

Question

1a: Please confirm whether paediatric audiology waiting time data is reported [here](#) and if so, under which specialty would paediatric audiology activity and waiting times be reported?

1b: If not publicly available, please provide the number of children waiting for a first outpatient appointment for paediatric audiology services in Northern Ireland for the period 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025.

2: Does the count of children by waiting times only reflect those still waiting for a booked appointment?

Response

1a. Outpatient waiting times and inpatient and day case waiting times for paediatric audiology are not usually published as a separate specialty, but would in general be included in the ear, nose & throat (ENT) specialty. An exception is paediatric audiological medicine. Furthermore, the five Health and Social Care Trusts report on the service differently. That is, while some report on adult and paediatric ENT together, others separate paediatric from adult ENT.

Diagnostic waiting times are published for 'pure tone audiometry'. This, however, is not broken down by paediatric and adult waits.

Information regarding the three waiting times publications that include paediatric audiology, and the specialities it falls within, now follows.

Outpatients

The Department's most recent Accredited Official Statistics for waiting times for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment are available at:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/outpatient-waiting-times>

Paediatric audiology falls within the specialties listed below which can be found in an accompanying Excel data file using the above link. Please note that some of these specialties, such as ENT, will include sub-specialties other than paediatric audiology.

- ENT (legacy tab of the Excel file - this specialty includes data for patients of all ages but may be broken down by age, upon request).
- Paediatric Audiological Medicine (encompass tab of the Excel file).
- Paediatric Ear,Nose,&Throat (ENT) (encompass tab of the Excel file).
- Paediatric ENT (encompass tab of the Excel file).

Inpatients and Day Cases

The Department's most recent Accredited Official Statistics for waiting times for admission for inpatient or day case treatment are available at:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/inpatient-waiting-times>

Paediatric audiology falls within the specialties listed below which can be found in an accompanying Excel data file using the above link. Please note that some of these specialties, such as ENT, will include sub-specialties other than paediatric audiology.

- ENT (legacy tab of the Excel file - this specialty includes data for patients of all ages but may be broken down by age, upon request).
- Paediatric Audiological Medicine (encompass tab of the Excel file).
- Paediatric Ear,Nose,&Throat (ENT) (encompass tab of the Excel file).

Diagnostics

The Department's most recent Official Statistics for waiting times for diagnostic services are available at:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/diagnostic-waiting-times>

Information on waiting times for the 'Pure tone audiometry' diagnostic service can be found in an accompanying Excel data file using the above link. As the statistics are based on aggregate data provided by Trusts, however, they cannot be broken down by age.

1b. A breakdown of paediatric audiology services, only, is not held centrally in the Department.

2. The Department's Official Statistics for outpatient, inpatient and day case, and diagnostic waiting times are for ongoing waits and do not indicate completed waiting times or expected future waiting times. They include all patients on a waiting list including those already scheduled for appointment.

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