

Firstly can I applaud the Scottish Government on publishing a robust but user friendly set of Standard for Adult Hearing Rehabilitation Services.

The audiologist in Scotland should be proud of this achievement that will make the standards of the service transparent to patients and carers and service providers.

I have one question around the following Standard

1a.v. Waiting times for existing hearing aid patients (re-accessing the service) 2 are the same 3 as for first hearing aid fitting via direct referral

This is challenging. If one looks at the past this is going to be almost impossible to achieve if there is a significant technology change as was evidenced with the introduction of digital hearing aids. As this is usually by self referral, if there is a large technology improvement then the vast majority of existing users will want to access the service. This standard will then be impossible to achieve. Without specifying eligibility criteria I cannot see how this is workable. Have Scottish Audiology considered this and if so how do they plan to deal with a significant technology improvement in the future.

I have tried to include the respondent information form but it is a graphic and not able to be cut and pasted into an email.

For completeness I will answer the questions with reference to the question numbers on the website

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1. (a)

2a Yes

2b Yes, Yes, Yes

4. Yes

Yours truly,

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