



Consortium for Research in Deaf Education

2024 UK-wide summary

Education provision for deaf children in 2023/24

Introduction

In 2024, we carried out the 14th Consortium for Research in Deaf Education (CRIDE) annual surveys on educational staffing and service provision for deaf children.¹

This report provides a high-level summary of the results across the four countries we surveyed. Separate reports are published for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales which set out the results for each respective nation. All reports can be downloaded from www.ndcs.org.uk/CRIDE or www.batod.org.uk/information/cride-reports/.

The survey alternates from year to year between a standard survey and a survey with a mix of core and thematic questions. The 2024 survey was the version with a mix of core and thematic questions, covering the 2023/24 academic year.

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¹ Unless otherwise stated, we use the term 'deaf children' to include children and young people under the age of 20 (under the age of 19 in Scotland) with sensori-neural or permanent conductive deafness.

Interpreting the results

Services were asked to give figures for the position as of 31st January 2024.

In the survey, we acknowledge that services and children do not always fit into the boxes or options provided. Services were able to leave comments or clarify where needed throughout the survey. This report notes particular issues that emerged in some areas.

As we see later, it is clear that some services still experience difficulties in extracting data about deaf children in their area and there remain inconsistencies in how different questions are completed throughout the survey. The response rates to individual questions may sometimes vary and anomalies occasionally appear. We make every effort to investigate any inconsistencies that appear particularly strange. However, services do not always respond to such queries. **Therefore, the results should continue to be used with caution.** Caution is also needed due to differences in response rates to individual questions and potential mistakes in data provision between surveys.

We received a 100% response rate to the survey in England (133 services covering 150 out of 152 authority areas²), Northern Ireland (one service), Scotland (30 services covering 32 authority areas) and Wales (14 services covering 22 local authorities).

A separate short survey was issued to special schools for deaf children. This received responses from 17 schools in England and one school in Northern Ireland³. This short survey was not sent to schools for deaf children in Scotland as the main survey in Scotland includes questions on schools for deaf children. A separate short survey was also issued to cochlear implant centres which received a response from 15 cochlear implant centres across the UK.

Please note that percentages in this report have been rounded up or down to the nearest whole number. Please also note that where there is a reported cohort of less than five children in any of the tables from individual country reports, in this report, we have replaced the figure with a '<5' and suppressed the actual figure to zero when calculating the totals in that table unless otherwise stated. This is indicated by an asterisk against the total.

² The remaining two local authorities in England, City of London and the Isles of Scilly, were not contacted on the understanding that they do not have any deaf children in their areas.

³ There are no schools for deaf children in Wales.

Summary of key findings

Numbers of deaf children

- There were 54,321 deaf children reported by services across the UK, a 3% increase since 2023.

Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People (TODs) and other specialist staff

- There were at least 1,546 TOD posts, of which 3% were vacant.
- Of the TODs in employment, 78% had the mandatory qualification, 15% were in training for the mandatory qualification or intending to train within three years, and 6% were teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training. 1% were people not qualified as teachers.⁴
- There were at least 767 fte other specialist support staff directly employed by services in employment at the time of the surveys, 53% of whom were teaching assistants (or similar) and 22% of whom were communication support workers (or similar).

Resource provisions

- There were 257 resource provisions across the UK, down from 263 in 2023.
- The population of deaf children covered by each resource provision across the UK was 211.

Referrals

- Services reported that 8,784 referrals were received over the calendar year of 2023. 13% of these were for children identified as deaf through the newborn hearing screening programme.
- 90% of families referred were contacted by a TOD within two working days if identified as deaf through the newborn hearing screening programme.
- 82% of families referred were contacted by a TOD within five working days if identified as deaf outside of the newborn hearing screening programme and before they had started statutory education.
- 69% of families referred were contacted by a TOD within five working days if identified as deaf outside of the newborn hearing screening programme and after they had started statutory education.
- 43% of families were offered a visit (either face-to-face or virtually) from a TOD within ten working days of any referral.

Thematic questions: Early identification and early intervention pathways

- 60% of services reported that all children identified as deaf were routinely referred to the service by audiology services.
- 72% of services reported that all referrals for children identified as deaf were routinely accepted.
- 31% of services reported that there was a school entry hearing screening programme across the whole area covered by their service.

