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**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

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## Hearing Aid Assessments and Re-assessments during quarter ending 30 June 2006

21 May 2007

**Theme:**

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

**Issued by**

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This is the second statistical bulletin presenting information on hearing aid assessments and re-assessments by audiologists in Northern Ireland, for the quarter ending 30 June 2006. 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 monitor's complete and incomplete waits for assessment during the quarter, and the length of time patients were waiting or had waited following referral to Audiologist (specified time bands).

### Key Findings

**Patients Fitted:**

- 3,311 patients were fitted with a digital hearing aid or analogue hearing aid during the quarter ending 30 June 2006, 18% more than during quarter ending 31 March 2006.
- Of the 3,311 patients fitted during the quarter, over half (1,813) were new patients.
- The Eastern HSS Board had the highest number of patients fitted with hearing aids during the quarter ending 30 June 2006 (1,699), 762 in the Southern Board, 428 in the Northern Board, and 422 in the Western Board.
- During the quarter, 1,131 existing clients were issued with digital hearing aid replacements or fixes, similar to the number issued during the previous quarter (1,151) (*These are not included in the information above for patients fitted, as patients may have already been fitted during the quarter*).

**Patients Assessed:**

- 3,091 new and existing patients were assessed for hearing aids during the quarter ending 30 June 2006. Of these, 24 adults were assessed as unsuitable for a hearing aid.

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

- Information provided by the Northern Board for quarter ending 30 June 2006 could not be broken down by type of aid issued. In addition, information on the cost of aids was not available in the Northern Board for quarter ending 31 March 2006.
- During quarter ending 30 June 2006, 4,731 aids <sup>1</sup> were issued across Boards in Northern Ireland at a cost of £338,300.

### **Complaints Received:**

- No complaints were reported by Audiology Departments in Northern Ireland during quarter ending 30 June 2006.

### **Completed Waiting Times:**

- 3,056 patients had their hearing aid assessment / re-assessment <sup>2</sup> completed during the quarter ending 30 June 2006, 14% more than during the quarter ending 31 March 2006.
- Of these 3,056 patients, 49% had been waiting less than 3 months from referral to Audiology Department until the aid was fitted, 24% waited 3 to 6 months, 19% waited 6 to 12 months, and 8% waited 12 months or more.

### **Incomplete Waiting Times:**

- At 30 June 2006, 2,714 patients were waiting <sup>3</sup> for their hearing aid assessment / re-assessment to be completed, 24% more than at 31 March 2006 <sup>4</sup>.
- The highest proportion (39%) of these patients were waiting less than 3 months, 30% 3 to 6 months, 23% 6 to 12 months, and 9% 12 months or more.

<sup>1</sup> Figures for aids issued may not agree with the totals provided in previous commentary. This is due to inconsistency in the way Audiologists have interpreted the requested information. We hope to address this in future quarters.

<sup>2</sup> Completed waiting times for hearing aid assessments / re-assessments are counted from the date of the referral to the Audiology department until the aid is fitted or a decision is made that the patient is unsuitable for a hearing aid.

<sup>3</sup> Incomplete waiting times refer to patients who have been referred to the Audiology Department who had not been fitted with their aid at the end of the quarter. Waiting times in this case are counted from the date the referral is received until the end of the quarter.

<sup>4</sup> A pilot programme setup in the Northern Board to reduce patient waiting times for ENT Clinics, has resulted in GP's directly referring non-complex patients to Audiology Departments rather than to ENT Clinics. As a consequence, the information for the quarter ending 30 June 2006 is significantly higher than 31 March 2006. The Audiology Departments in the Northern HSC Trust are working to reduce this backlog of patients and hope to significantly reduce this by 31 December 2006.

