

INFORMATION  
ANALYSIS  
DIRECTORATE



# Northern Ireland Waiting Time Statistics: Inpatient and Day Case Waiting Times Quarter Ending March 2020

# Reader Information

---

**Purpose:** This statistical release presents information on waiting times for admission for either inpatient or day case treatment in Northern Ireland and reports on the performance of the Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts against the 2019/20 Ministerial waiting time target which states that:

*“By March 2020, 55% of patients should wait no longer than 13 weeks for inpatient/day case treatment, with no patient waiting longer than 52 weeks.”*

This statistical release details information on the number of patients waiting, and length of time waiting, for inpatient and day case admissions in HSC Trusts at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Data are presented by HSC Trust, specialty and time band. It also includes inpatient and day case activity commissioned by the Health Service during the quarter ending March 2020.

**Statistical Quality:** The *‘Inpatient and Day Case Waiting Times Publication – Supporting Documentation’* booklet details the technical guidance and definitions used, as well as notes on how to use the data contained within this statistical release. This booklet is available to view or download from:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/inpatient-and-day-case-waiting-times-supporting-documentation>

**Internet:** <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/inpatient-waiting-times>

**Authors:** Mary Farrelly, Adam Robinson, Siobhán Morgan

**Publication Date:** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**Reporting Period:** 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

**Issued by:** Hospital Information Branch  
Information & Analysis Directorate  
Department of Health  
Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT4 3SQ

**Contact Information and further copies:** [statistics@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@health-ni.gov.uk)

**Target audience:** Department of Health (DoH), Chief Executives of the HSC Board and Trusts in Northern Ireland, health care professionals, Health & Social Care stakeholders, academics, the media and the general public.

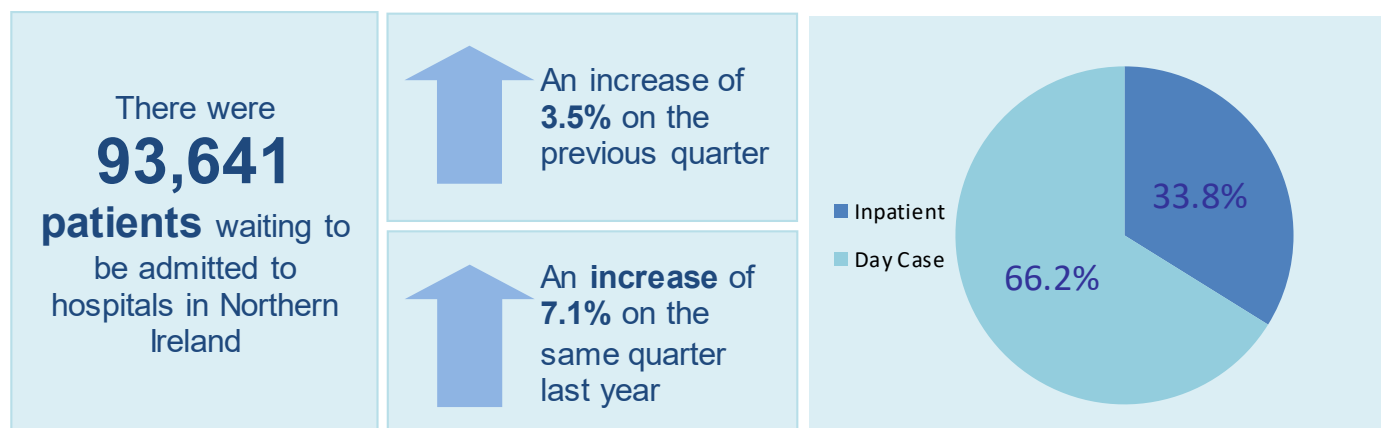
**Price:** Free

**Copyright:** This publication is Crown copyright and may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium. Any material used must be acknowledged, and the title of the publication specified.