⁴ This category was only asked about in the separate survey for schools for deaf children in England and Northern Ireland.

PART 1: Deaf children in the UK

Services were asked to give details of deaf children living in the geographical area covered by their service.⁵

According to the surveys, the number of deaf children under the age of 20 across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland⁶ and Wales was 54,321.⁷ This figure is a reported 3% increase since 2023 when 52,777 were reported.

Table 1: Number of deaf children living in the geographical area, by nation and region

Country	Region	Number of deaf children reported (adjusted totals)	Percentage as UK total
England		46,933	86%
	East England	4,731	9%
	East Midlands	3,514	6%
	London	7,524	14%
	North East	2,252	4%
	North West	6,473	12%
	South East	7,114	13%
	South West	4,235	8%
	West Midlands	5,935	11%
	Yorkshire and the Humber	5,155	9%
Northern Ireland		1,603	3%
Scotland		3,558	7%
Wales		2,227	4%
UK		54,321	100%

⁵ Services were asked to include: All children and young people under the age of 20 (in England, Northern Ireland and Wales) or under the age of 19 (in Scotland) who have a unilateral or bilateral sensori-neural or permanent conductive deafness, at all levels from mild to profound, using BSA/BATOD descriptors. Children and young people with temporary deafness should not be included. Services were asked to include all deaf children and young people, regardless of whether they receive support from the service, and to include children and young people who attend education provision outside of their area but who normally live in your area. Under the definition of permanent deafness used in the survey, children with a syndrome known to include permanent conductive deafness, microtia/atresia, middle ear malformation, or those who have had middle ear surgery such as mastoidectomy were to be included. Our definition also included those children with glue ear who are not expected to 'grow out' of the condition before the age of 12 years, such as those born with a cleft palate, Down's syndrome, cystic fibrosis, or primary ciliary dyskinesia. Otherwise, services were asked not to include children and young people with temporary deafness those with glue ear who may have been fitted with hearing aids as an alternative to grommet surgery but who are expected to 'grow out' of the condition before the age of 12 years.

⁶ Under the age of 19 in Scotland.

⁷ There were some services that reported large changes in numbers of children since 2023. Some services responded to queries on the reported figures, and some services did not. Please see individual country reports for more information.

Table 2: Number of deaf children living in the geographical area, by nation and region, over successive years

Nation	Region	2011	2021	2022	2023	2024
England		34,927	45,060	45,680	45,671	46,933
	East England	2,572	4,363	4,405	4,857	4,731
	East Midlands	2,334	3,473	3,558	3,533	3,514
	London	5,271	7,408	7,570	7,654	7,524
	North East	1,949	2,409	2,409	2,275	2,252
	North West	5,037	6,260	6,354	6,308	6,473
	South East	5,624	5,759	5,787	5,587	7,114
	South West	3,348	4,510	4,508	4,237	4,235
	West Midlands	4,290	5,557	5,722	5,742	5,935
	Yorkshire and the Humber	4,502	5,321	5,367	5,478	5,155
Northern Ireland		1,239	1,387	1,476	1,428	1,603
Scotland		2,526	2,841	3,313	3,418	3,558
Wales		2,775	2,324	2,329	2,260	2,227
UK		41,467	51,612	52,798	52,777	54,321

The following table illustrates differences in the numbers of deaf children covered by services in each country. Please note that, as there is just one service in Northern Ireland, they do not appear in this table.

Table 3: Minimum, maximum and average number of deaf children living in each service⁸

	Minimum	Maximum	Average
England	72	1,658	353
Scotland	12	385	119
Wales	34	476	159

Services were asked about any issues or gaps in the data they provided for the number of children with permanent deafness. Information about the issues and gaps reported by services is included in the reports for each country but commonly reported issues included:

- services only having figures for children who are receiving support from the service
- services not holding figures for children who have left school
- services not able to split out figures for children with permanent or temporary deafness.

