.com
- **Ebay Bay UK's Disability Resources page**
<http://pages.ebay.co.uk/zones/disabilityresources.html>
- **Mobility Market**
www.themobilitymarket.co.uk/

Disability Equipment Retailers

For addresses of disability equipment retailers in your area, look in your local phone book (usually listed under 'disability' or 'mobility'); contact your local Disabled Living Centre; or contact the Disabled Living Foundation's Helpline on 0845 130 9177 (10 am to 4 pm). We have a list, although it is not comprehensive, of retailers on our database.

Mainstream Journals

EXCHANGE AND MART CLASSIFIED

United Advertising Publications Link
House 25 West Street Poole Dorset, BH15
1LL

tel: (01202) 445000;
helpline: (0800) 680680
email: help@exchangeandmart.co.uk
website: www.exchangeandmart.co.uk

LOOT

tel: (020) 7 3281771
email: queries@loot.com;
website: www.loot.com

Disability Journals

Disability Now

6 Market Road London N7
9PW
tel: (020) 7619 7323;
fax: (020) 7619
7331
minicom: (020) 7619 7332
e mail: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk
homepage: www.disabilitynow.org.uk

Able Magazine

Craven Publishing Ltd 15-39 Durham Steet, Kinning Park Glasgow G41 1BS tel:
(0141) 419 0044 fax: (0141) 419 0077
homepage link: www.ablemagazine.co.uk

Carers World

Hawker Publications 13
Park House 140 Battersea Park Road
London SW4 4NB tel: (020) 7720 2108

Disability Organisations

The following disability organisations publish newsletters with second-hand equipment sections:

ARTHRITIS CARE

18 Stephenson Way London NW1 2HD
tel: (020) 7380 6500 fax:
(020) 7380 6505
helpline: (0808) 8004050
e mail: reception@arthritiscare.org.uk

homepage: www.arthritiscare.org.uk

BRITISH POLIO FELLOWSHIP

Ground Floor Unit A Eagle Office Centre The Runway, South Ruislip HA4 6SE

tel: (0800) 0180586 fax:

(020) 8842 0555

helpline: (0800) 0180586

e mail: info@britishpolio.org.uk

homepage: www.britishpolio.org.uk

CARERS UK

Ruth Pitter House 20-25

Glasshouse Yard London EC1A 4JT

tel:(020) 7490 8818 fax:

(020) 7490 8824 minicom:

(020) 7251 8969 helpline:

(0808) 808 7777

E mail: info@ukcarers.org

homepage: www.carersuk.org/

DISABILITY NORTH

The Dene Centre Castles Farm Road Newcastle Upon Tyne NE3 1PH

tel: (0191) 284 0480 fax:

(0191) 213 0910 textphone:

(0191) 285 7261

email: reception@disabilitynorth.org.uk

homepage: www.disabilitynorth.org.uk

DISABILITY WALES

Caerphilly Business Park Van Road Caerphilly Mid Glamorgan CF83 3ED

tel: (0292) 088 7325

fax:(0292) 088 8702

minicom: (0292) 088 7325

helpline: (0800) 731 6282 .

<http://www.disabilitywales.org/>

Mobilise

National Headquarters Ashwellthorpe Norwich, NR16 1EX

tel: (0870) 770 3333

fax: (01508) 488173

e mail: ddahq@aol.com

homepage: www.dda.org.uk

DISABLED MOTORISTS FEDERATION

(DMF) 145 Knoulbury Road Blackfell Washington Tyne and Wear

tel/fax 0191 416 3172

email: <http://www.freewebs.com/dmfed/>

MENCAP

123 Golden Lane London, EC1Y 0RT

Tel: (020) 7454 0454

Fax: (020) 7608 3254

Helpline: (020) 0808 808 1111

Email: information@mencap.org.uk

Homepage: www.mencap.org.uk

MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION (MND)

PO Box 246

Northampton Northamptonshire, NN1 2PR

Tel: (01604) 250 505

Fax: (01604) 624726

Helpline: (08457) 515 151

E mail: enquiries@mndassociation.org

Homepage: www.mndassociation.org.uk

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, MS National Centre

372 Edgware Road London NW2 6ND

Tel: (020) 8438 0700

Fax: (020) 8438 0701

Helpline: (0808) 8008000

E mail: info@mssociety.org.uk

Homepage: www.mssociety.org.uk

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY CAMPAIGN

7-11 Prescott Place, London SW4 6BS

Tel: (020) 7720 8055

Fax: (020) 74980670

E mail: info@muscular-dystrophy.org.uk

Homepage: www.muscular-dystrophy.org

SPINAL INJURIES ASSOCIATION (SIA)

SIA House 2 Truman Place Milton Keynes MK6 2HH

Tel: 0845 678 6633

Fax: 0845 070 6911

Helpline: (0800) 980 0501

Email: sia@spinal.co.uk

Website: www.spinal.co.uk



DLF online

The majority of DLF's advice is now online. If you would like advice and support to get online or information on local courses about getting online please visit one of the following websites.

Age UK

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/work-and-learning/technology-and-internet/>

Call **0800 169 8787**

BBC Webwise

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/>

Call **08000 150 950**

Digital Unite

<http://learning.digitalunite.com/category/using-the-internet/>

Call **0800 228 9272** Or you can write to them

Digital Unite Limited, Unit 2B Poles Copse, Poles Lane, Otterbourne, Winchester, SO21 2DZ

Go On

<http://www.go-on.co.uk/>

Call 0800 77 1234

UK online centres, The Quadrant, 99 Parkway Avenue, Parkway Business Park, Sheffield, S9 4WG

UK Online Centre

<http://www.ukonlinecentres.com/>

Can you help ensure our free advice remains available to all?

DLF is one of the UK's leading health charities, and we rely on the generosity of supporters to fund vital information and advice services which help older and disabled people live independently at home. If this factsheet has been of use to you, could you please consider making a donation towards our work? **Thank you.**



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* This is the last three digits found on the signature strip on the reverse of your card

Cardholder's Signature _____ Date _____

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I am a UK taxpayer and want DLF to treat all my donations as **Gift Aid**.*

*I have paid an amount of Income or Capital Gains Tax that equals or exceeds the amount of tax to be reclaimed.

Please return your gift to:
DLF, 380-384 Harrow Road, London W9 2HU

Other ways in which you can give:

Donate online by visiting www.dlf.org.uk and clicking on the 'Donate' button

Donate via your mobile by texting **DLFG01 £3 OR DLFG01 £5 OR DLFG01 £10** to **70070**

Please send me information on how I can make a regular gift to DLF by direct debit

Please send me information on how I can leave a gift to DLF in my will

Please tick here if you do not wish to receive further information about DLF's work