## Contents

Total number of patients waiting for Inpatient and Day Case Admissions .....	4
Patients waiting longer than 13 weeks for Inpatient and Day Case Admissions.....	5
Patients waiting longer than 52 weeks for Inpatient and Day Case Admissions.....	6
Completed waits for Inpatient and Day Case Activity commissioned by the Health Service...	7
Patients waiting at a Regional Assessment and Surgical Centre.....	8
Appendix 1: Tables.....	9
Appendix 2: Explanatory Notes.....	13

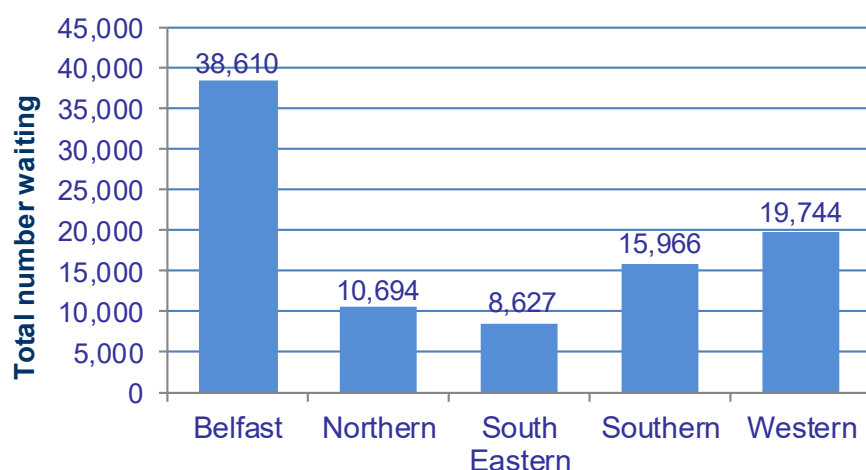
## Total number of patients waiting at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020



Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, a total of 93,641 patients were waiting to be admitted to hospitals in Northern Ireland, 3.5% (3,127) more than at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 (90,514), and 7.1% (6,191) more than at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 (87,450) (Table 1).

One third (33.8%, 31,696) of those waiting for admission at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 were waiting for an inpatient admission, with the remaining 66.2% (61,945) waiting for a day case admission (Table 1).



A number of inpatient and day case services may not be provided at a patient's local HSC Trust, and instead are provided at a single regional centre for Northern Ireland. As patients are reported against the HSC Trust responsible for the service that will be providing treatment, users should be cautious in how they use these data (see explanatory note 11).

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

Over two fifths (41.2%) were waiting to be admitted in the Belfast HSC Trust, with a further 21.1% waiting in the Western HSC Trust, 17.1% in the Southern HSC Trust, 11.4% in the Northern HSC Trust and 9.2% in the South Eastern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

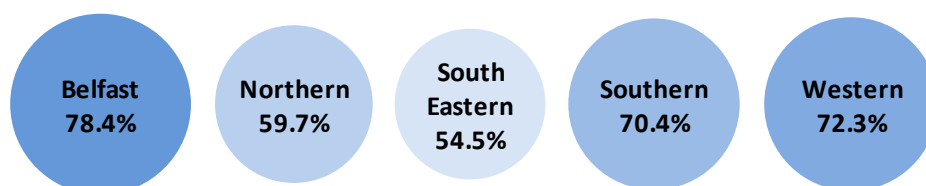
Of the 93,641 patients waiting for admission, four fifths (81.1%, 75,955) were in one of the following specialties: General Surgery (19,442); T & O Surgery (18,050); ENT (11,050); Urology (7,887); Ophthalmology (7,360); Gastroenterology (6,291) and Gynaecology (5,875) (Table 3a).

