



TITLE: DUDLEY PRIORITY HEALTH NHS TRUST, West Midlands, UK

IAC Bulletin MED/06.00

IAC EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED:

A Mobile Audiology Unit

This mobile audiology unit makes hearing testing possible almost anywhere. Comprising a 2.55m x 1.8m test room and small adjacent waiting area, the unit is mounted on a Ford Cargo chassis and can simply be driven to wherever it is needed. It was constructed using 100mm thick modular acoustic panels, from IAC's Noishield® range, which create the very quiet conditions needed inside the room to perform accurate hearing tests. The unit has its own ventilation and heating systems, lighting and power supplies and was decorated internally by IAC with sound-absorbing ceiling/wall fabrics and carpets.

Dudley Priority Health NHS Trust uses the mobile unit to perform hearing tests on local school children - typically 5-6 year olds - allowing any hearing defect to be detected at any early stage. By taking the unit to individual schools, Trust staff can ensure that screening is carried out thoroughly, quickly and at far lower cost than if pupils had to be tested at separate appointments in other locations.

The unit is also available to local companies. For a nominal charge, staff from the Trust's Audiology Service will conduct hearing tests on company employees, especially those thought to be at risk from noise-induced hearing loss. The unit has even been used for assessing the hearing of young male drivers on ITV's *Motoring Madness* programme.

Demand for mobile audiology units, both for clinical and occupational screening, is on the increase and IAC is now able to incorporate other medical screening procedures - such as X-rays, lung function and vision testing - into its mobile units.

Details of IAC's complete service in audiology room design and construction - from small booths to major, turnkey, multi-room suites - can be found in IAC brochure AR/1.00.

