

RCSLT responds to 2025 UK Parkinson's Audit

2 March 2026

The data from the [2025 UK Parkinson's Audit](#), published on 2 March 2026, reveals that while patient satisfaction with speech and language therapy is at an all-time high, the service is facing significant capacity challenges which are impacting timely access to specialist support.

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists (RCSLT) is delighted the Audit reports that 88.2% of people rated the quality of speech and language therapy services as either "good or "excellent", marking a notable improvement from previous audit cycles.

Despite these successes, the data reflects ongoing pressures on speech and language therapy services. While over half of referrals are seen within 8 weeks, over 40% of experiencing longer waits. These increasing wait times likely reflect rising referral volumes alongside limited capacity.

The trends show a shift in when patients access care. While we are pleased to see the quantity of intervention at the maintenance stage enables people to live well, we remain concerned that limited capacity may impact the ability to see people in the diagnostic and complex stages. Early specialist intervention is crucial, as it can significantly reduce communication and swallowing challenges before they escalate.

The RCSLT takes career-long continuing professional development seriously. We hope that our joint [RCSLT and Parkinson's UK Parkinson's guidance](#), which was published in December 2025, will increase speech and language therapists' knowledge and confidence in evidence-based assessment and management of Parkinson's.

Without targeted investment in the speech and language therapy workforce to address limited capacity, wait times will continue to rise. This risks further sidelining

early intervention and increasing the likelihood of avoidable health complications, such as aspiration, and communication breakdown.