# Note to Editors

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1. The enclosed figures for hearing aid assessments and re-assessments are the second in a regular series. 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 30 June 2006, 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 the four HSS Boards, and is based on the location of the hospitals / Trusts, and not where the client lives, i.e. a client from Northern Board may be seen in the Royal but their details will be included in the Eastern Board.
4. Numbers from 1 – 5 have been suppressed and are shown as hyphens. Percentages are shown rounded to whole numbers but where the numerator was five or less, or the denominator was 10 or less, they have been suppressed and replaced with a hyphen.
5. Symbols used:

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

# *List of Tables*

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

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

**Table B.1: Number of Aids Issued during Quarter, and Cost on these Aids by HSS Board**

**Table C.1: Completed Waits for Hearing Aid Assessments and Re-Assessments during Quarter ending 30 June 2006 by HSS Board**

**Table C.2: HSS Board Analysis of Completed Waits for Hearing Aid Assessments and Re-Assessments during Quarter ending 30 June 2006**

**Table C.3: Patients Waiting for a Hearing Aid Assessment / Re-Assessment to be Completed at by HSS Board**

**Table C.4: HSS Board Analysis of Patients Waiting for a Hearing Aid Assessment / Re-Assessment to be Completed at 30 June 2006**

**Appendices: All Tables by Health & Social Care Trusts**

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

	numbers										percentage
	EHSSB		NHSSB		SHSSB		WHSSB		Northern Ireland		% Change since last quarter
	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	
<b>Total Patients Fitted with a Hearing Aid During the Quarter</b>											
<b>All Patients Fitted</b>	<b>1,699</b>	<b>1238</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>3,311</b>	<b>2,790</b>	18%
Digital Hearing Aid	1,504	1,116	421	404	740	558	399	497	<b>3,064</b>	<b>2,575</b>	19%
Analogue Hearing Aid	195	122	7	21	22	38	23	34	<b>247</b>	<b>215</b>	11%
<b>Child Patients Fitted</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>51</b>	-37%
Digital Hearing Aid	7	16	7	5	17	15	1	5	<b>32</b>	<b>41</b>	-22%
Analogue Hearing Aid	2	5	0	2	0	1	0	2	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	-100%
<b>Adult Patients Fitted</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>1,217</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>3,277</b>	<b>2,739</b>	19%
Digital Hearing Aid	1,497	1,100	414	399	723	543	398	492	<b>3,032</b>	<b>2,534</b>	20%
Analogue Hearing Aid	193	117	7	19	22	37	23	32	<b>245</b>	<b>205</b>	17%
<b>New Patients Fitted with a Hearing Aid</b>											
<b>New Patients Fitted</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>1,557</b>	16%
Digital Hearing Aid	881	768	316	289	434	280	166	202	<b>1,797</b>	<b>1,539</b>	17%
Analogue Hearing Aid	12	9	0	3	2	5	2	1	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	-11%
<b>New Child Patients Fitted</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>33</b>	-15%
Digital Hearing Aid	4	12	7	4	16	13	1	3	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>	-13%
Analogue Hearing Aid	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	-100%
<b>New Adult Patients Fitted</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1,785</b>	<b>1,524</b>	17%
Digital Hearing Aid	877	756	309	285	418	267	165	199	<b>1,769</b>	<b>1,507</b>	17%
Analogue Hearing Aid	12	9	0	3	2	4	2	1	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	-6%
<b>Existing Patients Fitted with a Hearing Aid</b>											
<b>Existing Patients Fitted</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>1,498</b>	<b>1,233</b>	21%
Digital Hearing Aid	623	348	105	115	306	278	233	295	<b>1,267</b>	<b>1,036</b>	22%
Analogue Hearing Aid	183	113	7	18	20	33	21	33	<b>231</b>	<b>197</b>	13%
<b>Existing Child Patients Fitted</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	-78%
Digital Hearing Aid	3	4	0	1	1	2	0	2	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	-56%
Analogue Hearing Aid	2	5	0	2	0	0	0	2	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	-100%
<b>Existing Adult Patients Fitted</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>1,492</b>	<b>1,215</b>	22%
Digital Hearing Aid	620	344	105	114	305	276	233	293	<b>1,263</b>	<b>1,027</b>	23%
Analogue Hearing Aid	181	108	7	16	20	33	21	31	<b>229</b>	<b>188</b>	19%
<b>Patients Fitted with Digital Hearing Aid Replacements <sup>1</sup></b>											
<b>Patients Issued with Replacements <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>391</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1,131</b>	<b>1,151</b>	-2%
Child Patients Fitted with Digital Hearing Aid Replacements	22	71	26	22	20	20	3	2	<b>71</b>	<b>115</b>	-38%
Adult Patients Fitted with Digital Hearing Aid Replacements	369	341	561	577	73	55	57	63	<b>1,060</b>	<b>1,036</b>	2%

Source: AUD1 Survey

<sup>1</sup> Digital Hearing Aid Replacements are only issued to existing clients who have already been fitted with a digital hearing aid, please note that these should not be added to the total digital hearing aids and analogue hearing aids issued as these client.

