

INFORMATION
ANALYSIS
DIRECTORATE



Northern Ireland Waiting Time Statistics: Cancer Waiting Times (July – September 2016)



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

Reader Information

Purpose	<p>This publication presents information on waiting times for cancer services at hospitals in Northern Ireland during July, August and September 2016 and reports on the performance of Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts in Northern Ireland, against the 2016/17 Ministerial Target for cancer care services, which state that:</p> <p><i>“From April 2016, all urgent breast cancer referrals should be seen within 14 days; at least 98% of patients diagnosed with cancer should receive their first definitive treatment within 31 days of a decision to treat; and at least 95% of patients urgently referred with a suspected cancer should begin their first definitive treatment within 62 days.”</i></p> <p>All data are presented by Health and Social Care Trust and, where applicable, by tumour site.</p>
Statistical Quality	<p>The ‘Cancer Waiting Times Publication – Supporting Documentation’ booklet details the technical guidance, definitions, as well as notes on how to use the data contained within this statistical release. This booklet is available to view or download from the following link: https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/cancer-waiting-times</p>
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Latest Quarterly Performance

62 Day Ministerial Target

At least 95% of patients should begin their first treatment for cancer within 62 days following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer.

	July 2016	August 2016	September 2016
Percentage treated within 62 days following urgent referral	70.4%	67.2%	63.6%
Achieves Ministerial Target?	NO	NO	NO

31 Day Ministerial Target

At least 98% of patients diagnosed with cancer should receive their first definitive treatment within 31 days of a decision to treat.

	July 2016	August 2016	September 2016
Percentage treated within 31 days of decision to treat	93.3%	94.4%	93.7%
Achieves Ministerial Target?	NO	NO	NO

14 Day Ministerial Target

All urgent breast cancer referrals should be seen within 14 days.

	July 2016	August 2016	September 2016
Percentage seen within 14 days of Breast Cancer referral	84.6%	79.8%	95.8%
Achieves Ministerial Target?	NO	NO	NO

62 Day Target

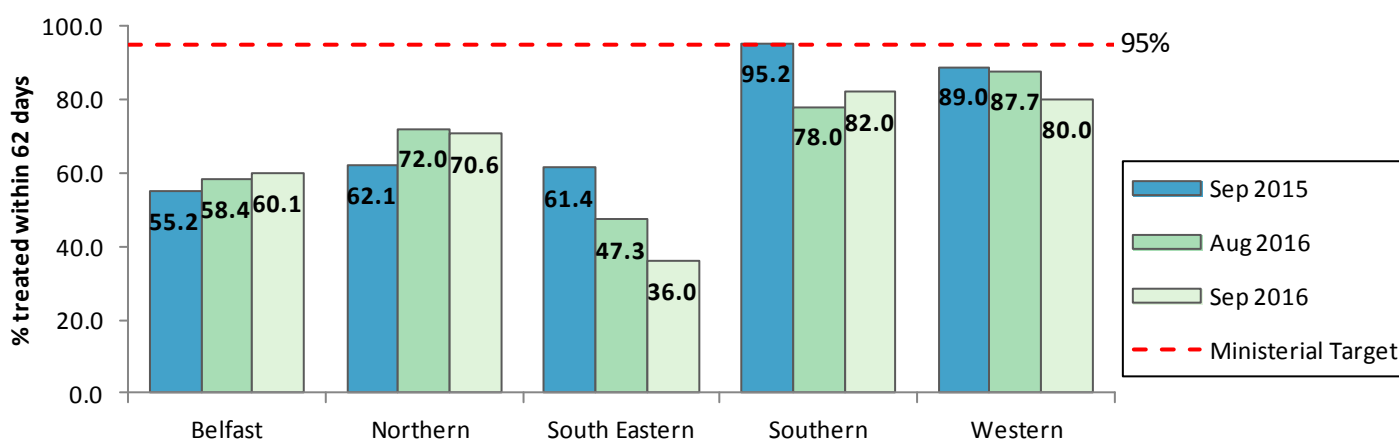
Patients first treated following an urgent GP referral for Suspected Cancer



