





# Summary of key findings

## *Deaf children in Northern Ireland*

There were at least 1,603 deaf children. This figure of 1,603 is a reported 12% increase from 1,428 in 2023.

## *Teachers of Deaf Children and other specialist staff*

There were at least 46.8 fte Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People (TOD) posts, of which none were vacant.

Of the 46.8 fte working as TODs, 61% held the mandatory qualification, whilst 17% were in training and 23% were qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training.

The number of qualified TODs in employment working in a peripatetic role or in a resource provision has increased by 3% since 2023 and decreased by 38% since we started the survey in 2011.

## *Resource provisions*

Two resource provisions specifically for deaf children and young people were reported, which is the same as in 2023. Looking at the spread of resource provisions across Northern Ireland, on average, there is one resource provision for every 802 deaf children. This a reported increase from 714 in 2023.

## *Support following identification of deafness*

The service received 209 referrals during the 2023 calendar year.

25% of referrals to the service were for children who had been identified via the newborn hearing screening programme in 2023. Of these, 88% were contacted by a TOD within two working days.

17% of referrals to the service were for children who had been identified outside of the newborn hearing screening programme -2(p)5nd Younged

## PART 1: Deaf children in Northern Ireland

How many deaf children are there?<sup>2</sup>

Based on the response from the service covering the fid

*Table 1: Number of deaf children reported, over successive years*

	Number of children reported
CRIDE 2024	1,603
CRIDE 2023	1,428
CRIDE 2022	1,476

How do CRIDE's 2024 figures compare to School Census figures?

Because of the differences in how data have been collected and different definitions used, CRIDE recommends the following figures be used as a basis for further debate and analysis, rather than to reach firm conclusions.

School Census data for 2023/24 was not available due to industrial action.

School Census figures for 2022/23<sup>4</sup> identified 1,420 pupils recorded with a 'hearing impairment' on the medical register. This amounts to 89% of the 1,603 children and young people under the age of 20 identified by CRIDE.

Some of these pupils have been recorded with an SEN for hearing impairment on the SEN register also. 833 children are on the SEN register. Of these, 546 had a mild or moderate hearing impairment and 287 had a severe or profound hearing impairment.

Separately, the School Census reports that 512 deaf children on the SEN register have a statement of SEN. This equates to 36% of the deaf children identified by the School Census. It also equates to 32% of children and young people under the age of 20 identified by CRIDE.

It should be noted that the School Census figure will not include deaf children with other needs where deafness is not the primary need. In addition, not all deaf children will be registered as having an SEN.

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

We asked how many TODs are working in different settings, including those in a peripatetic role, working in resource provisions<sup>5</sup> and/or working in a special school or college not specifically for deaf children or young people. We also separately asked the school for deaf children in Northern Ireland how many TODs were working in the school. We found that:

overall, there were at least 46.8 fte people working as TODs in Northern Ireland.

61% of these posts were occupied by fully qualified TODs, 17% were occupied by teachers in training for the mandatory qualification, and 23% were occupied by qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training. No posts were reported for people not qualified as Teachers.<sup>6</sup>

at the time the survey was completed, no vacant posts were reported.

The following table provides a breakdown by type of setting.

*Table 2: Number of TOD posts overall<sup>7</sup>*

	Working mainly as a peripatetic TOD (total and percentage)	Working mainly in a resource provision (total and percentage)	Working mainly in a special school for deaf children (total and percentage)	TOD posts overall (total and percentage)
TODs with the mandatory qualification	20.6 (81%)	1 (33%)	6.8 (37%)	28.4 (61%)
Teachers in training for the mandatory qualification or intending to train within 3 years	4.8 (19%)	1 (33%)	2 (11%)	7.8 (17%)
Qualified teachers without the mandatory qualification and not in training	0 (0%)	1 (33%)	9.6 (52%)	10.6 (23%)
Total - in employment	25.4 (100%)	3 (100%)	18.4 (100%)	46.8 (100%)

No TODs were reported as working mainly in special schools or colleges not specifically for deaf children, or as





Table 4: Changes in numbers of TODs from year to year

	TODs with the mandatory qualification in employment	Number of teachers working as TODs in employment	Number of vacant posts	Number of TOD posts (including vacancies)
2024	21.6	28.4	0	28.4
2023	21	27	1.4	28.4
2022	22.6	24.4	2	26.4
2021	26.5	26.5	0	26.5
2019	25.2	26	3	29
2018	28.4	29.2	5	34.2





The service commented that there was a new trend of referrals from health before hearing aids are fitted, especially for the temporary conductive losses which the service would not have seen before. They reported that this affects first visits because schools/parents do not want a visit before hearing aids are fitted.

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