**Table A.2: Patients Assessed for a Hearing Aid during the quarter, by Type of Aid and Patient Type**

	numbers										percentage
	EHSSB		NHSSB		SHSSB		WHSSB		Northern Ireland		% Change since last quarter
	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	
<b>All Patients Assessed</b>											
<b>All Patients Assessed</b>	<b>1,560</b>	<b>1,081</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>3,091</b>	<b>2,542</b>	<b>22%</b>
All Adults Assessed for a Digital Hearing Aid	1,553	1,075	555	649	618	622	334	171	3,060	2,517	22%
All Children Assessed for a Digital Hearing Aid	7	6	4	1	17	16	3	2	31	25	24%
<b>New Patients Assessed</b>											
<b>New Patients Assessed</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>1,743</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>24%</b>
Adult Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	833	556	263	286	411	345	186	170	1,693	1,357	25%
Child Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	4	2	4	1	16	13	2	2	26	18	44%
Adult Patients Assessed as Unsuitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	10	15	0	6	11	11	3	1	24	33	-27%
Child Patients Assessed as Unsuitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	-100%
Total Adult Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	843	571	263	292	422	356	189	171	1,717	1,390	24%
Total Child Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	4	2	4	1	16	14	2	2	26	19	37%
<b>Existing Patients Assessed</b>											
<b>Existing Patients Assessed</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>19%</b>
Adult Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	710	504	292	357	196	266	145	0	1,343	1,127	19%
Child Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	3	4	0	0	1	2	1	0	5	6	-17%

Source: AUD1 Survey

**Table B.1: Number of Aids Issued during Quarter, by Expenditure on these Aids**<sup>1, 2</sup>

	numbers										% Change since last quarter
	EHSSB		NHSSB		SHSSB		WHSSB		Northern Ireland		
	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	
<b>All Aids Issued</b>											
<b>Total Number of Aids Issued</b>	<b>2,115</b>	<b>1,756</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>1,024</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>4,731</b>	<b>4,461</b>	<b>6%</b>
Adults receiving Digital Hearing Aids	1,920	1,524	975	976	872	800	511	681	<b>4,278</b>	<b>3,981</b>	7%
Adults receiving Analogue Hearing Aids	164	138	7	19	58	67	113	89	<b>342</b>	<b>313</b>	7%
Children receiving Digital Hearing Aids	29	89	33	27	37	34	10	7	<b>109</b>	<b>157</b>	-31%
Children receiving Analogue Hearing Aids	2	5	0	2	0	1	0	2	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	-80%
<b>Total Cost of Aids Issued</b>											
<b>Total Cost of Aids Issued during Quarter (,000's)</b>	<b>£141.7</b>	<b>£120.0</b>	<b>£89.2</b>	<b>£0.0</b>	<b>£65.8</b>	<b>£56.4</b>	<b>£40.9</b>	<b>£45.5</b>	<b>£338.3</b>	<b>£221.9</b>	-
Cost for Adult Digital Hearing Aids (,000's)	£131.6	£101.9	£89.2	£0.0	£60.5	£50.9	£35.2	£40.5	<b>£316.5</b>	<b>£193.2</b>	-
Cost for Adult Analogue Hearing Aids (,000's)	£6.0	£5.4	£0.0	£0.0	£2.7	£3.0	£5.1	£4.2	<b>£14.2</b>	<b>£12.6</b>	-
Cost for Child Digital Hearing Aids (,000's)	£4.1	£11.6	£0.0	£0.0	£2.7	£2.5	£0.6	£0.4	<b>£7.4</b>	<b>£14.6</b>	-
Cost for Child Analogue Hearing Aids (,000's)	£0.3	£1.1	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.3	<b>£0.3</b>	<b>£1.5</b>	-
<b>Average Cost of Aids Issued</b>											
<b>Average Cost per Aid</b>	<b>£67.3</b>	<b>£68.3</b>	<b>£87.8</b>	<b>£0.0</b>	<b>£68.1</b>	<b>£62.6</b>	<b>£64.6</b>	<b>£58.4</b>	<b>£67.1</b>	<b>£64.6</b>	-
Average Cost of Adult Digital Hearing Aid	£68.6	£66.8	£91.4	£0.0	£69.3	£63.6	£68.9	£59.5	<b>£74.0</b>	<b>£64.3</b>	-
Average Cost of Adult Analogue Hearing Aid	£39.0	£39.0	£0.0	£0.0	£46.4	£44.8	£45.5	£47.4	<b>£42.5</b>	<b>£42.9</b>	-
Average Cost of Child Digital Hearing Aid	£141.7	£130.2	£0.0	£0.0	£71.9	£74.5	£58.9	£63.7	<b>£96.8</b>	<b>£112.1</b>	-
Average Cost of Child Analogue Hearing Aid	£150.0	£225.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£38.0	£0.0	£157.0	<b>£150.0</b>	<b>£184.6</b>	-

