

Hearing Loss and Hearing Aid Devices: for UK citizens

➤ NHS free to ALL ages on recommendation of GP

- ❑ **Sites** Differ on devices, wait time. GP may accept request for chosen site - check
- NHS sites independent advice, possible long waits - check
- Outsourced NHS beware pressure to buy expensive aids

❑ NHS Provides detailed audiogram hearing loss

❑ NHS Provides quality behind ear aids. Bluetooth possible connections, to:
iphone/ipad, oticon free; any phone/tablet, computer, smart TV, phonak free, oticon extra

➤ Hearing Aid features

- ❑ Microphone & amplifier behind ear NHS
- ❑ Microphone in ear. Microphone & amplifier in ear not NHS
- ❑ Number of programmes & what frequencies user can adjust NHS site dependent
- ❑ Independent microphone available? not NHS

Good for noisy places. Check NHS device can connect to separate microphone - will cost extra

➤ Private Check manufacturer/devices available, may be tied

❑ Possible free test. Can return for full refund within £30+ days

BUT may be charge associated with assessment on return - check

➤ Note 1. Wear aids ALL the time, even alone in silence. Brain adapts

➤ Note 2. Mild loss eligible train disability, but not bus pass

➤ Data. Your hearing helper has [hearing aid specs](#) for all available

❑ States if NHS, but no private prices. Comparison available but no summary table

Additional Information

➤ Resources

- ❑ [NHS](#) Good but longish
- ❑ National Deaf Children's Society ([NDCS](#))
- ❑ [Summary table](#) of hearing aids
- ❑ Private audiologists summaries give prices.
E.g. [hearingaid.org.uk](#), comparison but no summary table
- ❑ [On line hearing test](#). It is Boots – so still go to GP 1st for NHS options

➤ Power approximate cost : batteries £4/8, chargers £45 to £170

➤ Need for more evidence and information

- ❑ Research evidence including speech in various types of noise
Compare location of microphones and amplifiers: behind ear, in-ear
Assess different *programmes*. Assess role of user and software frequency choice
Assess benefits of independent microphone: round neck, on table with direction choice
- ❑ *Sortable* summary table of features and prices would be invaluable