The extent of these issues and gaps is a reminder that the figures generated from the CRIDE survey need to be used with caution. The data in this report are only as good as the data held by and provided to us, by local authorities, and the above section raises questions about how we can improve the data collected on deaf children. At the same time, we believe that data generated through the CRIDE reports remain amongst the best sources of data available.

⁸ Some services cover more than one authority area.

Number of deaf children on services' caseloads

By caseload, we mean children who receive some form of support **at least once a year**. Examples of support included direct teaching, visits to the family or school, liaison with the family, school and teachers, providing hearing aid checks, etc. We asked services to include children supported by the service but who do not live in the same geographical area as that service. Services could also include children with temporary deafness in their response to this question if they were on the service caseload.

Table 4: Number of deaf children on services' caseloads, by nation

Country	Number of deaf children on services' caseloads (% of UK total)	... of whom have a temporary conductive deafness (% of UK total)
England	46,211 (85%)	4,634 (72%)
Northern Ireland	1,324 (2%)	131 (2%)
Scotland	3,742 (7%)	449 (7%)
Wales	3,038 ⁹ (6%)	1,220 (19%)
UK	54,315 (100%)	6,434 (100%)

The reported number of deaf children on services' caseloads across the UK has increased by 5% between 2023 and 2024, from 51,769 to 54,315.

Table 5: Minimum, maximum and average number of deaf children on services' caseload in each service

	Minimum	Maximum	Average
England	70	1,611	347
Scotland	13	316	125
Wales	71	1,096	253

As there is just one service in Northern Ireland, they do not appear in the table above.

⁹ Two services did not provide a figure.

PART 2: Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People and other specialist staff

There were at least 1,498 fte people working as TODs across the UK. This includes TODs working in a peripatetic role, in a resource provision, in a special school for deaf children and/or in a special school/college not specifically for deaf children.

At the time the surveys were completed, there were 47 fte vacant posts. If the vacant posts are added to the total number of teachers working as TODs in employment, this would indicate there were at least 1,546 TOD posts, of which 3% were vacant.

Table 6: Number of TOD posts (fte) by nation

	Number of TODs in employment	Number of vacant posts	Total TOD posts
England	1,220.75	37.52	1,258.27
Northern Ireland	46.8	0	46.8
Scotland	168.34	7.8	176.14
Wales	62.8	2	64.8
UK	1,498.69	47.32	1,546.01

The following table provides a break-down of TODs in employment by qualification status.

Table 7: Number of overall full time equivalent (fte) TODs in employment

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
TODs with the mandatory qualification	962.27 (79%)	28.4 (61%)	116.38 (69%)	60.8 (97%)	1167.85 (78%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification or intending to train within 3 years	166.74 (14%)	7.8 (17%)	44.9 (27%)	1 (2%)	220.44 (15%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	78.24 (6%)	10.6 (23%)	7.06 (4%)	1 (2%)	96.9 (6%)
People not qualified as Teachers ¹⁰	13.5 (1%)	0 (0%)	n/a	n/a	13.5 (1%)
Total	1,220.75 (100%)	46.8 (100%)	168.34 (100%)	62.8 (100%)	1,498.69 (100%)

The following table instead shows the numbers of TODs in employment by their role.

¹⁰ This category was included in the separate survey for schools for deaf children in England and Northern Ireland carried out by CRIDE. It was not included in the CRIDE survey for Scotland which includes questions on schools for deaf children in Scotland.

Table 8: Number of TODs in employment overall by role

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Working mainly as a peripatetic TOD	628.72 (52%)	25.4 (54%)	92.04 (55%)	34.7 (55%)	780.86 (52%)
Working mainly in a resource provision	310.27 (25%)	3 (6%)	54.6 (32%)	24.7 (39%)	392.57 (26%)
Working mainly in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children or young people	2.9 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (3%)	4.9 (0%)
Working flexibly as a peripatetic TOD, in a resource provision and/or in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children or young people ¹¹	7.25 (1%)	0 (0%)	5.3 (3%)	1.4 (2%)	13.95 (1%)
Working mainly in a special school for deaf children	271.61 (22%)	18.4 (39%)	16.4 (10%)	n/a ¹²	306.41 (20%)
Total of figures given	1,220.75 (100%)	46.8 (100%)	168.34 (100%)	62.8 (100%)	1,498.69 (100%)

Figures for TODs in cochlear implant programmes across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales were collected in a separate short survey. Responses were received from 15 cochlear implant programmes. There were at least 28.8 fte fully qualified TODs reported in post, and 0.9 fte vacancies reported. This means there are 29.7 fte posts, of which 3% were vacant. There were no TODs in training for the mandatory qualification or not in training, or people who have not qualified as a teacher reported.