Source: AUD1 Survey

<sup>1</sup> Information on the cost of aids was not available in the Northern Board for quarter ending 31 March 2006.

<sup>2</sup> A breakdown of cost for digital hearing aids, analogue aids, for both children and adults could not be provided by the Northern Board. Information presented refers to the total cost of all hearing aids issued during quarter ending 30 June 2006.

**Table C.1: Completed Waits for Hearing Aid Assessments and Re-Assessments During Quarter ending 30 June 2006<sup>1</sup> by HSS Board**

	numbers										percentage
	EHSSB		NHSSB		SHSSB		WHSSB		Northern Ireland		% Change since last quarter
	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	
<b>All Completed Waits</b>	<b>1,534</b>	<b>1,191</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>3,056</b>	<b>2,680</b>	14%
Less than 3 months	870	769	421	366	129	161	79	96	1,499	1,392	8%
3 to 6 months	218	240	5	38	254	14	267	259	744	551	35%
6 to 12 months	336	114	0	0	156	194	76	142	568	450	26%
12 months or more	110	68	0	0	135	219	0	0	245	287	-15%
		0									
<b>Completed Waits for Children</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>89</b>	-57%
Less than 3 months	19	13	7	5	9	56	1	5	36	79	-54%
3 to 6 months	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	-
6 to 12 months	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	10	-100%
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Completed Waits for Adults</b>	<b>1,515</b>	<b>1,173</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>3,018</b>	<b>2,591</b>	16%
Less than 3 months	851	756	414	361	120	105	78	91	1,463	1,313	11%
3 to 6 months	218	240	5	38	252	14	267	259	742	551	35%
6 to 12 months	336	109	0	0	156	189	76	142	568	440	29%
12 months or more	110	68	0	0	135	219	0	0	245	287	-15%

Source: AUD1 Survey

**Table C.2: HSC Trust Analysis of Completed Waits for Hearing Aid Assessments and Re-Assessments During Quarter ending 30 June 2006<sup>1</sup>**

	numbers									
	EHSSB		NHSSB		SHSSB		WHSSB		Northern Ireland	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>All Completed Waits</b>	<b>1534</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,056</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	870	57	421	99	129	19	79	19	1,499	49
3 to 6 months	218	14	5	1	254	38	267	63	744	24
6 to 12 months	336	22	0	0	156	23	76	18	568	19
12 months or more	110	7	0	0	135	20	0	0	245	8
<b>Completed Waits for Children</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	19	100	7	100	9	82	1	100	36	95
3 to 6 months	0	0	0	0	2	18	0	0	2	5
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>1515</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,018</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	851	56	414	99	120	18	78	19	1,463	48
3 to 6 months	218	14	5	1	252	38	267	63	742	25
6 to 12 months	336	22	0	0	156	24	76	18	568	19
12 months or more	110	7	0	0	135	20	0	0	245	8

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: Patients Waiting for a Hearing Aid Assessment / Re-Assessment to be Completed at 30 June 2006 <sup>1,2</sup> by HSS Board**

	numbers										percentage
	EHSSB		NHSSB		SHSSB		WHSSB		Northern Ireland		% Change since last quarter
	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	
<b>All Incomplete Waits</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>2,714</b>	<b>2,184</b>	24%
Less than 3 months	462	149	117	35	332	286	137	93	1,048	563	86%
3 to 6 months	179	208	184	29	320	183	128	0	811	420	93%
6 to 12 months	147	458	209	0	177	384	87	247	620	1,089	-43%
12 months or more	4	22	213	0	18	90	0	0	235	112	110%
	0	0									
<b>Incomplete Waits for Children</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	-
Less than 3 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
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	-
	0	0									
<b>Incomplete Waits for Adults</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>2,714</b>	<b>2,184</b>	24%
Less than 3 months	462	149	117	35	332	286	137	93	1,048	563	86%
3 to 6 months	179	208	184	29	320	183	128	0	811	420	93%
6 to 12 months	147	458	209	0	177	384	87	247	620	1,089	-43%
12 months or more	4	22	213	0	18	90	0	0	235	112	110%

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.

