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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÁNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

## Hearing Aid Assessments and Re-assessments during quarter ending 31 December 2007

11 April 2008

**Theme:**

**Hearing aid assessments and  
re-assessments in Northern  
Ireland**

**Issued by**

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This statistical bulletin presents information on hearing aid assessments and re-assessments by audiologists in Northern Ireland for the quarter ending 31 December 2007. Information has been derived from the quarterly collection AUD1 and monitors information on both adults and children fitted and assessed for hearing aids during the quarter, complaints received, and cost of aids issued. In addition, the return monitors complete and incomplete waits for assessment during the quarter and the length of time patients were waiting or had waited following referral to an audiologist (specified time bands).

### Key Findings

**Patients Fitted:**

- 3,027 patients were fitted with a digital hearing aid or analogue hearing aid during the quarter ending 31 December 2007 (2,946 digital hearing aids and 81 analogue hearing aids).
- Of the 3,027 patients fitted during the quarter, almost two thirds (1,983) were new patients.
- Belfast HSC Trust had the highest number of patients fitted with hearing aids during the quarter (936), 682 in the South Eastern HSC Trust, 623 in the Northern HSC Trust, 453 in the Southern HSC Trust, and 333 in the Western HSC Trust.
- During the quarter, 1,952 existing clients were issued with digital hearing aid replacements or fixes (*To avoid double counting, patients issued with replacement aids/parts or fixes are not included in the information above.*)

### **Patients Assessed:**

- 1,964 new and 1,334 existing patients were assessed for hearing aids during the quarter ending 31 December 2007. Of these, 67 adults were assessed as unsuitable for a hearing aid.

### **Cost of Hearing Aids:**

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2007, 5,043 aids were issued across the four Boards at a total cost of £336,165.

### **Complaints Received:**

- One complaint was reported by Audiology Departments in Northern Ireland during the quarter ending 31 December 2007.

### **Completed Waiting Times:**

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2007, 3,736 patients had their hearing aid assessment/ re-assessment<sup>1</sup> completed. This was 223 (6%) more than during the previous quarter.
- Of these 3,736 patients, 83% had been waiting less than 3 months from referral to Audiology Department until the aid was fitted and 17% had been waiting 3 to 6 months.

### **Incomplete Waiting Times:**

- At 31 December 2007, 767 patients were waiting for their hearing aid assessment/ re-assessment<sup>2</sup> to be completed. This was 150 (16%) less than the number waiting at the end of the previous quarter.
- The highest proportion (97%) of these patients were waiting less than 3 months and 3% were waiting for 3 to 6 months. No patient was waiting more than 6 months.

<sup>1</sup> Completed waiting times for hearing aid assessment/ re-assessments are counted from the date the referral is received by the Audiology Department until the aid is fitted.

<sup>2</sup> Incomplete waiting times refer to patients who have been referred to the Audiology Department who have not yet been fitted with their aid. Waiting times in this case are counted from the date referral is received until the end of the quarter.

# Note to Editors

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1. Data is collected on the AUD1 quarterly return, which provides the DHSSPS with aggregate data on children and adults assessed and re-assessed for hearing aids in Northern Ireland.
2. The information presented for the quarter ending 31 December 2007, is based on data reported by 12 audiologists, working in the following Hospital/ Community Trusts; Royal Group of Hospitals, Belfast City Hospital, Mater Hospital, Ulster Community & Hospital, Laganvalley Hospital, Downe Hospital, Causeway/ United Hospitals, Daisy Hill Hospital, Craigavon Area Hospital, Armagh & Dungannon HSS Trust, Altnagelvin Hospital, and Sperrin Lakeland HSS Trust.
3. The information in this bulletin is presented according to HSC Trusts, and is based on the location of the Hospitals/ Trusts, and not where the client lives, i.e. a client from Northern HSC Trust may be seen in the Royal but their details will be included in the Belfast HSC Trust.
4. Symbols used:

<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
-	Figure is suppressed
.	Not applicable

