

Sight loss – the key facts:

Sight loss in Northern Ireland



At least 31,000 people in Northern Ireland are blind or partially sighted and this is set to rise as the population ages

- Someone is told they are losing their sight every 15 minutes
- Over 50% of sight loss can be avoided

Contact us

We're RNIB and we're here for everyone affected by sight loss. Whether you're losing your sight or you're blind or partially sighted, our practical and emotional support can help you face the future with confidence.

To find out more about the wide range of services we offer for all ages, please contact us on **028 9032 9373** or email rnibni@rnib.org.uk

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Making every day better for everyone affected by sight loss



Key facts on sight loss in Northern Ireland

The impact of our work on making everyday better for everyone affected by sight loss

RNIB
Northern
Ireland

Supporting people
with sight loss

Getting around

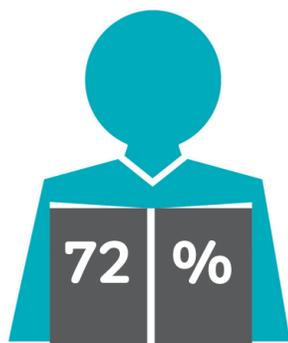
95% of people with sight loss have collided with an on-street obstacle while out walking in their local neighbourhood



- 90% of people with sight loss cannot see an approaching bus in time to hail it

Accessible information

72% of people with sight loss cannot read information given to them by their GP



- Only 7% of all books are available in Braille, audio and large print

Employment and welfare

66% of registered blind and partially sighted people of working age are not in employment



- 50% of blind and partially sighted people of working age say they face some or great difficulty in making ends meet

The impact of our work: key services and campaigns

Sight loss in Northern Ireland

- Each year, our Eye Care Liaison Officers provide emotional and practical support to over 4,000 people at the point of diagnosis
- We support over 800 blind and partially sighted children and young people and their families



Getting around

- We campaigned with other sight loss organisations to successfully achieve audio announcements on Metro buses in Belfast
- We have provided advice and guidance to relevant authorities on making streets safe and accessible for people with sight loss



Accessible information

- RNIB's Transcription Service provides advice and guidance to service providers on how to make documents accessible for people with sight in line with equality legislation
- RNIB NI and Action on Hearing Loss worked in partnership with the Health and Social Care Board to produce best practice guidelines on making GP services responsive to people with sensory loss



Employment and welfare

- Each year, more than 100 blind and partially sighted people gain or retain employment with our assistance
- Our Welfare Rights service supports hundreds of local people to maximise their benefit entitlement – resulting in an increase in total personal income of nearly £1 million each year