The following tables look in more detail at numbers and proportions of TODs in different roles or settings.

Table 9: Number of full time equivalent (fte) peripatetic or visiting TODs in employment

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
TODs with the mandatory qualification	557.32 (89%)	20.6 (81%)	66.98 (73%)	33.7 (97%)	678.6 (87%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification or intending to train within 3 years	67.5 (11%)	4.8 (19%)	20.4 (22%)	1 (3%)	93.7 (12%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	3.9 (1%)	0 (0%)	4.66 (5%)	0 (0%)	8.56 (1%)
Total	628.72 (100%)	25.4 (100%)	92.04 (100%)	34.7 (100%)	780.86 (100%)

¹¹ In Scotland this category also includes TODs working in schools for deaf children and young people (i.e. respondents could include any TODs who worked flexibly between settings, including to/from a special school for deaf children).

¹² There are no special schools for deaf children in Wales.

Table 10: Number of full time equivalent (fte) TODs in employment in resource provisions

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
TODs with the mandatory qualification	236.37 (76%)	1 (33%)	35.4 (65%)	23.7 (96%)	296.47 (76%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification or intending to train within 3 years	63.5 (20%)	1 (33%)	18.8 (34%)	0 (0%)	83.3 (21%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	10.4 (3%)	1 (33%)	0.4 (1%)	1 (4%)	12.8 (3%)
Total	310.27 (100%)	3 (100%)	54.6 (100%)	24.7 (100%)	392.57 (100%)

Table 11: Number of full time equivalent (fte) TODs in employment working in a special school or college for deaf children and young people¹³

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	UK
Teachers of the Deaf with the mandatory qualification	158.73 (58%)	6.8 (37%)	11.5 (70%)	177.03 (58%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification or intending to train within 3 years	35.44 (13%)	2 (11%)	4.9 (30%)	42.34 (14%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	63.94 (24%)	9.6 (52%)	0 (0%)	73.54 (24%)
People not qualified as Teachers ¹⁴	13.5 (5%)	0 (0%)	n/a	13.5 (4%)
Total	271.61 (100%)	18.4 (100%)	16.4 (100%)	306.41 (100%)

There were no special schools for deaf children and young people in Wales.

¹³ Please note that the figures for Scotland in this table are taken from the CRIDE Scotland survey whilst the other figures are taken from the separate survey of special schools in England and Northern Ireland that was carried out by CRIDE.

¹⁴ This category was included in the separate survey for schools for deaf children in England and Northern Ireland carried out by CRIDE. It was not included in the CRIDE survey for Scotland which included questions on schools for deaf children in Scotland.

Table 12: Number of full time equivalent (fte) TODs in employment working in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children or young people

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
TODs with the mandatory qualification	2.9 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (100%)	4.9 (100%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification or intending to train within 3 years	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total	2.9 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (100%)	4.9 (100%)

Table 13: Number of full time equivalent (fte) TODs in employment working flexibly between the peripatetic service, resource provisions and/or a special school or college not specifically for deaf children and young people

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland ¹⁵	Wales	UK
TODs with the mandatory qualification	6.95 (96%)	0 (0%)	2.5 (47%)	1.4 (100%)	10.85 (78%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification or intending to train within 3 years	0.3 (4%)	0 (0%)	0.8 (15%)	0 (0%)	1.1 (8%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (38%)	0 (0%)	2 (14%)
Total	7.25 (100%)	0 (0%)	5.3 (100%)	1.4 (100%)	13.95 (100%)

Changes in numbers of TODs

The following tables look at changes in numbers of TODs over time.