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**Table A.1: Patients Fitted with Hearing Aids during Quarter, by Type of Aid and Patient Type**

	numbers												percentage
	Belfast HSC Trust		Northern HSC Trust		South Eastern HSC Trust		Southern HSC Trust		Western HSC Trust		Northern Ireland		% Change since last quarter
	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	
<b>Total Patients Fitted with a Hearing Aid During the Quarter</b>													
<b>All Patients Fitted</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>3,027</b>	<b>3,355</b>	<b>-10%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	915	1,082	613	490	673	774	441	535	304	324	2,946	3,205	-8%
Analogue Hearing Aid	21	19	10	5	9	92	12	17	29	17	81	150	-46%
<b>Child Patients Fitted</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>29%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	80	63	8	4	3	4	10	4	1	4	102	79	29%
Analogue Hearing Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Adult Patients Fitted</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>1,038</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>2,925</b>	<b>3,276</b>	<b>-11%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	835	1,019	605	486	670	770	431	531	303	320	2,844	3,126	-9%
Analogue Hearing Aid	21	19	10	5	9	92	12	17	29	17	81	150	-46%
<b>New Patients Fitted with a Hearing Aid</b>													
<b>New Patients Fitted</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>1,983</b>	<b>2,025</b>	<b>-2%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	371	566	543	428	452	439	348	398	266	189	1,980	2,020	-2%
Analogue Hearing Aid	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	1	0	3	5	-40%
<b>New Child Patients Fitted</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	10	10	8	4	1	2	6	4	1	3	26	23	13%
Analogue Hearing Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>New Adult Patients Fitted</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>1,957</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>-2%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	361	556	535	424	451	437	342	394	265	186	1,954	1,997	-2%
Analogue Hearing Aid	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	1	0	3	5	-40%
<b>Existing Patients Fitted with a Hearing Aid</b>													
<b>Existing Patients Fitted</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>1,330</b>	<b>-22%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	544	516	70	62	221	335	93	137	38	135	966	1,185	-18%
Analogue Hearing Aid	21	19	10	5	7	87	12	17	28	17	78	145	-46%
<b>Existing Child Patients Fitted</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>36%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	70	53	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	1	76	56	36%
Analogue Hearing Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Existing Adult Patients Fitted</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>-24%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	474	463	70	62	219	333	89	137	38	134	890	1,129	-21%
Analogue Hearing Aid	21	19	10	5	7	87	12	17	28	17	78	145	-46%
<b>Patients Fitted with Digital Hearing Aid Replacements 1</b>													
<b>Patients Issued with Replacements 1</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>1,952</b>	<b>1,963</b>	<b>-1%</b>
Child Patients Fitted with Digital Hearing Aid Replacements	0	38	23	21	0	2	21	29	5	13	49	103	-52%
Adult Patients Fitted with Digital Hearing Aid Replacements	429	365	573	561	483	370	264	302	154	262	1,903	1,860	2%

Source: AUD1 Survey

**Table A.2: Patients Assessed for a Hearing Aid during Quarter, by Type of Aid, Patient Type and Outcome of Assessment**

	numbers												percentage
	Belfast HSC Trust		Northern HSC Trust		South Eastern HSC Trust		Southern HSC Trust		Western HSC Trust		Northern Ireland		% Change since last quarter
	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	
<b>All Patients Assessed</b>													
<b>All Patients Assessed</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>1,095</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>3,298</b>	<b>3,229</b>	2%
All Adults Assessed for a Digital Hearing Aid	919	1,027	399	487	1,088	878	483	490	295	260	3,184	3,142	1%
All Children Assessed for a Digital Hearing Aid	99	68	1	2	3	8	10	5	1	4	114	87	31%
<b>New Patients Assessed</b>													
<b>New Patients Assessed</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>1,964</b>	<b>2,030</b>	-3%
Adult Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	449	603	380	365	451	437	323	321	255	213	1,858	1,939	-4%
Child Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	29	15	1	2	1	2	7	4	1	3	39	26	50%
Adult Patients Assessed as Unsuitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	10	14	18	15	6	8	31	26	2	0	67	63	6%
Child Patients Assessed as Unsuitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	-100%
Total Adult Patients Assessed for a Digital Hearing Aid	459	617	398	380	457	445	354	347	257	213	1,925	2,002	-4%
Total Child Patients Assessed for a Digital Hearing Aid	29	15	1	2	1	4	7	4	1	3	39	28	39%
<b>Existing Patients Assessed</b>													
<b>Existing Patients Assessed</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>1,199</b>	11%
Adult Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	460	410	1	107	631	433	129	143	38	47	1,259	1,140	10%
Child Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	70	53	0	0	2	4	3	1	0	1	75	59	27%

