

Why does Ireland need a National Hearing Care Plan?

Hearing loss is a major health burden in Ireland. Why? Firstly it affects 300,000 adults but only 1 in 5 have taken action. Virtually every family in Ireland has someone affected by hearing loss.

Secondly, those with unmanaged hearing loss have significant increased health risks: increased cognitive decline, depression, dementia and hospitalisation – with massive health and social costs that are entirely preventable.

Thirdly, Ireland currently provides hearing aids at less than 60% of the rate of the UK. There is a massive opportunity to reduce health costs and improve quality of life for many.

**Our two-tiered system
is totally disjointed
and inefficient**

SUPPORT US

Support us to get the
Department of Health to
deliver a National Hearing
Care Plan now!

Our Services:

- Information and advice
- Children and Families
- Young People
- Deaf community
- Hard of Hearing
- Specialist Services

Contact Chime

FREE PHONE: 1800 256 257
Email: info@chime.ie
www.chime.ie
CHY 5633 / RCN 20008772



Ireland needs a National Hearing Care Plan

NOW!

**Listen up
Leinster House!**



Hearing Aid provision in Ireland

Dept. of Health



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

PUBLIC PROVISION

Public provision for medical card holders has good clinical standards but long waiting lists.

- 24,000 people still on HSE waiting lists
- 12,000 of them are children
- Almost 40% of them are waiting over a year for their first appointment
- Over €4m in compensation paid in 3 cases of delayed diagnosis
- Waiting list initiative not working - waiting lists are still too high

UNACCEPTABLE

PRIVATE PROVISION

Private providers meet 66% of current provision. While there are no waiting lists, there is also no regulation and cost is a major barrier for many.

- No statutory regulation or standards in place
- 31,000 claim PRSI Hearing Aid Grant in 2025
- Increase of 127% PRSI Hearing Aid Grant claims in 2025 since the change of grant conditions in 2021

**NO
REGULATION**

**LOW
TRANSPARENCY**

HSE PUBLIC
PROVISION

34%

PRIVATE
PROVISION

66%

NATIONAL PLAN FOR HEARING CARE

- Working Group set up 2024 to develop recommendations on National Hearing Care Plan, but still no report
- Commitment made to lead discussion on agreed 'Model of Care'
- No indication of timeline for implementation of Hearing Care Plan
- No policy direction for Hearing Care

NO URGENCY

**LOST
OPPORTUNITY**