## Patients waiting more than 13 weeks at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

By March 2020, 55% of patients should wait no longer than 13 weeks for inpatient/day case treatment

This element was **not achieved** by Northern Ireland as a whole

**71.4%**  
of patients were waiting longer than 13 weeks



### Percentage waiting over 13 weeks

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

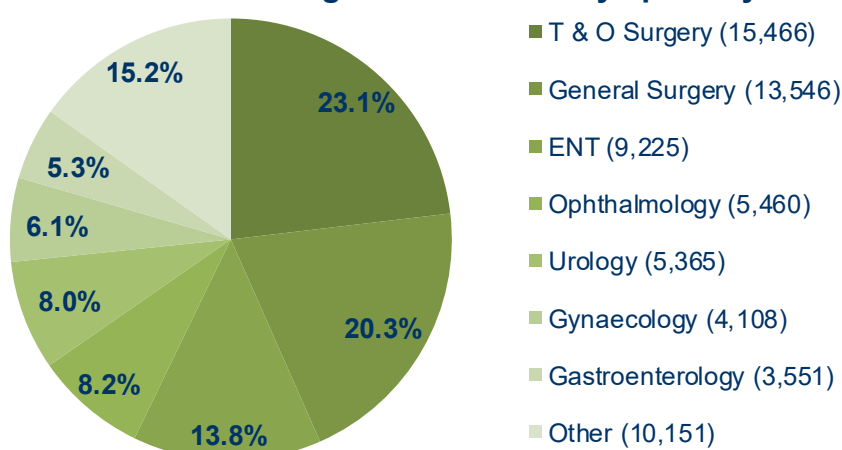
Achievement of the 13 week target requires that less than 45% of patients should be waiting over 13 weeks for inpatient or day case admission.

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, 71.4% (66,872) of patients were waiting more than 13 weeks to be admitted for treatment, compared with 68.7% (62,163) at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 and 65.0% (56,871) at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 (Table 1).

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, the 13 week element of the target was not achieved by Northern Ireland as a whole (Table 2a), or by the HSC Trusts. Data users should be aware that many inpatient and day case services are not provided at every HSC Trust (see explanatory note 11).

Of patients waiting for an inpatient admission, over four-fifths (83.5%, 26,471) were waiting over 13 weeks. This is compared with 65.2% (40,401) waiting over 13 weeks for a day case admission (Table 1).

### Patients waiting over 13 weeks by speciality



Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

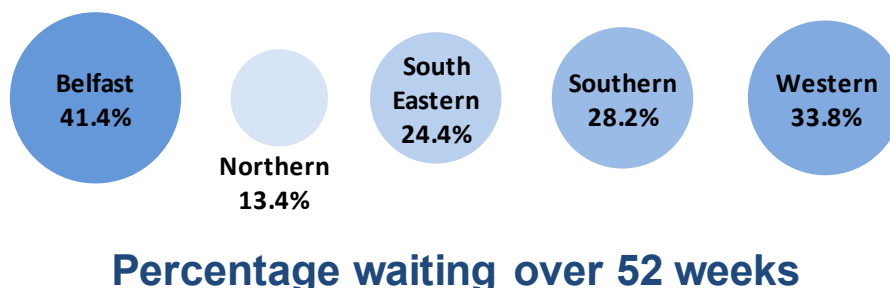
Over four fifths (84.8%, 56,721) of the 66,872 patients waiting more than 13 weeks at the end of March 2020 were in one of the following specialties: T & O Surgery (15,466); General Surgery (13,546); ENT (9,225); Ophthalmology (5,460); Urology (5,365); Gynaecology (4,108) and Gastroenterology (3,551) (Table 3a).

## Patients waiting more than 52 weeks at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

By March 2020, no patient should wait longer than 52 weeks for inpatient/day case treatment

This element was **not achieved** by Northern Ireland as a whole

**30,696**  
patients were waiting longer than 52 weeks



### Percentage waiting over 52 weeks

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

Achievement of the 52 week target requires that no patient should be waiting over 52 weeks for inpatient or day case admission.

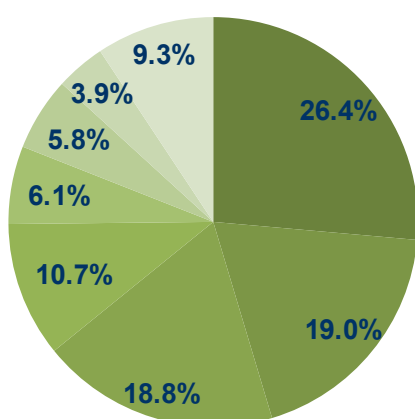
At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, 32.8% (30,696) of patients were waiting more than 52 weeks for either an inpatient or day case admission, compared with 29.9% (27,090) at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, and 25.6% (22,350) at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 (Table 1).