Source: AUD1 Survey

**Table B.1: Number of Aids Issued during Quarter, by Expenditure on these Aids**

	numbers												percentage
	Belfast HSC Trust		Northern HSC Trust		South Eastern HSC Trust		Southern HSC Trust		Western HSC Trust		Northern Ireland		% Change since last quarter
	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	
<b>All Aids Issued</b>													
<b>Total Number of Aids Issued</b>	1,090	1,252	1,219	1,073	1,165	1,238	1,026	1,096	543	616	5,043	5,275	-4%
Adults receiving Digital Hearing Aids	989	1,170	1,178	1,047	1,153	1,140	979	1,056	504	582	4,803	4,995	-4%
Adults receiving Analogue Hearing Aids	21	19	10	5	9	92	12	20	32	17	84	153	-45%
Children receiving Digital Hearing Aids	80	63	31	21	3	6	35	20	7	17	156	127	23%
Children receiving Analogue Hearing Aids	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Total Cost of Aids Issued</b>													
<b>Total Cost of Aids Issued during Quarter (,000's)</b>	£71.6	£79.3	£83.1	£72.6	£98.6	£102.2	£53.1	£66.3	£29.8	£33.8	£336.2	£354.1	-
Cost for Adult Digital Hearing Aids (,000's)	£63.5	£73.4	£78.9	£70.1	£97.7	£100.0	£50.4	£64.2	£27.0	£32.1	£317.5	£339.8	-
Cost for Adult Analogue Hearing Aids (,000's)	£0.7	£0.6	£1.0	£0.5	£0.5	£1.3	£0.6	£0.9	£2.4	£0.9	£5.2	£4.2	-
Cost for Child Digital Hearing Aids (,000's)	£7.4	£5.3	£3.3	£2.0	£0.4	£0.8	£2.1	£1.2	£0.4	£0.8	£13.5	£10.1	-
Cost for Child Analogue Hearing Aids (,000's)	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	-
<b>Average Cost of Aids Issued</b>													
<b>Average Cost per Aid</b>	£65.7	£63.3	£68.2	£67.6	£84.6	£82.5	£51.7	£60.5	£54.9	£54.9	£66.7	£67.1	-
Average Cost of Adult Digital Hearing Aid	£64.2	£62.7	£67.0	£67.0	£84.7	£87.8	£51.4	£60.8	£53.6	£55.1	£66.1	£68.0	-
Average Cost of Adult Analogue Hearing Aid	£34.3	£30.3	£95.0	£95.0	£58.3	£14.6	£46.8	£47.1	£75.2	£52.6	£61.5	£27.6	-
Average Cost of Child Digital Hearing Aid	£92.3	£84.1	£105.5	£95.0	£119.0	£132.0	£60.9	£58.1	£56.2	£49.8	£86.8	£79.5	-
Average Cost of Child Analogue Hearing Aid	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	-	-	-

Source: AUD1 Survey

**Table C.1: Completed Waits for Hearing Aid Assessments and Re-Assessments during Quarter ending 31 December 2007<sup>1</sup>**