Particular caution is needed in interpreting these figures because of variation in response rates from year to year. For example, the surveys have not consistently asked about TODs in special schools for deaf children over the years.¹⁶ For this reason, figures looking at long-term changes in TODs since 2011 exclude TODs in special schools for deaf children.¹⁷ There are also different tables looking at short-term changes since 2023, that both include and exclude TODs in special schools.

It must also be taken into account that there are different response rates to the surveys in different years in different nations, and for the separate survey to special schools for deaf children.¹⁸

¹⁵ In Scotland this category also includes TODs working in schools for deaf children and young people.

¹⁶ The Scotland survey to services has included questions on TODs working in schools for deaf children since 2017. Figures for TODs in schools for deaf children have been collected from schools in England since 2018, and from the school in Northern Ireland since 2019. -

¹⁷ Additional caution is needed with the Scotland figures. From 2017, the CRIDE Scotland survey started to explicitly ask about Teachers of the Deaf in special schools for deaf children. However, feedback suggests that they may have been included in previous years also. If this is the case, then a long-term comparison of TODs in Scotland, including those in special schools for deaf children in both 2011 and 2023 would show a 30% decline, rather than the 37% decline shown in the relevant table.

¹⁸ Figures in these tables are shown to two decimal places.

Table 14: Long-term trends in number of qualified TODs (excluding TODs in special schools for deaf children in 2024)

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
2024 total (fte)	803.54	21.6	104.88	60.8	990.82
2011 total (fte)	1,062.11	34.9	165.3	71.95	1,334.26
Difference (fte)	-258.57	-13.3	-60.42	-11.15	-343.44
% change	-24%	-38%	-37% ¹⁹	-15%	-26%

*Table 15: Long-term trends in number of qualified TODs **and** trainee TODs (excluding TODs in special schools for deaf children in 2024)*

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
2024 total (fte)	934.84	27.4	144.88	61.8	1,168.92
2011 total (fte)	1,153.71	37.3	208.5	73.95	1,473.46
Difference (fte)	-218.87	-9.9	-63.62	-12.15	-304.54
% change	-19%	-27%	-31%	-16%	-21%

Table 16: Short-term trends in number of qualified TODs (excluding TODs in special schools for deaf children)

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
2024 total (fte)	803.54	21.6	104.88	60.8	990.82
2023 total (fte)	841.95	21	95.84	59.7	1,018.49
Difference (fte)	-38.41	0.6	9.04	1.1	-27.67
% change	-5%	3%	9%	2%	-3%

*Table 17: Short-term trends in number of qualified TODs **and** trainee TODs (excluding TODs in special schools for deaf children)*

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
2024 total (fte)	934.84	27.4	144.88	61.8	1,168.92
2023 total (fte)	937.15	27	134.24	64.3	1,162.69
Difference (fte)	-2.31	0.4	10.64	-2.5	6.23
% change	0	1%	8%	-4%	1%

¹⁹ As noted in an earlier footnote, additional caution is needed with this figure for Scotland. From 2018, the CRIDE Scotland survey started to explicitly ask about Teachers of the Deaf in special schools for deaf children. However, feedback suggests that they may have been included in previous years also. If this is the case, then a long-term comparison of TODs in Scotland, including those in special schools for deaf children in both 2011 and 2023 would show a 30% decline, rather than the 37% shown in the relevant table.

Table 18: Short-term trends in number of qualified TODs (including TODs in special schools for deaf children)

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
2024 total (fte)	962.27	28.4	116.38	60.8	1,167.85
2023 total (fte)	993.45	27	103.64	59.7	1,183.79
Difference (fte)	-31.18	1.4	12.74	1.1	-15.94
% change	-3%	5%	12%	2%	-1%

*Table 19: Short-term trends in number of qualified TODs **and** trainee TODs (including TODs in special schools for deaf children)*

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
2024 total (fte)	1,129.01	36.2	161.28	61.8	1,388.29
2023 total (fte)	1,149.85	35	151.84	64.3	1,400.99
Difference (fte)	-20.84	1.2	9.44	-2.5	-12.7
% change	-2%	3%	6%	-4%	-1%

Other specialist staff

There were 767 fte specialist staff, other than TODs, who are directly employed by services across the UK. At the time the surveys were completed, there were 65 fte vacant posts. If the number of vacant posts is added to the numbers of other specialist staff in employment, this means there were 832 fte other specialist staff posts, of which 8% were vacant.

