

FOI REF: 25/822

5th December 2025

Tel: 0300 131 4500
Website: www.esht.nhs.uk

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

Please can you answer the following questions as a Freedom of Information request.

All questions relate to your audiology service.

Workforce:

1. The following questions refer to qualified/registered audiologists in your department (please include audiologists and clinical scientists that provide audiological services):

a) How many audiologists do you have in headcount?

19.

b) How many audiologists do you have in full time equivalents (FTE)?

8.

c) How many FTE job vacancies do you have for qualified audiologists / registered audiologists?

0.

Services:

- 2. Which of the following services does your audiology department deliver for adults (please include all that apply)?**

Yes. Hearing assessment

Yes. Hearing aid fitting

Yes. Follow up appointment

Yes. Aftercare – including but not limited to tubing, fine tuning etc.

Yes. Hearing reassessment

No. Wax management

Yes. ENT support, please state: AM clinics x 5 per week at two sites = 10.

Yes. Other, please state: Tinnitus Rehabilitation / Counselling.

- 3. What is the current wait time for patients to receive the first initial hearing assessment?**

Less than 6 weeks.

- 4. After a hearing assessment, what is the average wait time for a patient to have their hearing aid fitted?**

8 – 10 weeks.

- 5. Once the hearing aid has been fitted, on average how long do patients have to wait for the first follow up appointment?**

10 – 12 weeks.

- 6. What proportion (%) of patients that are referred to adult audiology services for a hearing assessment are referred from either:**

a. ENT: 49% (This figure includes referrals for tinnitus.)

b. GP: 38%

c. Self-referral: 13%

d. Other, please state: 0%

- 7. What is the local bilateral fitting rate? (please state the percentage)**

80%.

- 8. Please list any adult audiological services that use patient-initiated follow-up (PIFU)?**

None at this time.

9. Do you offer private audiological services for adults?

No.

10. a. How many adult hearing assessments does your department perform in an average month?

770.

b. And what proportion (%) of these assessments are new patients?

75%

11. a. How many adults does your department fit with hearing aids in an average month?

220.

b. And what proportion (%) these fits are for new patients?

85%

12. If audiologists in your department provides aural care, please state how many patients are treated for ear wax in an average month?

Not applicable.

13. What is the average wait time for access to an appointment for earwax management?

Not applicable.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Department
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