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, the 52 week element of the target was not achieved by Northern Ireland as a whole or by any individual HSC Trust (Table 2a). Data users should be aware that many inpatient and day case services are not provided at every HSC Trust (see explanatory note 11).

Over two fifths (41.4%, 15,984) of patients in the Belfast HSC Trust were waiting longer than 52 weeks at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, a third (33.8%, 6,675) in the Western HSC Trust, 28.2% (4,507) in the Southern HSC Trust, 24.4% (2,101) in the South Eastern HSC Trust and 13.4% (1,429) in the Northern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

Of those waiting more than 52 weeks, 15,065 were waiting for an inpatient admission and 15,631 were waiting for a day case admission (Table 1).

### Patients waiting over 52 weeks by specialty



- T & O Surgery (8,105)
- ENT (5,819)
- General Surgery (5,769)
- Urology (3,278)
- Ophthalmology (1,887)
- Gynaecology (1,779)
- Plastic Surgery (1,201)
- Other (2,858)

Over nine tenths (90.7%, 27,838) of the 30,696 patients waiting more than 52 weeks on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 were in one of the following specialties: T & O Surgery; ENT; General Surgery; Urology; Ophthalmology; Gynaecology and Plastic Surgery (Table 3a).

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

## Completed waits for inpatient and day case activity during quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

There were  
**17,549**

admissions for inpatient and day case treatment in Northern Ireland commissioned by the Health Service



A **decrease** of 59.4% on the previous quarter

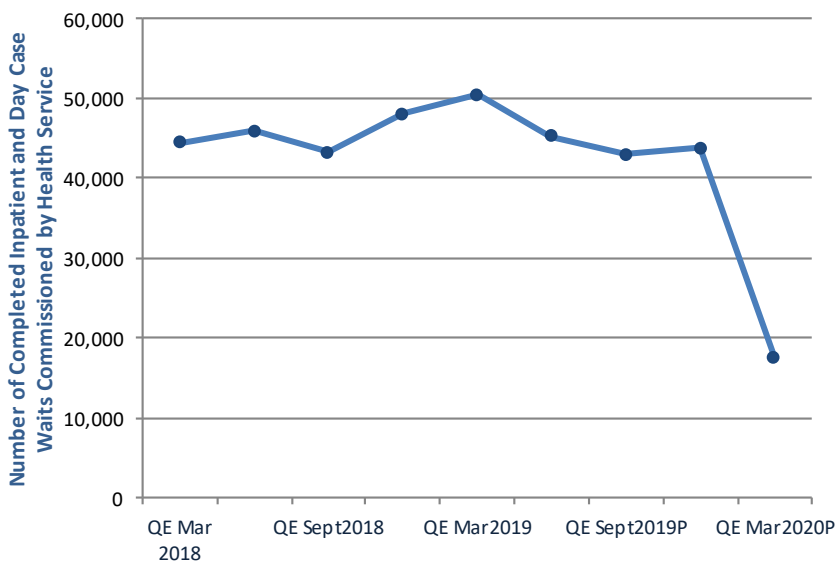


A **decrease** of 65.2% on the same quarter last year

Source: Hospital Inpatient System & IS1 Part 2 Return

A total of 14,235 patients were admitted to Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland during the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, 65.1% (26,537) fewer than during the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 (40,772) and 67.6% (29,633) fewer than during the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 (43,868) (Table 4).

During the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, 3,314 patients received inpatient or day case treatment commissioned by the Health Service within the Independent Sector, 35.0% (860) higher than the number seen during the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 (2,454), and around half that seen during quarter ending March 2019 (6,595)



Source: Hospital Inpatient System & IS1 Part 2 Return

<sup>P</sup> Data are currently provisional

<sup>R</sup> Revised figures

When the number of completed inpatient and day case waits within the Independent Sector during the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 (3,314) is combined with those treated in Health Service hospitals during the same period (14,235), provisional figures indicate that 17,549 inpatients and day cases received treatment in Northern Ireland commissioned by the Health Service. This was a 59.4%

(25,677) decrease in the number of completed waits commissioned by the Health Service between the quarter ending December 2019 (43,226) and the quarter ending March 2020 (17,549) and a decrease of 65.2% (32,914) compared to quarter ending March 2019 (50,463) (Table 4).