<sup>2</sup> A pilot programme setup in the Northern Board to reduce patient waiting times for ENT Clinics, has resulted in GP's directly referring non-complex patients to Audiology Departments rather than to ENT Clinics. As a consequence, the information for the quarter ending 30 June 2006 is significantly higher than 31 March 2006. The Audiology Departments in the Northern HSC Trust are working to reduce this backlog of patients and hope to significantly reduce this by 31 December 2006.

**Table C.4: HSS Board Analysis of Patients Waiting for a Hearing Aid Assessment / Re-Assessment to be Completed at 30 June 2006 <sup>1</sup>**

	numbers									
	EHSSB		NHSSB		SHSSB		WHSSB		Northern Ireland	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>All Completed Waits</b>	<b>792</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,714</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	462	58	117	16	332	39	137	39	1,048	39
3 to 6 months	179	23	184	25	320	38	128	36	811	30
6 to 12 months	147	19	209	29	177	21	87	25	620	23
12 months or more	4	1	213	29	18	2	0	0	235	9
<b>Completed Waits for Children</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
Less than 3 months	0	0	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
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>792</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,714</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	462	58	117	16	332	39	137	39	1,048	39
3 to 6 months	179	23	184	25	320	38	128	36	811	30
6 to 12 months	147	19	209	29	177	21	87	25	620	23
12 months or more	4	1	213	29	18	2	0	0	235	9

Source: AUD1 Survey

# APPENDICES

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

	numbers												percentage
	Belfast HSC Trust		South Eastern HSC Trust		Northern HSC Trust		Southern HSC Trust		Western HSC Trust		Northern Ireland		% Change since last quarter
	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	
<b>Total Patients Fitted with a Hearing Aid During the Quarter</b>													
<b>All Patients Fitted</b>	862	817	837	421	428	425	762	596	422	531	3,311	2,790	18%
Digital Hearing Aid	789	784	715	332	421	404	740	558	399	497	3,064	2,575	19%
Analogue Hearing Aid	73	33	122	89	7	21	22	38	23	34	247	215	11%
<b>Child Patients Fitted</b>	9	14	0	7	7	7	17	16	1	7	34	51	-37%
Digital Hearing Aid	7	9	0	7	7	5	17	15	1	5	32	41	-22%
Analogue Hearing Aid	2	5	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	2	10	-100%
<b>Adult Patients Fitted</b>	853	803	837	414	421	418	745	580	421	524	3,277	2,739	19%
Digital Hearing Aid	782	775	715	325	414	399	723	543	398	492	3,032	2,534	20%
Analogue Hearing Aid	71	28	122	89	7	19	22	37	23	32	245	205	17%
<b>New Patients Fitted with a Hearing Aid</b>													
<b>New Patients Fitted</b>	428	464	465	313	316	292	436	285	168	203	1,813	1,557	16%
Digital Hearing Aid	428	464	453	304	316	289	434	280	166	202	1,797	1,539	17%
Analogue Hearing Aid	0	0	12	9	0	3	2	5	2	1	16	18	-11%
<b>New Child Patients Fitted</b>	4	7	0	5	7	4	16	14	1	3	28	33	-15%
Digital Hearing Aid	4	7	0	5	7	4	16	13	1	3	28	32	-13%
Analogue Hearing Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	-100%
<b>New Adult Patients Fitted</b>	424	457	465	308	309	288	420	271	167	200	1,785	1,524	17%
Digital Hearing Aid	424	457	453	299	309	285	418	267	165	199	1,769	1,507	17%
Analogue Hearing Aid	0	0	12	9	0	3	2	4	2	1	16	17	-6%
<b>Existing Patients Fitted with a Hearing Aid</b>													
<b>Existing Patients Fitted</b>	434	353	372	108	112	133	326	311	254	328	1,498	1,233	21%
Digital Hearing Aid	361	320	262	28	105	115	306	278	233	295	1,267	1,036	22%
Analogue Hearing Aid	73	33	110	80	7	18	20	33	21	33	231	197	13%
<b>Existing Child Patients Fitted</b>	5	7	0	2	0	3	1	2	0	4	6	18	-78%
Digital Hearing Aid	3	2	0	2	0	1	1	2	0	2	4	9	-56%
Analogue Hearing Aid	2	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	9	-100%
<b>Existing Adult Patients Fitted</b>	429	346	372	106	112	130	325	309	254	324	1,492	1,215	22%
Digital Hearing Aid	358	318	262	26	105	114	305	276	233	293	1,263	1,027	23%
Analogue Hearing Aid	71	28	110	80	7	16	20	33	21	31	229	188	19%
<b>Patients Fitted with Digital Hearing Aid Replacements <sup>1</sup></b>													
<b>Patients Issued with Replacements <sup>1</sup></b>	155	208	236	204	587	599	93	75	60	65	1,131	1,151	-2%
Child Patients Fitted with Digital Hearing Aid Replacements	12	65	10	6	26	22	20	20	3	2	71	115	-38%
Adult Patients Fitted with Digital Hearing Aid Replacements	143	143	226	198	561	577	73	55	57	63	1,060	1,036	2%