The following table provides a breakdown of other specialist staff in employment by type of role.

Table 20: Number of full time equivalent (fte) specialist staff in post, directly employed by services

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Teaching assistants/Pupil support assistants/Classroom support assistants/Learning support assistants etc	340.95 (53%)	0	48.87 (52%)	19.73 (69%)	409.55 (53%)
Communication support workers etc	139.36 (22%)	0	22.6 (24%)	5.5 (19%)	167.46 (22%)
NRCPD/SRLPDC registered BSL/English interpreters	6.8 (1%)	0	1.2 (1%)	0 (0%)	8 (1%)
Deaf instructors/Deaf role models/Sign language instructors etc	53.823 (8%)	0	12.08 (13%)	0.77 (3%)	66.673 (9%)
Educational audiologists/Audiologists in Education who do not also hold a qualification as a TOD	7.2 (1%)	0	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	8.2 (1%)
Technicians et al	30.15 (5%)	0	0 (0%)	1.5 (5%)	31.65 (4%)
Speech and language therapists	7.6 (1%)	0	0.2 (0%)	0.2 (1%)	8 (1%)
Family support workers/Liaison officers	11.95 (2%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	11.95 (2%)
Social workers/Social workers for deaf children	0 (0%)	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Other	47.04 (7%)	0	7.51 (8%)	1 (3%)	55.55 (7%)
Total	644.873 (100%)	0	93.46 (100%)	28.7 (100%)	767.033 (100%)

There has been a very small decrease (a 0.4% decrease) in specialist staff in post (fte) directly employed by services between 2023 and 2024.

It should be noted that we have only included responses for 'Other' where an fte figure was given. Figures for vacant posts in each nation are presented in the individual reports.

PART 3: Support provided

Table 21: Where specialist education services are based

	England	Scotland	Wales	Great Britain
Based in the local authority	117 (88%)	21 (70%)	14 (100%)	152 (86%)
Based in a school with a resource provision	5 (4%)	3 (10%)	0 (0%)	8 (5%)
Based in a special school for deaf children	1 (1%)	3 (10%)	0 (0%)	4 (2%)
Based in a special school not specifically for deaf children	2 (2%)	2 (7%)	0 (0%)	4 (2%)
Provided by another body or organisation	3 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (2%)
Other	5 (4%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	6 (3%)
Total	133 (100%)	30 (100%)	14 (100%)	177 (100%)

As there is one service covering the whole Education Authority in Northern Ireland, this is not included in the above table.

Heads of services

Table 22: Qualifications of heads of services

	Number of services where TODs were managed by someone who is a qualified TOD or in training for the mandatory qualification	Number of services where TODs were not managed by someone who is a qualified TOD or in training for the mandatory qualification	Total
England	96 (73%)	36 (27%)	132 ²⁰
Northern Ireland	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	1
Scotland	17 (57%)	13 (43%)	30
Wales	6 (43%)	8 (57%)	14

²⁰ One service in England didn't answer this question.

Number of resource provisions

We use the term ‘resource provision’ to include all schools with any specialist resource provision, base or unit specifically for deaf children.

Table 23: Number of specialist resource provisions for deaf children

	England ²¹²²	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Total
For primary-aged deaf children	125.5	1	7	9	142.5
For secondary-aged deaf children	94.5	1	9	10	114.5
Total	220	2	16	19	257

Table 24: Number of resource provisions reported by responding services over successive years²³

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Total
2024	220	2	16 ²⁴	19	257
2023	227 ²⁵	2	15 ²⁶	19	263
2022	230	2	16	19 ²⁷	267
2021	237	3	14	20	274
2019	246	3	22	24	295
2018	240	3	22	25	290
2017	251	3	15	25	294
2016	260	3	No survey	24	287

Table 25: Number of resource provisions headed by a qualified TOD

	Number of resource provisions headed by a qualified TOD	Percentage of resource provisions in each nation
England	180	82%
Northern Ireland	1	50%
Scotland	14	88%
Wales	17	89%

We also looked at the number of resource provisions against the overall population of deaf children in each nation.