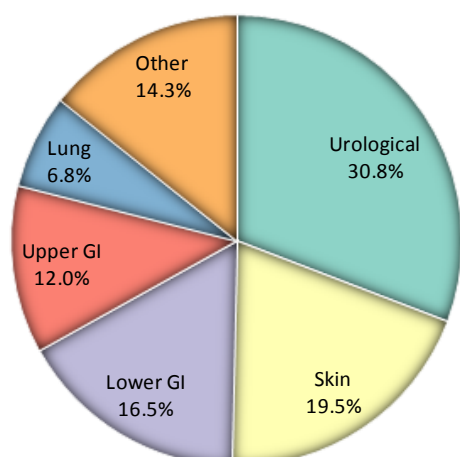
In September 2016, 365 patients commenced their first treatment for cancer following an urgent referral for suspect cancer, an increase of 7 since September 2015 (Table 3).

For the same period the percentage treated within 62 days decreased from 69.6% (249 patients) in September 2015 to 63.6% (232 patients) in September 2016 (Table 3).

Trust Performance



All HSC Trusts failed to meet the Ministerial target during September 2016 (Table 1).



Waits over 62 Days by Tumour Site

Of the 133 patients waiting longer than 62 days for treatment in September 2016, 41 (30.8%) were diagnosed with urological cancer and 26 (19.5%) were diagnosed with skin cancer (Table 2).

31 Day Target

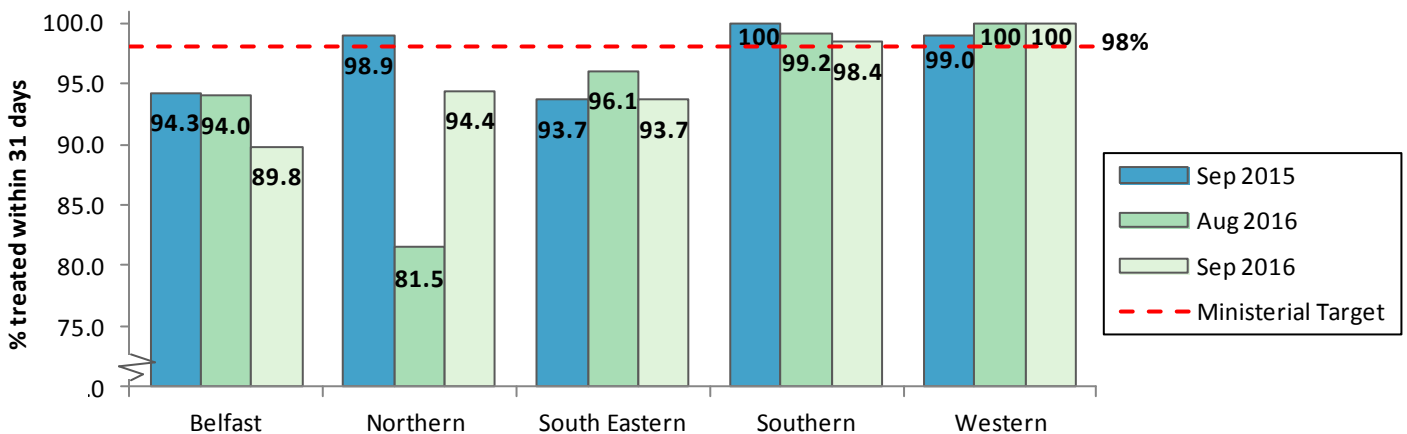
No. of Patients first treated following a decision to treat



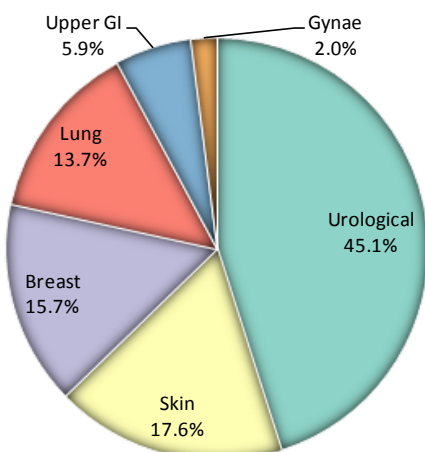
In September 2016, 809 patients commenced their first treatment for cancer following a decision to treat, an increase of 4 since September 2015 (Table 6).

