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20th August 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 - Request for Information Reference: Adult audiology service

I am writing in response to your request for information under the FOI 2000.

I can confirm in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 that we do hold the information you have requested. A response to each part of your request is provided below.

Home, Community, Hospital.

FOI Request / Question	Question Response	Is there an exemption?	Exemption	Exemption Details																																	
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? b) How many audiologists do you have in full time equivalents (FTE)? c) How many FTE job vacancies do you have for qualified audiologists/registered audiologists?	There are currently no vacancies. <table><tr><th>Position Title</th><th>FTE</th><th>Heads</th></tr><tr><td>Apprentice Associate Audiologist</td><td>3.00</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Audiologist</td><td>1.00</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Cons Clin Scientist/Head Of Audiology</td><td>1.00</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Deputy Head of Audiology</td><td>1.00</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Pre Reg / Associate Audiology Practitioner</td><td>4.87</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>Senior Assistant Audiologist</td><td>0.64</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Senior Audiology Practitioner</td><td>2.35</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Specialist Advanced Audiologist</td><td>4.00</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Specialist Audiologist</td><td>0.75</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Grand Total</td><td>18.60</td><td>20</td></tr></table>	Position Title	FTE	Heads	Apprentice Associate Audiologist	3.00	3	Audiologist	1.00	1	Cons Clin Scientist/Head Of Audiology	1.00	1	Deputy Head of Audiology	1.00	1	Pre Reg / Associate Audiology Practitioner	4.87	5	Senior Assistant Audiologist	0.64	1	Senior Audiology Practitioner	2.35	3	Specialist Advanced Audiologist	4.00	4	Specialist Audiologist	0.75	1	Grand Total	18.60	20	No	Not applicable	Not applicable
Position Title	FTE	Heads																																			
Apprentice Associate Audiologist	3.00	3																																			
Audiologist	1.00	1																																			
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Grand Total	18.60	20																																			
2. What is the current wait time for patients to receive the first initial hearing assessment in weeks?	Within six weeks	No	Not applicable	Not applicable																																	

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3. After a hearing assessment, what is the average wait time for a patient to have their hearing aid fitted in weeks?	10-12 weeks.			
4. Once the hearing aid has been fitted, on average how long do patients have to wait for the first follow up appointment in weeks?	4-6 weeks			
5. What proportion (%) of patients that are referred to adult audiology services for a hearing assessment are referred from either: a. ENT: b. GP: c. Self-referral: d. Other, please state:	a. 40% b. 60% c. 0 d. 0			
6. What is the local bilateral fitting rate percentage?	100% if clinically appropriate			

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7. Please list any adult audiological services that use patient initiated follow-up (PIFU)?	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Adult Audiology service.			
8. Do you offer private audiological services for adults?	No.			
9. How many adult hearing assessments does your department perform in an average month? • And what proportion (%) of these assessments are new patients?	350 hearing assessments per month on average, with average of 45% new patients.			
10. How many adults does your department fit with hearing aids in an average month? • And what proportion (%) these fits are for new patients?	300 adults fitted with hearing aids per month on average, with average 65-70% for new patients.			
11. If audiologists in your department provides aural care, please state how many patients	Not applicable.			

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are treated for ear wax in an average month?				
12. What is the average wait time for access to an appointment for earwax management in weeks?	Not applicable.			

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Patient Experience Team
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a smoke-free site

Trust Chair Rukshana Kapasi OBE
Chief Executive Jon Melbourne

I trust this information answers your request. Should you have any further enquiries or queries about this response please do not hesitate to contact me. However, if you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to: Sally Brook Shanahan, Director of Corporate Affairs, King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield Road, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 4JL or email sally.brookshanahan@nhs.net.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply to the Information Commissioner's Office, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Act and can require us to remedy any problems. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot decide unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Act in general, on the Information Commissioner's Office website at: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office should be sent to FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone 0303 1231113, email casework@ico.org.uk.

If you would like this letter or information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call us on 01623 672232 or email sfh-tr.foi.requests@nhs.net.

Yours faithfully

Information Governance Team

All information we have provided is subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Accordingly, if the information has been made available for re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL) a request to re-use is not required, but the licence conditions must be met. You must not re-use any previously unreleased information without having the consent from Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Should you wish to re-use previously unreleased information then you must make your request in writing. All requests for re-use will be responded to within 20 working days of receipt.