²¹ The England figures for resource provisions include one resource provision for both primary and secondary aged children. We have reported this as 0.5 in each age group.

²² In England a small number of services have reported how resource provisions are managed differently in recent years, but have also commented that there have been no changes to management.

²³ 2020 data not included because of lower response rate to the survey.

²⁴ A resource provision in Scotland was reported as opening since the 2023 survey.

²⁵ One service in England stated that two previous resource provisions merged into one resource provision since CRIDE 2022.

²⁶ We believe this apparent decrease in Scotland from 16 resource provisions in 2022 to 15 in 2023 is due to a special school for the deaf being reported in error as a resource provision in the previous survey.

²⁷ In one area in Wales, two resource provisions that were recorded separately in 2021 were recorded by the service as one in 2022, following both moving to one site.

Table 26: Population of deaf children covered by each resource provision

	Average ratio
England	213:1
Northern Ireland	802:1
Scotland	222:1
Wales	117:1
UK	211:1

This is intended to indicate the spread of resource provisions across each nation, relative to the overall population of deaf children. It shows that there was one resource provision for every 211 deaf children across the whole of the UK.

This is **not** a measure of the number of places available in or individual deaf children enrolled at each resource provision; figures for places or deaf children enrolled will vary from provision to provision. It should also be noted that this figure may be influenced by a range of different factors, including, for example, the number (if any) of special schools for deaf children in each nation and how urban/rural different areas are.

PART 4: Support following identification of deafness

We asked services how many referrals they received over the calendar year of 2023.

Table 27: Referrals

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	UK
Number of referrals for children identified as deaf through the newborn hearing screening programme	1,027 (14%)	52 (25%)	59 (11%)	41 (7%)	1,179 (13%)
Number of referrals for children identified as deaf outside of the newborn hearing programme and before they had started statutory education	1,782 (24%)	36 (17%)	128 (24%)	85 (15%)	2,031 (23%)
Number of referrals for children identified as deaf outside of the newborn hearing programme and after they had started statutory education	4,672 (62%)	121 (58%)	343 (65%)	438 (78%)	5,574 (63%)
Total	7,481 (100%)	209 (100%)	530 (100%)	564 (100%)	8,784 (100%)

We then asked how soon families were contacted and visited following the initial referral. These questions were drafted with reference to the [NatSIP Quality Standards for Sensory Support Services in England \(2016\)](#) – in particular, standards A1ii and A1iii.

We recognise there may be a range of reasons why initial contact or the first visit cannot take place within the timescales outlined by the quality standards (e.g. the family is not able to meet). It should also be noted that some services were not able to provide data for the questions on timescales for contacting families and offering visits to families. Therefore, the percentages for contact and visit timescales should not be assumed to apply to all services. However, we hope that these questions will help to build a national picture of how these quality standards are being met.

Table 28: Families referred who were contacted by a TOD within two working days if identified as deaf through the newborn hearing screening programme

	Percentage of families referred - 2023 calendar year
England	93%
Northern Ireland	88%
Scotland	73%
Wales	51%
UK	90%

Table 29: Families referred who were contacted by a TOD within five working days if identified as deaf outside of the newborn hearing screening programme and before they had started statutory education

	Percentage of families referred - 2023 calendar year
England	85%
Northern Ireland	92%
Scotland	59%
Wales	55%
UK	82%

Table 30: Families referred who were contacted by a TOD within five working days if identified as deaf outside of the newborn hearing screening programme and after they had started statutory education

	Percentage of families referred - 2023 calendar year
England	72%
Northern Ireland	83%
Scotland	52%
Wales	42%
UK	69%

Table 31: Families who were offered a visit (either face-to-face or virtually) from a TOD within 10 working days of any referral

	Percentage of families referred - 2023 calendar year
England	43%
Northern Ireland	51%
Scotland	35%
Wales	36%
UK	43%

PART 5: Thematic questions: Early identification and early intervention pathways

This year's CRIDE survey included some thematic questions about referrals into and accepted by education services. We asked these questions as we know that, across the UK, not all deaf children are referred into education services. We were keen to better understand if this is because the referrals are not made by audiology services or because they are not accepted by education (because of any eligibility criteria or policy in place).