Source: AUD1 Survey

<sup>1</sup> Digital Hearing Aid Replacements are only issued to existing clients who have already been fitted with a digital hearing aid, please note that these should not be added to the total digital hearing aids and analogue hearing aids issued as these client.

**Table A.2: Patients Assessed for a Hearing Aid during the quarter, by Type of Aid and Patient Type**

	numbers												percentage
	Belfast HSC Trust		South Eastern HSC Trust		Northern HSC Trust		Southern HSC Trust		Western HSC Trust		Northern Ireland		% Change since last quarter
	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	
<b>All Patients Assessed</b>													
<b>All Patients Assessed</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>804</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>3,091</b>	<b>2,542</b>	22%
All Adults Assessed for a Digital Hearing Aid	821	802	732	273	555	649	618	622	334	171	3,060	2,517	22%
All Children Assessed for a Digital Hearing Aid	7	2	0	4	4	1	17	16	3	2	31	25	24%
<b>New Patients Assessed</b>													
<b>New Patients Assessed</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>1,743</b>	<b>1,409</b>	24%
Adult Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	376	376	457	180	263	286	411	345	186	170	1,693	1,357	25%
Child Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	4	0	0	2	4	1	16	13	2	2	26	18	44%
Adult Patients Assessed as Unsuitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	10	15	0	0	0	6	11	11	3	1	24	33	-27%
Child Patients Assessed as Unsuitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	-100%
Total Adult Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	386	391	457	180	263	292	422	356	189	171	1,717	1,390	24%
Total Child Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	4	0	0	2	4	1	16	14	2	2	26	19	16%
<b>Existing Patients Assessed</b>													
<b>Existing Patients Assessed</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,348</b>	<b>1,133</b>	19%
Adult Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	435	411	275	93	292	357	196	266	145	0	1,343	1,127	19%
Child Patients Assessed as Suitable for a Digital Hearing Aid	3	2	0	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	5	6	-17%

