

Responses to National Statistics consultation on proposed changes to how and what data are collected for two National Statistics Publications: Outpatient Waiting Times and Outpatient Activity.

Information and Analysis Directorate (IAD), within the Department of Health, is responsible for the production and publication of a range of Health and Social Care statistics for Northern Ireland, covering Hospital Activity, Community Services, Public Health, Patient Experience, Family Health Services and Workforce Statistics. These statistics can be accessed from the DoH website at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/doh-statistics-and-research>.

IAD carried out a detailed review of two statistical publications and identified a number of areas for improvement that would allow resources to be redirected to carry out more value-added intelligent analysis whilst also reducing burden on HSC Trusts. As a result of the review, IAD conducted a National Statistics consultation proposing changes to the methodology of and content of two publications. This consultation began on 11th October 2019 and closed on 6th December 2019.

This was a very open consultation and specifically asked users if they were content that IAD:

1. Adopt a new methodology of extracting patient level data relating to the number of patients waiting for a first consultant led outpatient appointment from the HSC Data Warehouse. This would replace the quarterly aggregate returns submitted to HIB by the Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts. Data using the revised methodology would be published for the Quarter Ending March 2020 onwards;
2. Collect outpatient activity data at Trust level rather than for each Hospital Site within each Trust. This data is currently provided to HIB by HSC Trusts on a quarterly basis. Outpatient activity data collected from 1 April 2020 would instead be at Trust level, and data using the revised methodology would be published for the year ending 31 March 2021.

Three responses were received to the consultation and these can be found at Appendix 1. All responses were supportive of the proposals and consequently the Department of Health will now implement the proposed changes. Publications produced using the previous methodology will continue to be available online and new publications will make clear any impact on comparability across years.

APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Details of respondent

Organisation(s) represented	SOUTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST
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1. Are you content that HIB adopt the proposed change in the methodology for the production of statistics on Outpatient Waiting Times as outlined in Section 3.3?

Yes No

If no, please provide reason for this response:

2. Are you content with the validation process proposed for Outpatient Waiting Times as outlined in Section 3.3?

Yes No

If no, please outline reasons for this response together with suggestions for alternative / additional validation.

3. Are you in agreement that HIB should commence the publication of data on outpatient waiting times derived from the proposed new methodology for the position at the end of March 2020?

Yes No

If no, please provide reason for this response:

4. Are you content that HIB adopt the proposed change for the production of statistics on Outpatient Activity as outlined in Section 4.3?

Yes No

If no, please provide reason for this response:

5. Are you in agreement that HIB should commence the publication of data on outpatient activity excluding hospital site for the position at the end of March 2021?

Yes No

If no, please provide reason for this response:

General comments

6. Do you have any other comments relevant to this consultation?

Details of respondent

Organisation(s) represented	BELFAST HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST
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1. Are you content that HIB adopt the proposed change in the methodology for the production of statistics on Outpatient Waiting Times as outlined in Section 3.3?

Yes No

If no, please provide reason for this response:

2. Are you content with the validation process proposed for Outpatient Waiting Times as outlined in Section 3.3?

Yes No

If no, please outline reasons for this response together with suggestions for alternative / additional validation.

3. Are you in agreement that HIB should commence the publication of data on outpatient waiting times derived from the proposed new methodology for the position at the end of March 2020?

Yes No

If no, please provide reason for this response:

4. Are you content that HIB adopt the proposed change for the production of statistics on Outpatient Activity as outlined in Section 4.3?

Yes No

If no, please provide reason for this response:

5. Are you in agreement that HIB should commence the publication of data on outpatient activity excluding hospital site for the position at the end of March 2021?

Yes No

If no, please provide reason for this response:

General comments

6. Do you have any other comments relevant to this consultation?

I agree with the proposed change to the outpatient activity. It will identify correctly the outpatient attendances for Belfast Trust and not outpatient attendances at individual hospitals. Currently the way it is published at hospital level more and more identifies the PAS box the activity is recorded on and not where the clinic was held.

Details of respondent

Organisation(s) represented	<u>SOUTH EASTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST</u>
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1. Are you content that HIB adopt the proposed change in the methodology for the production of statistics on Outpatient Waiting Times as outlined in Section 3.3?

Yes No

If no, please provide reason for this response:

2. Are you content with the validation process proposed for Outpatient Waiting Times as outlined in Section 3.3?

Yes No

If no, please outline reasons for this response together with suggestions for alternative / additional validation.

3. Are you in agreement that HIB should commence the publication of data on outpatient waiting times derived from the proposed new methodology for the position at the end of March 2020?

Yes No

If no, please provide reason for this response:

4. Are you content that HIB adopt the proposed change for the production of statistics on Outpatient Activity as outlined in Section 4.3?

Yes No

If no, please provide reason for this response:

5. Are you in agreement that HIB should commence the publication of data on outpatient activity excluding hospital site for the position at the end of March 2021?

Yes No

If no, please provide reason for this response:

General comments

6. Do you have any other comments relevant to this consultation?