	numbers												percentage
	Belfast HSC Trust		Northern HSC Trust		South Eastern HSC Trust		Southern HSC Trust		Western HSC Trust		Northern Ireland		% Change since last quarter
	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	
<b>All Completed Waits</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>1,156</b>	<b>1,137</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>3,736</b>	<b>3,513</b>	6%
Less than 3 months	969	990	613	486	741	801	490	461	304	324	3,117	3,062	2%
3 to 6 months	86	83	0	0	415	336	117	21	0	0	618	440	40%
6 to 12 months	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	11	-91%
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Completed Waits for Children</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>76</b>	37%
Less than 3 months	80	63	8	0	4	5	11	4	1	4	104	76	37%
3 to 6 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
6 to 12 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Completed Waits for Adults</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>1,019</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>1,132</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>3,632</b>	<b>3,437</b>	6%
Less than 3 months	889	927	605	486	737	796	479	457	303	320	3,013	2,986	1%
3 to 6 months	86	83	0	0	415	336	117	21	0	0	618	440	40%
6 to 12 months	1	9	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	11	-91%
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-

Source: AUD1 Survey

**Table C.2: HSC Trust Analysis of Completed Waits for Hearing Aid Assessments and Re-Assessments during Quarter ending 31 December 2007<sup>1</sup>**

	numbers											
	Belfast HSC Trust		Northern HSC Trust		South Eastern HSC Trust		Southern HSC Trust		Western HSC Trust		Northern Ireland	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>All Completed Waits</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,156</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,736</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	969	92	613	100	741	64	490	81	304	100	3,117	83
3 to 6 months	86	8	0	0	415	36	117	19	0	0	618	17
6 to 12 months	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Completed Waits for Children</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	80	100	8	100	4	100	11	100	1	100	104	100
3 to 6 months	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
6 to 12 months	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
12 months or more	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
<b>Completed Waits for Adults</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,632</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	889	91	605	100	737	64	479	80	303	100	3,013	83
3 to 6 months	86	9	0	0	415	36	117	20	0	0	618	17
6 to 12 months	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: AUD1 Survey

<sup>1</sup> Completed waiting times for hearing aid assessment / re-assessments are counted from the date the referral is received by the Audiology Department until the aid is fitted.

**Table C.3: Incomplete Waits for a Hearing Aid Assessment/ Re-Assessment at 31 December 2007 <sup>1</sup>**

	numbers												percentage
	Belfast HSC Trust		Northern HSC Trust		South Eastern HSC Trust		Southern HSC Trust		Western HSC Trust		Northern Ireland		% Change since last quarter
	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	
<b>All Incomplete Waits</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>-16%</b>
Less than 3 months	303	258	47	86	126	227	155	162	110	98	741	831	-11%
3 to 6 months	4	7	0	1	22	63	0	14	0	0	26	85	-69%
6 to 12 months	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100%
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Incomplete Waits for Children</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100%</b>
Less than 3 months	20	6	0	0	1	2	2	2	1	2	24	12	100%
3 to 6 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
6 to 12 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Incomplete Waits for Adults</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>-18%</b>
Less than 3 months	283	252	47	86	125	225	153	160	109	96	717	819	-12%
3 to 6 months	4	7	0	1	22	63	0	14	0	0	26	85	-69%
6 to 12 months	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100%
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-

Source: AUD1 Survey

**Table C.4: HSC Trust Analysis of Incomplete Waits for a Hearing Aid Assessment/ Re-Assessment at 31 December 2007 <sup>1</sup>**

	numbers											
	Belfast HSC Trust		Northern HSC Trust		South Eastern HSC Trust		Southern HSC Trust		Western HSC Trust		Northern Ireland	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>All Completed Waits</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	303	99	47	100	126	85	155	100	110	100	741	97
3 to 6 months	4	1	0	0	22	15	0	0	0	0	26	3
6 to 12 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Completed Waits for Children</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	20	100	0	-	1	100	2	100	1	100	24	100
3 to 6 months	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
6 to 12 months	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
12 months or more	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
<b>Completed Waits for Adults</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	283	99	47	100	125	85	153	100	109	100	717	97
3 to 6 months	4	1	0	0	22	15	0	0	0	0	26	3
6 to 12 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: AUD1 Survey

<sup>1</sup> Incomplete waiting times refer to patients who have been referred to the Audiology Department who have not yet been fitted with their aid. Waiting times in this case are counted from the date referral is received until the end of the quarter.

