



# *n e w s   r e l e a s e*

## “Waiting Times for Hearing Aids in Northern Ireland Unacceptable”

12 September 2005

Publication of a report by the British Society of Hearing Aid Audiologists reveals patients in Northern Ireland may wait over 48 weeks for referral to fitting.

In response to this, Richard Dixon, Chief Officer of the Eastern Health & Social Services Council said:

*“A 48 week wait for service is totally unacceptable. We welcome the Minister’s recent statements on inpatient waiting time and call on him to address the issue of outpatients waiting times with equal urgency.”*

*“For patients, the wait begins when their GP first refers them for treatment. The figures in this report give the total time patients will wait from GP appointment to receiving their aid. Most published figures do not. All waiting list information should be reported in the same way and we call on the Minister to see that all future reports give the full picture for patients.”*

### Notes to Editor

“The Eastern Health and Social Services Council was set up in 1991 to represent the interests of the public in health and social services in the Eastern Board area.”

For further information contact:

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