## Patients waiting at a Regional Assessment and Surgical Centre (RASC) at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020



Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

In October 2016 the then Health Minister launched 'Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together,' a strategy which underpins the Northern Ireland Executive's draft Programme for Government ambition to support people to lead long, healthy and active lives.

As part of this strategy, the Elective Care Plan was published in February 2017 which stated that 'Regional Elective Care Assessment and Treatment Centres will be established to deliver large volumes of assessments and non-complex routine surgery across a broad range of specialties.' In December 2018, prototype 'Regional Assessment and Surgical Centres' (RASCs) became operational for the surgical treatment of Cataracts and Varicose Veins. Patients waiting for either of these procedures can now be referred to a RASC for treatment rather than attend the hospital site they may have been referred to previously.

RASCs have been set up in the following locations:

RASC	Location(s) of Regional Centre
Cataracts	Mid Ulster Hospital (Northern HSC Trust) Down Hospital (South Eastern HSC Trust) South Tyrone Hospital (Southern HSC Trust)
Varicose Veins	Lagan Valley Hospital (South Eastern HSC Trust) Omagh Urgent Care and Treatment Centre (Western HSC Trust)

Due to these changes in operational service delivery and concomitant changes in how inpatient waiting times are recorded, the following data and information about RASC Waiting Lists is provisional and subject to revision. They are not National Statistics.

At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, 932 patients were waiting to be admitted to a Varicose Veins RASC, with a further 2,362 patients waiting to be admitted to a Cataracts RASC (Table 5).



## Appendix 1: Tables

**Table 1: Quarterly inpatient and day case waiting lists – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020<sup>1</sup>**

Type of Admission		Current Quarter (Mar 20)	Previous Quarter (Dec 19)	Same Quarter Last Year (Mar 19)
<b>Inpatient</b>	Total Patients Waiting	31,696	30,640	29,150
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	26,471	25,115	23,203
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	83.5%	82.0%	79.6%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	30,696	27,090	22,350
<b>Day Case</b>	Total Patients Waiting	61,945	59,874	58,300
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	40,401	37,048	33,668
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	65.2%	61.9%	57.7%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	15,631	13,447	10,760
<b>All Admissions</b>	Total Patients Waiting	93,641	90,514	87,450
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	66,872	62,163	56,871
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	71.4%	68.7%	65.0%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	46,327	40,537	33,110

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–14 & 18-19

**Table 2a: Number of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020<sup>1</sup>**

HSC Trust	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting						Total Waiting for Admission
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52	
Belfast	3,592	4,752	3,815	2,354	8,113	15,984	38,610
Northern	2,236	2,078	1,472	855	2,624	1,429	10,694
South Eastern	2,274	1,650	800	406	1,396	2,101	8,627
Southern	2,376	2,349	1,933	1,143	3,658	4,507	15,966
Western	2,724	2,738	1,964	1,156	4,487	6,675	19,744
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,202</b>	<b>13,567</b>	<b>9,984</b>	<b>5,914</b>	<b>20,278</b>	<b>30,696</b>	<b>93,641</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–14 & 18-19

**Table 2b: Percentage of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020<sup>1</sup>**

HSC Trust	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting					
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52
Belfast	9.3%	12.3%	9.9%	6.1%	21.0%	41.4%
Northern	20.9%	19.4%	13.8%	8.0%	24.5%	13.4%
South Eastern	26.4%	19.1%	9.3%	4.7%	16.2%	24.4%
Southern	14.9%	14.7%	12.1%	7.2%	22.9%	28.2%
Western	13.8%	13.9%	9.9%	5.9%	22.7%	33.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.1%</b>	<b>14.5%</b>	<b>10.7%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>21.7%</b>	<b>32.8%</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–14 & 18-19