For the same period the percentage of patients treated within 31 days decreased from 96.4% (776 patients) in September 2015 to 93.7% (758 patients) in September 2016 (Table 6).

Trust Performance



The Southern and Western HSC Trusts achieved the 98% Ministerial target during September 2016, with the Western Trust having all patients treated within 31 days following a decision to treat. The Belfast, Northern and South Eastern Trusts failed to achieve the target (Table 4).



Waits over 31 Days by Tumour Site

Of the 51 patients waiting longer than 31 days in September 2016, almost half (23, 45.1%) were diagnosed with urological cancer, and 17.6% (9 patients) were diagnosed with skin cancer (Table 5).

14 Day Target

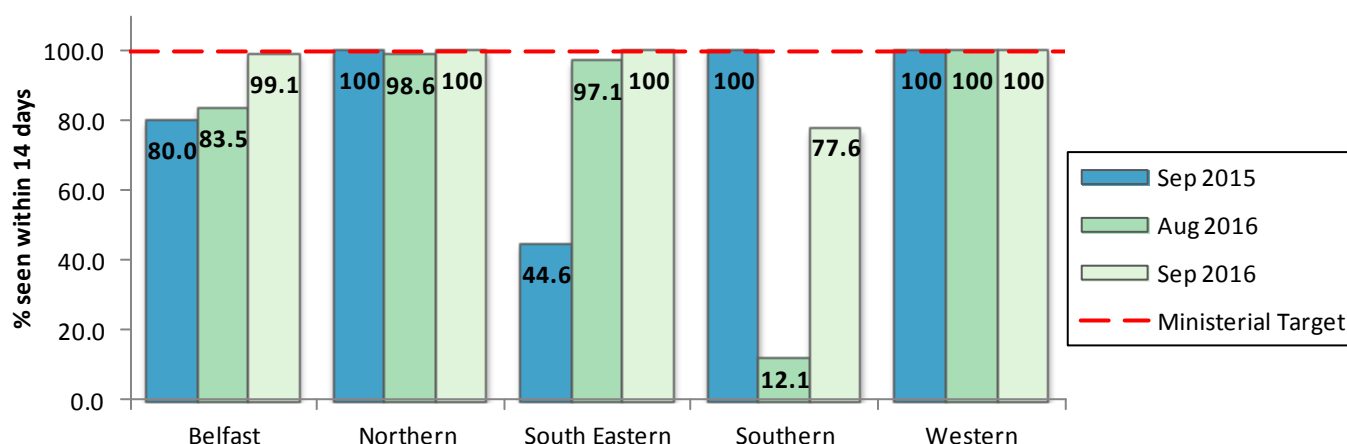
No. of Patients first seen by a breast cancer specialist following an urgent referral for suspect cancer



In September 2016, 1,381 patients were first seen by a breast cancer specialist following an urgent referral for suspect breast cancer, an increase of 127 since September 2015 (Table 8).

For the same period the percentage of patients first seen within 14 days increased from 87.4% (1,096 patients) in September 2015 to 95.8% (1,323 patients) in September 2016 (Table 8).

Trust Performance



Across HSC Trusts, the Northern, South Eastern and Western Trusts met the 14 Day Ministerial target during September 2016, with all patients seen within 14 days. The Belfast and Southern Trusts failed to meet the target, with the Belfast Trust falling just short of the target at 99.1% (Table 7).

Additional Tables

Table 1: Number of patients who commenced first treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer, in Northern Ireland (July – September 2016)²

	Total treated			Treated within 62 days from receipt of Referral			% treated within 62 days		
	Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016	Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016	Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016
HSC Trust									
Belfast	104.0	113.0	114.0	60.5	66.0	68.5	58.2%	58.4%	60.1%
Northern	49.5	59.0	59.5	35.5	42.5	42.0	71.7%	72.0%	70.6%
South Eastern	54.0	65.5	75.0	38.0	31.0	27.0	70.4%	47.3%	36.0%
Southern	51.5	70.5	64.0	41.5	55.0	52.5	80.6%	78.0%	82.0%
Western	55.0	61.0	52.5	45.5	53.5	42.0	82.7%	87.7%	80.0%
Northern Ireland	314	369	365	221	248	232	70.4%	67.2%	63.6%

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

²Refer to Explanatory Notes – Points 1-5.