# Appendices

**Appendix 1: Patients Fitted with Hearing Aids during Quarter, by Type of Aid, Patient Type and HSS Board <sup>1</sup>**

	numbers										percentage % Change since last quarter
	EHSSB		NHSSB		SHSSB		WHSSB		Northern Ireland		
	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	
<b>Total Patients Fitted with a Hearing Aid During the Quarter</b>											
<b>All Patients Fitted</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>1,967</b>	<b>623</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>3,027</b>	<b>3,355</b>	<b>-10%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	1,588	1,856	613	490	441	535	304	324	2,946	3,205	-8%
Analogue Hearing Aid	30	111	10	5	12	17	29	17	81	150	-46%
<b>Child Patients Fitted</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>29%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	83	67	8	4	10	4	1	4	102	79	29%
Analogue Hearing Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Adult Patients Fitted</b>	<b>1,535</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>443</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>2,925</b>	<b>3,276</b>	<b>-11%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	1,505	1,789	605	486	431	531	303	320	2,844	3,126	-9%
Analogue Hearing Aid	30	111	10	5	12	17	29	17	81	150	-46%
<b>New Patients Fitted with a Hearing Aid</b>											
<b>New Patients Fitted</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>1,983</b>	<b>2,025</b>	<b>-2%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	823	1,005	543	428	348	398	266	189	1,980	2,020	-2%
Analogue Hearing Aid	2	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	5	-40%
<b>New Child Patients Fitted</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	11	12	8	4	6	4	1	3	26	23	13%
Analogue Hearing Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>New Adult Patients Fitted</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>1,957</b>	<b>2,002</b>	<b>-2%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	812	993	535	424	342	394	265	186	1,954	1,997	-2%
Analogue Hearing Aid	2	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	5	-40%
<b>Existing Patients Fitted with a Hearing Aid</b>											
<b>Existing Patients Fitted</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>1,330</b>	<b>-22%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	765	851	70	62	93	137	38	135	966	1,185	-18%
Analogue Hearing Aid	28	106	10	5	12	17	28	17	78	145	-46%
<b>Existing Child Patients Fitted</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>36%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	72	55	0	0	4	0	0	1	76	56	36%
Analogue Hearing Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Existing Adult Patients Fitted</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>-24%</b>
Digital Hearing Aid	693	796	70	62	89	137	38	134	890	1,129	-21%
Analogue Hearing Aid	28	106	10	5	12	17	28	17	78	145	-46%
<b>Patients Fitted with Digital Hearing Aid Replacements <sup>1</sup></b>											
<b>Patients Issued with Replacements <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>912</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>1,952</b>	<b>1,963</b>	<b>-1%</b>
Child Patients Fitted with Digital Hearing Aid Replacements	0	40	23	21	21	29	5	13	49	103	-52%
Adult Patients Fitted with Digital Hearing Aid Replacements	912	735	573	561	264	302	154	262	1,903	1,860	2%

Source: AUD1 Survey

**Appendix 2: Patients Assessed for a Hearing Aid during the quarter, by Type of Aid, Patient Type and HSS Board**

	numbers										percentage
	EHSSB		NHSSB		SHSSB		WHSSB		Northern Ireland		% Change since last quarter
	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	
<b>All Patients Assessed</b>											
<b>All Patients Assessed</b>	<b>2,109</b>	<b>1,981</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>3,298</b>	<b>3,229</b>	2%
All Adults Assessed for a Digital Hearing Aid	2,007	1,905	399	487	483	490	295	260	3,184	3,142	1%
All Children Assessed for a Digital Hearing Aid	102	76	1	2	10	5	1	4	114	87	31%
<b>New Patients Assessed</b>											
<b>New Patients Assessed</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>1,964</b>	<b>2,030</b>	-3%
Adult Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	900	1,040	380	365	323	321	255	213	1,858	1,939	-4%
Child Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	30	17	1	2	7	4	1	3	39	26	50%
Adult Patients Assessed as Unsuitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	16	22	18	15	31	26	2	0	67	63	6%
Child Patients Assessed as Unsuitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	-100%
Total Adult Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	916	1,062	398	380	354	347	257	213	1,925	2,002	-4%
Total Child Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	30	19	1	2	7	4	1	3	39	28	39%
<b>Existing Patients Assessed</b>											
<b>Existing Patients Assessed</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>1,199</b>	11%
Adult Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	1,091	843	1	107	129	143	38	47	1,259	1,140	10%
Child Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	72	57	0	0	3	1	0	1	75	59	27%

