

Services or organisations that provide special magnifiers – East Lothian

There are 2 main ways to obtain a magnifier in Edinburgh and Lothian. You can find out how to access the available services here.

1. NHS Low Vision Clinic

The NHS low vision clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon at the Princess Alexandra Eye pavilion (PAEP), on the third floor - E3.

The clinic offers a comprehensive visual acuity and near vision test, provided by specially trained nurse or a visual rehabilitation worker from RNIB (Edinburgh and Lothian). There is also access to an Ophthalmologist and a specialist Optometrist at the clinic. All magnifiers and other aids provided by this clinic are available on free permanent loan. You should however, return the magnifier to the clinic when no longer required.

If you are a current patient at PAEP or if you have been a patient within the last 2 years, then you can be very quickly referred to this clinic. Just ask your hospital eye doctor, or phone the 24 hour voicemail service on 0131 536 4060.

If you are not a current patient of the hospital, then please contact your GP and ask for a referral to the clinic.

2. RNIB reading and magnification service

This service, provided by RNIB Scotland (Edinburgh and Lothian) is another way to gain access to a wide range of magnifiers and other reading aids.

Unlike the NHS service, magnifiers are not provided on free long term loan, but are available for purchase. Appointments are made for Tuesday afternoons.

A basic functional reading assessment is offered by a specially trained Rehabilitation Worker, and at the end of the assessment, clients can purchase any magnifiers or aids recommended. This may be ordered directly from RNIB via the resource aids recommended directly or through the resource centre located at 12-14 Hillside crescent (which also stocks a wide range of accessible products and aids to daily living).

A number of payment options are available. For those people who are registered as blind and on a low income, grants may be available to cover the purchase price of magnifiers.

To make an appointment and discuss your needs, please call RNIB Scotland (Edinburgh and Lothian) on 0131 652 3140

Finally, if you would like an appointment with the RNIB Reading and Magnification Service but are unable through illness or disability to attend an appointment at the PAEP, please contact RNIB (Edinburgh & Lothian) on 0131 652 3140 to ask for a low vision assessment in your own home