Table 2: Number of patients who commenced first treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer, by tumour site (July – September 2016)³

Cancer Type	Total treated			Treated within 62 days from receipt of Referral			% treated within 62 days		
	Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016	Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016	Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016
Brain/ CNS	0	0	1	0	0	1	-	-	100.0%
Breast	64	80	65	60	70	61	93.8%	87.5%	93.8%
Gynae	20	26	15	15	16	10	75.0%	61.5%	66.7%
Haematological	12	12	12	10	10	9	83.3%	83.3%	75.0%
Head/Neck	8	18	8	5	10	7	62.5%	55.6%	87.5%
Lower GI	29	33	35	16	17	13	55.2%	51.5%	37.1%
Lung	23	26	31	15	14	22	65.2%	53.8%	71.0%
Sarcomas	0	0	1	0	0	1	-	-	100.0%
Skin	51	72	68	43	59	42	84.3%	81.9%	61.8%
Upper GI	20	25	30	6	9	14	30.0%	36.0%	46.7%
Urological	80	73	90	46	40	49	57.5%	54.8%	54.4%
Other	7	4	9	5	3	3	71.4%	75.0%	33.3%
Northern Ireland	314	369	365	221	248	232	70.4%	67.2%	63.6%

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

³Refer to Explanatory Notes – Points 1-6.

Table 3: Number of patients who commenced first treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer, in Northern Ireland (July 2015 – September 2016)⁴

Month	Total Treated	Treated within 62 from receipt of referral	% treated within 62 days
July 2015	332	240	72.3%
August 2015	302	198	65.6%
September 2015	358	249	69.6%
October 2015	305	196	64.3%
November 2015	385	286	74.3%
December 2015	370	267	72.2%
January 2016	314	208	66.2%
February 2016	334	240	71.9%
March 2016	335	240	71.6%
April 2016	329	225	68.4%
May 2016	331	229	69.2%
June 2016	386	277	71.8%
July 2016	314	221	70.4%
August 2016	369	248	67.2%
September 2016	365	232	63.6%

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

⁴Refer to Explanatory Notes – Points 1-5 & 7

Table 4: Number of patients who commenced first treatment, for all cancers in HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland (July – September 2016)⁶

HSC Trust	Total treated			Treated within 31 days of a decision to treat			% treated within 31 days		
	Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016	Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016	Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016
Belfast	298	335	344	270	315	309	90.6%	94.0%	89.8%
Northern	86	108	90	72	88	85	83.7%	81.5%	94.4%
South Eastern	120	127	142	113	122	133	94.2%	96.1%	93.7%
Southern	107	123	127	107	122	125	100.0%	99.2%	98.4%
Western	116	128	106	116	128	106	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Northern Ireland	727	821	809	678	775	758	93.3%	94.4%	93.7%

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

⁶Refer to Explanatory Notes – Points 1-2 & 8-9.

Table 5: Number of patients who commenced first treatment, for all cancers, in Northern Ireland by tumour site (July – September 2016)⁷

Cancer Type	Total treated			Treated within 31 days of a decision to treat			% treated within 31 days		
	Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016	Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016	Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016
Brain/ CNS	7	12	11	7	12	11	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Breast	101	142	113	86	120	105	85.1%	84.5%	92.9%
Gynae	40	54	37	35	54	36	87.5%	100.0%	97.3%
Haematological	59	71	45	59	71	45	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Head/Neck	20	34	21	20	34	21	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Lower GI	88	94	97	88	93	97	100.0%	98.9%	100.0%
Lung	91	98	113	85	92	106	93.4%	93.9%	93.8%
Sarcomas	2	2	2	2	2	2	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Skin	97	110	122	92	107	113	94.8%	97.3%	92.6%
Upper GI	62	66	76	60	64	73	96.8%	97.0%	96.1%
Urological	140	126	155	124	115	132	88.6%	91.3%	85.2%
Other	20	12	17	20	11	17	100.0%	91.7%	100.0%
Northern Ireland	727	821	809	678	775	758	93.3%	94.4%	93.7%

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

⁷Refer to Explanatory Notes – Points 1-2 & 8-10.