Source: AUD1 Survey

### Appendix 3: Number of Aids Issued during Quarter, by Expenditure on these Aids and HSS Board

	numbers										percentage
	EHSSB		NHSSB		SHSSB		WHSSB		Northern Ireland		% Change since last quarter
	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	
<b>All Aids Issued</b>											
<b>Total Number of Aids Issued</b>	<b>2,255</b>	<b>2,490</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>1,073</b>	<b>1,026</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>5,043</b>	<b>5,275</b>	<b>-4%</b>
Adults receiving Digital Hearing Aids	2,142	2,310	1,178	1,047	979	1,056	504	582	4,803	4,995	-4%
Adults receiving Analogue Hearing Aids	30	111	10	5	12	20	32	17	84	153	-45%
Children receiving Digital Hearing Aids	83	69	31	21	35	20	7	17	156	127	23%
Children receiving Analogue Hearing Aids	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Total Cost of Aids Issued</b>											
<b>Total Cost of Aids Issued during Quarter (,000's)</b>	<b>£170.2</b>	<b>£181.4</b>	<b>£83.1</b>	<b>£72.6</b>	<b>£53.1</b>	<b>£66.3</b>	<b>£29.8</b>	<b>£33.8</b>	<b>£336.2</b>	<b>£354.1</b>	<b>-</b>
Cost for Adult Digital Hearing Aids (,000's)	£161.2	£173.4	£78.9	£70.1	£50.4	£64.2	£27.0	£32.1	£317.5	£339.8	-
Cost for Adult Analogue Hearing Aids (,000's)	£1.2	£1.9	£1.0	£0.5	£0.6	£0.9	£2.4	£0.9	£5.2	£4.2	-
Cost for Child Digital Hearing Aids (,000's)	£7.7	£6.1	£3.3	£2.0	£2.1	£1.2	£0.4	£0.8	£13.5	£10.1	-
Cost for Child Analogue Hearing Aids (,000's)	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	-
<b>Average Cost of Aids Issued</b>											
<b>Average Cost per Aid</b>	<b>£75.5</b>	<b>£72.9</b>	<b>£68.2</b>	<b>£67.6</b>	<b>£51.7</b>	<b>£60.5</b>	<b>£54.9</b>	<b>£54.9</b>	<b>£66.7</b>	<b>£67.1</b>	<b>-</b>
Average Cost of Adult Digital Hearing Aid	£75.3	£75.1	£67.0	£67.0	£51.4	£60.8	£53.6	£55.1	£66.1	£68.0	-
Average Cost of Adult Analogue Hearing Aid	£41.5	£17.3	£95.0	£95.0	£46.8	£47.1	£75.2	£52.6	£61.5	£27.6	-
Average Cost of Child Digital Hearing Aid	£93.2	£88.3	£105.5	£95.0	£60.9	£58.1	£56.2	£49.8	£86.8	£79.5	-
Average Cost of Child Analogue Hearing Aid	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	-	-	-

Source: AUD1 Survey

**Appendix 4: Completed Waits for Hearing Aid Assessments and Re-Assessments during Quarter ending 31 December 2007 by HSS Board <sup>1</sup>**

	numbers										percentage
	EHSSB		NHSSB		SHSSB		WHSSB		Northern Ireland		% Change since last quarter
	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	
<b>All Completed Waits</b>	<b>2,212</b>	<b>2,219</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>3,736</b>	<b>3,513</b>	6%
Less than 3 months	1,710	1,791	613	486	490	461	304	324	3,117	3,062	2%
3 to 6 months	501	419	0	0	117	21	0	0	618	440	40%
6 to 12 months	1	9	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	11	-91%
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Completed Waits for Children</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>76</b>	37%
Less than 3 months	84	68	8	0	11	4	1	4	104	76	37%
3 to 6 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
6 to 12 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Completed Waits for Adults</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>2,151</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>3,632</b>	<b>3,437</b>	6%
Less than 3 months	1,626	1,723	605	486	479	457	303	320	3,013	2,986	1%
3 to 6 months	501	419	0	0	117	21	0	0	618	440	40%
6 to 12 months	1	9	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	11	-91%
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-

