

Ref. No: 0199  
Date: 18/08/23  
Subject: Hearing Loss

## REQUEST

1. How many children were diagnosed with hearing loss at your Trust over the last 10 years?
  - a. Of the total number of children diagnosed with hearing loss in the last ten years, how many were diagnosed from each of the following age groups:
    - i. Under 2
    - ii. Under 5
    - iii. Under 10
    - iv. Under 15
    - v. Under 18
  - b. Of the total number of children diagnosed with hearing loss in the last ten years, how many were diagnosed with each of the following types of hearing loss?
    - i. Conductive Hearing Loss
    - ii. Sensorineural Hearing Loss
    - iii. Mixed Hearing Loss
    - iv. Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder
2. Does your NHS Trust have a target timeframe for diagnosis for hearing loss? (Yes / No)
  - a. If yes, what number of children diagnosed with hearing loss received their diagnosis during this timeframe?
3. What is the average time elapsed between initial testing and diagnosis of hearing loss in children?
4. Does your Trust also have an audiology department? (Yes / No)
  - a. If yes, could you please provide information on the minimum training and qualifications required for staff working in your audiology department?

## RESPONSE

Please find information attached.

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, as this request relates to historic data we have provided the response in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

### Section 40: personal information

We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of 5 or less due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. In such circumstances Section 40(2) and Section 40(3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle which states that personal data should be processed “lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner”. It is the lawful aspect of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure, and in such circumstances, Section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.