Table 32: Groups of deaf children routinely not referred into services by audiology services

	England (number and percentage of services)	Northern Ireland (number and percentage of services)	Scotland (number and percentage of services)	Wales (number and percentage of services)	UK (number and percentage of services)
Not applicable - all children identified as deaf are referred	80 (60%)	1 (100%)	15 (50%)	11 (79%)	107 (60%)
Children with unilateral deafness	4 (3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (2%)
Children with mild deafness	2 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (1%)
Children with moderate deafness	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Children with temporary deafness	22 (17%)	0 (0%)	4 (13%)	0 (0%)	26 (15%)
Children without a hearing aid	26 (20%)	0 (0%)	7 (23%)	0 (0%)	34 (19%)

Services were also able to provide additional information on other groups of children routinely not referred. This information is included in the reports for individual countries.

Table 33: Groups of deaf children where a referral (if made) would not routinely be accepted

	England (number and percentage of services)	Northern Ireland (number and percentage of services)	Scotland (number and percentage of services)	Wales (number and percentage of services)	UK (number and percentage of services)
Not applicable - all referrals for children identified as deaf are accepted	89 (67%)	1 (100%)	25 (83%)	14 (100%)	129 (72%)
Children with unilateral deafness	4 (3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (2%)
Children with mild deafness	3 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (2%)
Children with moderate deafness	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Children with temporary deafness	13 (10%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	14 (8%)
Children without a hearing aid	19 (14%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	21 (12%)

Services were also able to provide additional information on other groups of children where a referral (if made) would not routinely be accepted. This information is included in the reports for individual countries.

We asked services if there was a school entry hearing screening programme in place in the areas they covered.

Table 34: School entry hearing screening programmes in place

	England (number and percentage of services)	Northern Ireland (number and percentage of services)	Scotland (number and percentage of services)	Wales (number and percentage of services)	UK (number and percentage of services)
Yes – across the whole area covered by the service	45 (34%)	0 (0%)	2 (7%)	8 (57%)	55 (31%)
Yes – but not across the whole area covered by the service	6 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (7%)	7 (4%)
No	62 (47%)	0 (0%)	22 (73%)	3 (21%)	87 (49%)
Don't know	20 (15%)	1 (100%)	6 (20%)	2 (14%)	29 (16%)

PART 6: Background and methodology

CRIDE is a consortium bringing together a range of organisations and individuals with a common interest in using research to improve the educational outcomes achieved by deaf children. At the time the survey was sent out, representatives included: British Association of Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People, British Association of Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People Cymru, Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children, Longwill School for the Deaf, National Deaf Children's Society, Royal School for the Deaf Derby, UCL, University of Edinburgh, former heads of services or consultants with expertise in deafness, and specialist education services for deaf children in Cambridgeshire, Camden, Kent, and Leeds.

The surveys for England, Northern Ireland and Wales were designed and created by members of CRIDE. The Scotland survey was modified and further developed by a separate CRIDE Scotland reference group.

This is the eighth year that a CRIDE Scotland reference group has been in place. Members of this group have worked to improve how the CRIDE survey fits within the Scottish education context, whilst ensuring the data collected can still be compared with the rest of the UK. Current members include: National Deaf Children's Society, Scottish Sensory Centre, University of Edinburgh, British Association of Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People, Aberdeenshire Sensory Service, Ayrshire Hearing Impairment Service, Fife Sensory Service and Highland Deaf Education Service.

The survey alternates from year to year between a standard survey and a survey with a mix of core and thematic questions. The 2024 survey was the version with a mix of core and thematic questions. The survey was disseminated to services in February 2024 by National Deaf Children's Society staff on behalf of CRIDE.

Analysis of the results using Excel and drafting of this report was largely completed by the National Deaf Children's Society, with guidance and clearance from members of CRIDE.

CRIDE would like to thank the services for taking the time to complete this survey. The results from this survey will be used for research purposes, to influence government policy and to campaign to protect funding and services for deaf children.

If you have any feedback or questions on the results, please contact cride@ndcs.org.uk.