Source: AUD1 Survey

**Appendix 5: HSS Board Analysis of Completed Waits for Hearing Aid Assessments and Re-Assessments during Quarter ending 31 December 2007 <sup>1</sup>**

	numbers											
	EHSSB		NHSSB		SHSSB		WHSSB		Northern Ireland			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%		
<b>All Completed Waits</b>	<b>2,212</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,736</b>	<b>100</b>		
Less than 3 months	1,710	77	613	100	490	81	304	100	3,117	83		
3 to 6 months	501	23	0	0	117	19	0	0	618	17		
6 to 12 months	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>Completed Waits for Children</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100</b>		
Less than 3 months	84	100	8	100	11	100	1	100	104	100		
3 to 6 months	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-		
6 to 12 months	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-		
12 months or more	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-		
<b>Completed Waits for Adults</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,632</b>	<b>100</b>		
Less than 3 months	1,626	76	605	100	479	80	303	100	3,013	83		
3 to 6 months	501	24	0	0	117	20	0	0	618	17		
6 to 12 months	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

Source: AUD1 Survey

<sup>1</sup> Completed waiting times for hearing aid assessment / re-assessments are counted from the date the referral is received by the Audiology Department until the aid is fitted.

**Appendix 6: Incomplete Waits for a Hearing Aid Assessment/ Re-Assessment at 31 December 2007, by HSS Board <sup>1</sup>**

	numbers										percentage
	EHSSB		NHSSB		SHSSB		WHSSB		Northern Ireland		% Change since last quarter
	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Sep-07	
<b>All Incomplete Waits</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>917</b>	<b>-16%</b>
Less than 3 months	429	485	47	86	155	162	110	98	741	831	-11%
3 to 6 months	26	70	0	1	0	14	0	0	26	85	-69%
6 to 12 months	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100%
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Incomplete Waits for Children</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100%</b>
Less than 3 months	21	8	0	0	2	2	1	2	24	12	100%
3 to 6 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
6 to 12 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Incomplete Waits for Adults</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>-18%</b>
Less than 3 months	408	477	47	86	153	160	109	96	717	819	-12%
3 to 6 months	26	70	0	1	0	14	0	0	26	85	-69%
6 to 12 months	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100%
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-

Source: AUD1 Survey

**Appendix 7: HSS Board Analysis of Incomplete Waits for a Hearing Aid Assessment / Re-Assessment at 31 December 2007 <sup>1</sup>**

	numbers									
	EHSSB		NHSSB		SHSSB		WHSSB		Northern Ireland	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>All Incomplete Waits</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	429	94	47	100	155	100	110	100	741	97
3 to 6 months	26	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	3
6 to 12 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Incomplete Waits for Children</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	21	100	0	-	2	100	1	100	24	100
3 to 6 months	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
6 to 12 months	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
12 months or more	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
<b>Incomplete Waits for Adults</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	408	94	47	100	153	100	109	100	717	97
3 to 6 months	26	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	3
6 to 12 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: AUD1 Survey


<sup>1</sup> Incomplete waiting times refer to patients who have been referred to the Audiology Department who have not yet been fitted with their aid. Waiting times in this case are counted from the date referral in received until the end of the quarter.

# Additional Information

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For **further information** on Hearing Aid Assessment/ Re-Assessments carried out in Northern Ireland, please contact:


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**Alternatively, this statistical bulletin and other statistical bulletins published by Community Information Branch (CIB) are available to download from the internet at:**

Internet address: [http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats\\_research/stats-cib/stats-cib\\_pubs.htm](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/stats-cib_pubs.htm)