Source: AUD1 Survey

**Table B.1: Number of Aids Issued during Quarter, by Expenditure on these Aids<sup>1, 2</sup>**

	numbers												percentage
	Belfast HSC Trust		South Eastern HSC Trust		Northern HSC Trust		Southern HSC Trust		Western HSC Trust		Northern Ireland		% Change since last quarter
	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	
<b>All Aids Issued</b>													
<b>Total Number of Aids Issued</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>1,073</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>1,015</b>	<b>1,024</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>4,731</b>	<b>4,461</b>	6%
Adults receiving Digital Hearing Aids	950	918	970	606	975	976	872	800	511	681	<b>4,278</b>	<b>3,981</b>	7%
Adults receiving Analogue Hearing Aids	71	78	93	60	7	19	58	67	113	89	<b>342</b>	<b>313</b>	7%
Children receiving Digital Hearing Aids	19	74	10	15	33	27	37	34	10	7	<b>109</b>	<b>157</b>	-31%
Children receiving Analogue Hearing Aids	2	5	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	2	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	-80%
<b>Total Cost of Aids Issued</b>													
<b>Total Cost of Aids Issued during Quarter (,000's)</b>	<b>£67.2</b>	<b>£74.3</b>	<b>£75.3</b>	<b>£45.7</b>	<b>£89.2</b>	<b>£0.0</b>	<b>£65.8</b>	<b>£56.4</b>	<b>£40.9</b>	<b>£45.5</b>	<b>£338.3</b>	<b>£221.9</b>	-
Cost for Adult Digital Hearing Aids (,000's)	£63.1	£62.5	£68.6	£39.3	£89.2	£0.0	£60.5	£50.9	£35.2	£40.5	<b>£316.5</b>	<b>£193.2</b>	-
Cost for Adult Analogue Hearing Aids (,000's)	£2.1	£2.6	£4.3	£2.8	£0.0	£0.0	£2.7	£3.0	£5.1	£4.2	<b>£14.2</b>	<b>£12.6</b>	-
Cost for Child Digital Hearing Aids (,000's)	£1.7	£8.1	£2.4	£3.5	£0.0	£0.0	£2.7	£2.5	£0.6	£0.4	<b>£7.4</b>	<b>£14.6</b>	-
Cost for Child Analogue Hearing Aids (,000's)	£0.3	£1.1	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£0.3	<b>£0.3</b>	<b>£1.5</b>	-
<b>Average Cost of Aids Issued</b>													
<b>Average Cost per Aid</b>	<b>£64.5</b>	<b>£69.1</b>	<b>£70.2</b>	<b>£67.1</b>	<b>£87.8</b>	<b>£0.0</b>	<b>£68.1</b>	<b>£62.6</b>	<b>£64.6</b>	<b>£58.4</b>	<b>£67.1</b>	<b>£64.6</b>	-
Average Cost of Adult Digital Hearing Aid	£66.4	£68.1	£70.7	£64.9	£91.4	£0.0	£69.3	£63.6	£68.9	£59.5	<b>£74.0</b>	<b>£64.3</b>	-
Average Cost of Adult Analogue Hearing Aid	£29.5	£33.2	£46.2	£46.5	£0.0	£0.0	£46.4	£44.8	£45.5	£47.4	<b>£42.5</b>	<b>£42.9</b>	-
Average Cost of Child Digital Hearing Aid	£90.0	£108.8	£240.0	£236.0	£0.0	£0.0	£71.9	£74.5	£58.9	£63.7	<b>£96.8</b>	<b>£112.1</b>	-
Average Cost of Child Analogue Hearing Aid	£150.0	£225.0	£0.0	£76.1	£0.0	£0.0	£0.0	£38.0	£0.0	£157.0	<b>£150.0</b>	<b>£184.6</b>	-

Source: AUD1 Survey

<sup>1</sup> Information on the cost of aids was not available in the Northern Board for quarter ending 31 March 2006.

<sup>2</sup> A breakdown of cost for digital hearing aids, analogue aids, for both children and adults could not be provided by the Northern Board. Information presented refers to the total cost of all hearing aids issued during quarter ending 30 June 2006.

**Table C.1: Completed Waits for Hearing Aid Assessments and Re-Assessments During Quarter ending 30 June 2006<sup>1</sup> by HSS Board**

	numbers												% Change since last quarter
	Belfast HSC Trust		South Eastern HSC Trust		Northern HSC Trust		Southern HSC Trust		Western HSC Trust		Northern Ireland		
	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	
<b>All Completed Waits</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>3,056</b>	<b>2,680</b>	14%
Less than 3 months	576	403	332	366	421	366	129	161	79	96	1,499	1,392	8%
3 to 6 months	75	229	143	11	5	38	254	14	267	259	744	551	35%
6 to 12 months	84	88	252	26	0	0	156	194	76	142	568	450	26%
12 months or more	67	68	43	0	0	0	135	219	0	0	245	287	-15%
<b>Completed Waits for Children</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>89</b>	-57%
Less than 3 months	19	11	0	2	7	5	9	56	1	5	36	79	-54%
3 to 6 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	-
6 to 12 months	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	10	-100%
12 months or more	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Completed Waits for Adults</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>3,018</b>	<b>2,591</b>	16%
Less than 3 months	557	392	332	364	414	361	120	105	78	91	1,463	1,313	11%
3 to 6 months	75	229	143	11	5	38	252	14	267	259	742	551	35%
6 to 12 months	84	88	252	21	0	0	156	189	76	142	568	440	29%
12 months or more	67	68	43	0	0	0	135	219	0	0	245	287	-15%