**Table 3a: Number of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by weeks waiting and specialty – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020<sup>1</sup>**

Specialty	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting						Total Waiting for Admission
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52	
General Surgery	3,095	2,801	2,124	1,302	4,351	5,769	19,442
T & O Surgery	600	1,984	1,687	1,150	4,524	8,105	18,050
Ophthalmology	745	1,155	1,023	582	1,968	1,887	7,360
ENT	797	1,028	915	543	1,948	5,819	11,050
Urology	1,463	1,059	556	322	1,209	3,278	7,887
Gynaecology	812	955	704	395	1,230	1,779	5,875
Gastroenterology	1,568	1,172	941	502	1,261	847	6,291
General Medicine	1,643	927	506	251	1,124	215	4,666
Cardiology	500	471	302	200	641	88	2,202
Pain Management	209	322	248	97	516	514	1,906
Plastic Surgery	324	365	217	134	527	1,201	2,768
Oral Surgery	203	192	97	83	145	165	885
Paediatric Surgery	90	125	112	58	205	174	764
GP Other	256	274	109	42	30	1	712
Dermatology	290	232	143	88	134	81	968
Paediatrics	54	90	49	38	153	255	639
Neurology	69	45	46	32	53	70	315
Rheumatology	120	90	3	2	1	0	216
Neurosurgery	50	46	25	18	72	107	318
Other	314	234	177	75	186	341	1,327
<b>All Specialties</b>	<b>13,202</b>	<b>13,567</b>	<b>9,984</b>	<b>5,914</b>	<b>20,278</b>	<b>30,696</b>	<b>93,641</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–14 & 18-19

**Table 3b: Percentage of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by weeks waiting and specialty – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020<sup>1</sup>**

Specialty	Percentage of Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting					
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52
General Surgery	15.9%	14.4%	10.9%	6.7%	22.4%	29.7%
T & O Surgery	3.3%	11.0%	9.3%	6.4%	25.1%	44.9%
Ophthalmology	10.1%	15.7%	13.9%	7.9%	26.7%	25.6%
ENT	7.2%	9.3%	8.3%	4.9%	17.6%	52.7%
Urology	18.5%	13.4%	7.0%	4.1%	15.3%	41.6%
Gynaecology	13.8%	16.3%	12.0%	6.7%	20.9%	30.3%
Gastroenterology	24.9%	18.6%	15.0%	8.0%	20.0%	13.5%
General Medicine	35.2%	19.9%	10.8%	5.4%	24.1%	4.6%
Cardiology	22.7%	21.4%	13.7%	9.1%	29.1%	4.0%
Pain Management	11.0%	16.9%	13.0%	5.1%	27.1%	27.0%
Plastic Surgery	11.7%	13.2%	7.8%	4.8%	19.0%	43.4%
Oral Surgery	22.9%	21.7%	11.0%	9.4%	16.4%	18.6%
Paediatric Surgery	11.8%	16.4%	14.7%	7.6%	26.8%	22.8%
GP Other	36.0%	38.5%	15.3%	5.9%	4.2%	0.1%
Dermatology	30.0%	24.0%	14.8%	9.1%	13.8%	8.4%
Paediatrics	8.5%	14.1%	7.7%	5.9%	23.9%	39.9%
Neurology	21.9%	14.3%	14.6%	10.2%	16.8%	22.2%
Rheumatology	55.6%	41.7%	1.4%	0.9%	0.5%	0.0%
Neurosurgery	15.7%	14.5%	7.9%	5.7%	22.6%	33.6%
Other	23.7%	17.6%	13.3%	5.7%	14.0%	25.7%
<b>All Specialties</b>	<b>14.1%</b>	<b>14.5%</b>	<b>10.7%</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>21.7%</b>	<b>32.8%</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–14 & 18-19

**Table 4: Number of completed inpatient and day case waits commissioned by the Health Service: QE December 2016 - QE March 2020<sup>2</sup>**