Table 6: Number of patients who commenced first treatment, for all cancers, in Northern Ireland (July 2015 – September 2016)⁶

Month	Total treated	Treated within 31 days of a decision to treat	% treated within 31 days
July 2015	820	792	96.6%
August 2015	727	698	96.0%
September 2015	805	776	96.4%
October 2015	807	782	96.9%
November 2015	852	810	95.1%
December 2015	820	795	97.0%
January 2016	772	731	94.7%
February 2016	804	774	96.3%
March 2016	781	746	95.5%
April 2016	795	731	91.9%
May 2016	764	715	93.6%
June 2016	854	794	93.0%
July 2016	727	678	93.3%
August 2016	821	775	94.4%
September 2016	809	758	93.7%

Source: Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS)

⁶Refer to Explanatory Notes – Points 1-2 & 8-9

Table 7: Number of patients seen by a breast cancer specialist following an urgent referral for suspect cancer in HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland (July – September 2016)⁹

HSC Trust	Total seen			Waited 14 days or less			% seen within 14 days		
	Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016	Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016	Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sep 2016
Belfast	261	345	341	227	288	338	87.0%	83.5%	99.1%
Northern	257	288	348	250	284	348	97.3%	98.6%	100.0%
South Eastern	203	242	195	203	235	195	100.0%	97.1%	100.0%
Southern	149	232	246	21	28	191	14.1%	12.1%	77.6%
Western	224	239	251	224	239	251	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Northern Ireland	1,094	1,346	1,381	925	1,074	1,323	84.6%	79.8%	95.8%

Source: Departmental Return SDR 2.

⁹Refer to Explanatory Notes – points 1-2 & 11-13

Table 8: Number of patients seen by a breast cancer specialist following an urgent referral for suspect cancer in Northern Ireland (July 2015 – September 2016)^{9,10}

Month	Total seen	Waited 14 days or less	% seen within 14 days
July 2015	1,208	1,032	85.4%
August 2015	1,161	940	81.0%
September 2015	1,254	1,096	87.4%
October 2015	1,324	1,115	84.2%
November 2015	1,548	785	50.7%
December 2015	1,503	744	49.5%
January 2016	1,269	901	71.0%
February 2016	1,243	1,069	86.0%
March 2016	1,310	1,158	88.4%
April 2016	1,287	968	75.2%
May 2016	1,268	818	64.5%
June 2016	1,433	916	63.9%
July 2016	1,094	925	84.6%
August 2016	1,346	1,074	79.8%
September 2016	1,381	1,323	95.8%

