

Dear ..S.I.R/MADAM 2ND APRIL 2008

I am one of the 1 million people in Scotland who has a hearing loss. I read this document with great interest and would like to make the following comments.

P14 – Standard 1 – Accessing the service

I have found that my lipreading tutor has been of great help in dealing with problems relating to my hearing aid. Lipreading tutors should be referred to in this respect. *AFTER LIPREADING CLASSES I HAVE ATTENDED I CAN SAY I HAVE GAINED IN CONFIDENCE 100%.*

P15 – Standard 2 - 2aiii – criteria

I feel that lipreading should be specifically mentioned rather than grouped in with other agencies, as it is a very important part of the rehabilitation process. *THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE AS IT HAS PROVED TO BE MORE THAN JUST LIPREADING, BUT INFORMATIVE IN EVERY SENSE*

P19 – 4ai – criteria

Again lipreading should be mentioned specifically rather than being grouped in with other agencies.

P25-26 - Standard 8 – communication support and collaborative working.

Lipreading should be specifically mentioned here. *IT IS A GREAT SUPPORT FOR ANYONE AND PROVIDES UNDERSTANDING & KNOWLEDGE FOR ALL*

P40 – Good information prior to and after assessment

I feel very strongly that when someone is referred by their GP to Audiology that they should be given information about local lipreading services at that time. There can be a long period of time where you are left without a hearing aid and without any other support or rehabilitation. A great loss of confidence can occur during this period. I would like to see closer links between GPs, Audiology departments and lipreading services.

I HAD A VERY LONG TIME WITHOUT ANY SORT OF ADVICE, AND FELT VERY LONELY

P42 – Meeting specific communication/information needs

Deaf Awareness and Communication Training

I know that many lipreading tutors are qualified in both of the above and it would make sense to tap into these resources to train GP's and Audiology service personnel.

I THINK ALL OF THE ABOVE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE ADVICE EARLY ON, AND NOT WAIT SO LONG TO INFORM THE PATIENT.

P51 – Factors for consideration in developing the IMP

Lipreading should be specifically mentioned here under options for rehabilitation.