Quarter Ending	Number of Completed Inpatient and Day Case Waits		
	Within Health Service Hospitals	Independent Sector*	Total Commissioned by Health Service
QE June 2017	44,641	599	45,240
QE Sept 2017	41,467	339	41,806
QE Dec 2017	44,351	545	44,896
QE Mar 2018	41,586	2,793	44,379
QE Jun2018	44,735	1,164	45,899
QE Sept2018	42,077	1,135	43,212
QE Dec2018	45,499	2,514	48,013
QE Mar2019	43,868	6,595	50,463
QE Jun2019P	43,004	2,196	45,200
QE Sept2019P	41,566	1,358	42,924
QE Dec2019P	41,251	2,454	43,705
QE Mar2020P	14,235	3,314	17,549

Source: Hospital Inpatient System & IS1 Part 2 Return

<sup>P</sup>Data are currently provisional

<sup>R</sup>Data has been revised

\*Not National Statistics

<sup>2</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1, 4 & 15-19

**Table 5: Table 5: Number of patients waiting for admission to Regional Assessment and Surgical Centre (RASC), 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

RASC	Number of patients waiting for RASC Admission by Weeks Waiting						Total Waiting
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52	
Varicose Veins	64	182	120	93	354	119	<b>932</b>
Cataracts	301	556	402	240	603	260	<b>2,362</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>3,294</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

## Appendix 2: Explanatory Notes

1. The sources for the data contained in this release are the DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset, Hospital Inpatient System and IS1 Part 2 Return. These returns collect information from Health and Social Care Trusts on a quarterly basis.

2. The '*Inpatient and Day Case Waiting Times Publication – Supporting Documentation*' booklet details the technical guidance and definitions used, as well as notes on how to use the data contained within this statistical release. This booklet is available to view or download from: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-waiting-time-statistics-inpatient-waiting-times-March-2020>.

3. All of the data contained in the tables are available on a quarterly basis and can be supplied by individual specialty or Provider HSC Trust if this level of detail is required. In addition, quarterly data relating to inpatient and day case waiting times have been published in spreadsheet format (CSV), split by HSC Trust, Specialty, Programme of Care and Intended Management of the patient (i.e. Inpatient Admission or Day Case), in order to aid secondary analysis. These data are available at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/inpatient-waiting-times-March-2020>.

4. Information includes patients living outside Northern Ireland and privately funded patients waiting for treatment in Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland.

5. Inpatient and day case waiting list data comprise the number of patients waiting for inpatient admission to hospital and the number of patients waiting for day case treatment.

6. Inpatient admissions can include both (a) patients admitted electively with the expectation that they will remain in hospital for at least one night, and (b) non-elective admissions (e.g. emergency admissions). A patient who is admitted with either of the above intentions, but who leaves hospital for any reason without staying overnight, is still counted as an inpatient admission.

7. Day Cases are patients admitted electively during the course of a day with the intention of receiving care who do not require the use of a hospital bed overnight and who return home as scheduled. If this original intention is not fulfilled and the patient stays overnight, such a patient is counted as an inpatient admission.

8. The inpatient and day case waiting list figures do not include:

- Patients admitted as emergency cases;
- Outpatients;
- Patients undergoing a planned programme of treatment e.g. a series of admissions for chemotherapy;

- Patients waiting for admission as a regular day or night attender
- Maternity (specialties 510 and 520);
- Patients currently receiving inpatient treatment in hospitals who are included on other waiting lists;
- Patients who are temporarily suspended from waiting lists.

9. Waiting time begins from the date the clinician decided to admit the patient. Patients who cannot attend (CNA) have their waiting time adjusted to commence on the date they informed the HSC Trust they could not attend, while patients who do not attend (DNA) have their waiting time adjusted to commence on the date of the DNA.

10. Some people will be waiting on more than one waiting list or be on the waiting list for more than one outpatient appointment/admission/diagnostic test at the same time due to having more than one condition.