Source: Departmental Return SDR 2

⁹Refer to Explanatory Notes – points 1-2 & 11-13

Appendix 1: Explanatory Notes

1. The sources for the data contained in this release are the Departmental Return SDR2 and the Cancer Patient Pathway System (CaPPS).
2. The 2016/17 Ministerial Target for cancer waiting times, as detailed in the Health and Social Care (Commissioning Plan) Direction (Northern Ireland) 2016, states that from April 2016, (i) at least 95% of patients should begin their first treatment for cancer within 62 days following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer; (ii) at least 98% of patients diagnosed with cancer should receive their first definitive treatment within 31 days of a decision to treat; and (iii) all urgent breast cancer referrals should be seen within 14 days.
3. Data contained in Tables 1, 2, and 3 relate to patients who received a first definitive treatment for cancer (having been given an 'International Classification of Diseases 10' (ICD 10) diagnosis) during each of the three months covered in the publication, following an urgent referral for suspect cancer from a General Practitioner or a routine GP referral that has subsequently been reclassified as urgent by a cancer specialist. Data for all cancers are included with the exception of basal cell carcinoma. Figures also include all patients living outside Northern Ireland and all privately funded patients treated in Health and Social Care hospitals in Northern Ireland. Referrals from sources other than a GP, routine referrals and patients who have not been given an ICD 10 diagnosis are excluded.
4. The completed waiting time in Tables 1, 2, and 3 is measured from the date an initial urgent GP referral for suspect cancer is received by the Provider Health and Social Care Trust and ends on the date the patient receives their first definitive treatment for cancer. Adjustments are made to the completed waiting time in the event of a patient cancelling or self deferring treatment or as a result of suspension for either medical or social reasons.
5. The measurement of a patient's waiting time in Tables 1, 2, and 3 include cases in which a patient was initially referred to a particular Health and Social Trust for consultant assessment but was then subsequently transferred to another Health and Social Care Trust for treatment. In such cases, the responsibility for that patient is shared, with 0.5 allocated to the Trust where the patient was first assessed and 0.5 to the Trust of first treatment. For example, if a patient is initially referred for assessment in the South Eastern HSC Trust and is then transferred to the Belfast HSC Trust where they receive treatment 70 days after their initial GP referral, both the South Eastern and Belfast HSC Trusts will report 0.5 of a patient treated who waited over 62 days.
6. Table 2 reflects the number of patients that were treated in 62 days or less for each tumour site. Tumour sites are an aggregation of applicable ICD 10 codes.
7. Between April 2008 and February 2009, the target relating to waiting time for treatment following an urgent GP referral for suspect cancer required that 'at least 75% of patients urgently referred with a suspect cancer should begin their first definitive treatment within 62 days of urgent GP referral'. From March 2009 onwards this target increased to 95% of patients.
8. Data contained in Tables 4, 5, and 6 relate to all patients who received a first definitive treatment for cancer (having been given an ICD 10 diagnosis) during each of the three months covered in the publication, irrespective of their source or type of referral. Data include treatment for all cancers, with the exception of basal cell carcinoma. Figures also include all patients living outside Northern Ireland and all privately funded patients treated in Health and Social Care hospitals in Northern Ireland. Patients that have not been given an ICD 10 diagnosis are excluded.
9. The completed waiting time in Tables 4, 5, and 6 is measured from the date a decision is taken to treat a patient for cancer and ends on the date the patient receives their first definitive treatment for cancer. The decision to treat is the date on which the patient and the clinician agree the planned

treatment. Adjustments are made to the completed waiting time in the event of a patient cancelling or self-deferring treatment or as a result of suspension for either medical or social reasons.

10. Table 5 reflects the number of patients that were treated in 31 days or less for each tumour site. Tumour sites are an aggregation of applicable ICD 10 codes.
11. Data contained in Tables 7 and 8 relate to all urgent referrals (excluding those that have been reclassified as routine by the breast specialist) for suspect breast cancer, and routine referrals that have subsequently been reclassified as urgent by a breast specialist that were first seen during each of the three months covered in the publication. Figures also include patients living outside Northern Ireland and all privately funded patients seen in Health and Social Care hospitals in Northern Ireland.
12. The completed waiting time in Tables 7 and 8 is measured from the date an initial breast cancer referral is first received by the Provider HSC Trust, and ends on the date that the patient attends their first outpatient appointment with a breast cancer specialist. Adjustments are made to the completed waiting time in the event of a patient cancelling, self-deferring or failing to attend a first outpatient appointment.
13. Figures provided in Tables 7 and 8 reflect all urgent referrals for breast cancer both from GP's and other practitioners.
14. Information on the grouping of ICD 10 codes by tumour site is available at the following link: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/cancer-waiting-times>
15. HIB surveyed data providers during 2011/12 to ascertain the cost of producing, validating and submitting the information required for this publication. This relates to the time taken to generate, validate and submit data, over and above what is already required by their organisation for internal performance management purposes. The cost to data providers of compliance with HIB's requirements for this publication, based on HSC salary costs, was £2,378.
16. Monthly data relating to cancer waiting times have also been presented in spreadsheet format (Microsoft Excel), split by HSC Trust, and where applicable tumour site, in order to aid secondary analysis. These data are available at the following link: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/cancer-waiting-times>
17. Information on waiting times for the months of October, November and December 2016 will be published on Thursday 30th March 2016.
18. Data contained within this publication are National Statistics.

Further information on cancer waiting times in Northern Ireland, is available from:

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