Source: AUD1 Survey

**Table C.2: HSC Trust Analysis of Completed Waits for Hearing Aid Assessments and Re-Assessments During Quarter ending 30 June 2006<sup>1</sup>**

	numbers											
	Belfast HSC Trust		South Eastern HSC Trust		Northern HSC Trust		Southern HSC Trust		Western HSC Trust		Northern Ireland	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>All Completed Waits</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,056</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	576	74	332	43	421	99	129	19	79	19	1,499	51
3 to 6 months	75	9	143	19	5	1	254	38	267	63	744	24
6 to 12 months	84	10	252	33	0	0	156	23	76	18	568	18
12 months or more	67	8	43	6	0	0	135	20	0	0	245	8
<b>Completed Waits for Children</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	19	100	0	-	7	100	9	82	1	100	36	95
3 to 6 months	0	0	0	-	0	0	2	18	0	0	2	5
6 to 12 months	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
<b>Completed Waits for Adults</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>770</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,018</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	557	73	332	43	414	99	120	18	78	19	1,463	50
3 to 6 months	75	9	143	19	5	1	252	38	267	63	742	24
6 to 12 months	84	10	252	33	0	0	156	24	76	18	568	18
12 months or more	67	8	43	6	0	0	135	20	0	0	245	8

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: Patients Waiting for a Hearing Aid Assessment / Re-Assessment to be Completed at 30 June 2006 <sup>1,2</sup> by HSS Board**

	numbers												% Change since last quarter
	Belfast HSC Trust		South Eastern HSC Trust		Northern HSC Trust		Southern HSC Trust		Western HSC Trust		Northern Ireland		
	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	Jun-06	Mar-06	
<b>All Incomplete Waits</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>2,714</b>	<b>2,184</b>	24%
Less than 3 months	273	90	189	59	117	35	332	286	137	93	1,048	563	86%
3 to 6 months	95	206	84	2	184	29	320	183	128	0	811	420	93%
6 to 12 months	63	108	84	350	209	0	177	384	87	247	620	1,089	-43%
12 months or more	4	22	0	0	213	0	18	90	0	0	235	112	110%
<b>Incomplete Waits for Children</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	-
Less than 3 months	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
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>435</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>2,714</b>	<b>2,184</b>	24%
Less than 3 months	273	90	189	59	117	35	332	286	137	93	1,048	563	86%
3 to 6 months	95	206	84	2	184	29	320	183	128	0	811	420	93%
6 to 12 months	63	108	84	350	209	0	177	384	87	247	620	1,089	-43%
12 months or more	4	22	0	0	213	0	18	90	0	0	235	112	110%

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.

<sup>2</sup> A pilot programme setup in the Northern Board to reduce patient waiting times for ENT Clinics, has resulted in GP's directly referring non-complex patients to Audiology Departments rather than to ENT Clinics. As a consequence, the information for the quarter ending 30 June 2006 is significantly higher than 31 March 2006. The Audiology Departments in the Northern HSC Trust are working to reduce this backlog of patients and hope to significantly reduce this by 31 December 2006.

**Table C.4: HSS Board Analysis of Patients Waiting for a Hearing Aid Assessment / Re-Assessment to be Completed at 30 June 2006 <sup>1</sup>**

	numbers											
	Belfast HSC Trust		South Eastern HSC Trust		Northern HSC Trust		Southern HSC Trust		Western HSC Trust		Northern Ireland	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>All Completed Waits</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,714</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	273	63	189	53	117	16	332	39	137	39	1,048	39
3 to 6 months	95	22	84	24	184	25	320	38	128	36	811	30
6 to 12 months	63	14	84	24	209	29	177	21	87	25	620	23
12 months or more	4	1	0	0	213	29	18	2	0	0	235	9
<b>Completed Waits for Children</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>
Less than 3 months	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
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>435</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>723</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,714</b>	<b>100</b>
Less than 3 months	273	63	189	53	117	16	332	39	137	39	1,048	39
3 to 6 months	95	22	84	24	184	25	320	38	128	36	811	30
6 to 12 months	63	14	84	24	209	29	177	21	87	25	620	23
12 months or more	4	1	0	0	213	29	18	2	0	0	235	9

Source: AUD1 Survey

# *Additional Information*

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

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