#  McGonagle Reader (MGR)

This is an audio-tactile device, with an integrated audio player. It consists of a plastic template that fits on to the ballot paper to enable blind and partially sighted people to locate the voting boxes. It has a black rectangular box on the left with the on/off button, headphone and USB ports. On the right there is a column of apertures, each opens with the flap extending 180°. To the left of each aperture is a column of round black tactile buttons. Above this column is a triangular tactile button.

**How to Set Up and Support Someone to Use the Device**

* You need: MGR, headphones, scrap paper, pencil, ballot paper.
* It is useful to fold the ballot paper in half, top to bottom concealing the candidate names, and informing the blind voter which way to refold the after voting. Unfold it again before giving it to the voter.
* Switch on by sliding down the switch on the side of the power box, a light will come on. Insert USB stick with the pre-loaded recording of the ballot paper, and then connect headphones.
* To check the audio is for the correct ballot paper press the triangular button for an overview listing each candidate’s name.
* Once you are satisfied that this is correct ensure the MGR and ballot paper align. Line up the ballot paper beneath the MGR, so that the top candidate’s voting box lines up beneath the top aperture and the bottom voting box to the bottom aperture.
* Now affix the MGR to the ballot paper. Remove the peelable paper from the back to reveal the sticky strip similar to a “Post-it“ note. It can be stuck firmly on, but it is also easy to peel off after voting.
* To verify it aligns, open the flap of the top aperture180°, pressing firmly against the corresponding button so it reads the candidate details.
* Once the voter is ready, make sure they have headphones, ballot paper, scrap paper and pencil. The pencil that comes with the MGR is a fully graphite pencil that will still make a mark, even if it is blunt. The scrap paper is there for the voter to make a mark on before and after they mark the ballot paper. This can increase their confidence that they have made a legible mark on the ballot paper.
* Walk away to let them vote independently and in secret.
* After voting the MGR can be easily peeled off, and the ballot paper re-folded to keep their vote concealed.