11. The Ministerial target, for inpatient and day case waiting times, as set out in the Health and Social Care (Commissioning Plan) Direction states that, by March 2020, at least 55% of patients should wait no longer than 13 weeks for inpatient or day case treatment, with no patient waiting longer than 52 weeks.

12. A number of inpatient and day case services may not be provided at a patient's local HSC Trust or at each of the five HSC Trusts, and instead are provided at a single regional centre for Northern Ireland. In such circumstances, patients from one HSC Trust area will be waiting to be seen at a service provided at another HSC Trust. Users should therefore be cautious in how they use these data. For example, they should not be used to calculate the total number of patients waiting per head of the population residing within each Trust area, as HSC Trusts that provide services for the whole of Northern Ireland will have a higher number of patients waiting per head of the population than those that provide more localised services. Neither should the actual number of patients waiting longer than the recommended waiting time be used as indicator of poor performance within an individual HSC Trust. Users who require an indication of the latter are advised to refer to the commentary section of the publication which provides an indication of the percentage of total waiters that have been waiting over the maximum recommended waiting times, within each HSC Trust.

13. For Tables 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b, each inpatient and day case waiting time band relates to the number of completed weeks a patient has been waiting for admission for treatment. For example, a patient waiting exactly 6 weeks would be included in the 0-6 week time band and a patient waiting 6 weeks and 1 day would be included in the >6-13 (greater than 6 weeks but waiting no longer than 13 weeks) week time band. Patients waiting 'more than 13 weeks' includes all patients in the >13-21, >21-26,

>26-52 and >52 time bands. Patients waiting 'more than 52 weeks' includes all patients in the >52 time band.

14. Patients waiting for day case endoscopies are included within both inpatient and diagnostic waiting times; as such, figures should not be added together.

15. The total number of completed inpatient waits within HSC hospitals each quarter is sourced from the Hospital Inpatient System. During the financial year, data from the Hospital Inpatient System will be marked as provisional. This is because information on inpatient admissions continuously improves during the year before being finalised. Consequently, quarterly information from the Hospital Inpatient System, for the most recent financial year, will be revised on a quarterly basis.

16. The number of completed inpatient waits within HSC hospitals each quarter do not include :

- Elective planned patients
- Emergency patients
- Maternity (specialties 510 and 520)
- Private patients
- Amenity patients
- Mental Health and Learning Disability patients
- Others (including transfers)

17. The numbers of patients who received inpatient treatment, commissioned by the Health Service, in the Independent Sector, are provided by the HSC Board. They are not National Statistics and they have not been validated by the Department, however, they have been included to provide users with a comprehensive view of completed inpatient waits during each quarter.

18. 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 annual cost to data providers of compliance with HIB's requirements for this publication, based on HSC salary costs, was £1,670.

19. Figures relating to inpatient and day case waiting times for the quarter ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 will be released on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

## Appendix 3: National Statistics

Data contained within this publication are National Statistics except for information relating to RASC Waiting Lists and or completed inpatient and day case waits.

National Statistics status means that our statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value, and it is our responsibility to maintain compliance with these standards.

The statistics last underwent a full assessment against the Code of Practice in 2011:

[https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/images-assessmentreport153statisticsonhospitalwaitingtimesinnorthernirelan\\_tcm97-41176.pdf](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/images-assessmentreport153statisticsonhospitalwaitingtimesinnorthernirelan_tcm97-41176.pdf)

Designation was awarded in March 2013:

[https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/images-letterofconfirmationasnationalstatisticsassessmentreport15\\_tcm97-42663.pdf](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/images-letterofconfirmationasnationalstatisticsassessmentreport15_tcm97-42663.pdf)

Since the assessment by the Office for Statistics Regulation, we have continued to comply with the Code of Practice for Statistics.



**Further information on Inpatient and Day Case Waiting Times in Northern Ireland is available from:**

Hospital Information Branch  
Information & Analysis Directorate  
Department of Health  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast, BT4 3SQ

✉ Email: [statistics@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@health-ni.gov.uk)

**This Statistical bulletin and others published by Hospital Information Branch are available to download from the DoH Internet site at:**

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/doh-statistics-and-research>