

INFORMATION
ANALYSIS
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Northern Ireland Waiting Time Statistics: Inpatient and Day Case Waiting Times Quarter Ending September 2016



Department of
Health
An Roinn Sláinte
Máinnystrie O Poustie
www.health-ni.gov.uk

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 2016/17 Ministerial waiting time target which states that:

“By March 2017, 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 30th September 2016. 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 September 2016.

Statistical Quality: The ‘*Inpatient and Day Case 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/publications/northern-ireland-waiting-time-statistics-inpatient-waiting-times-september-2016>

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

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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

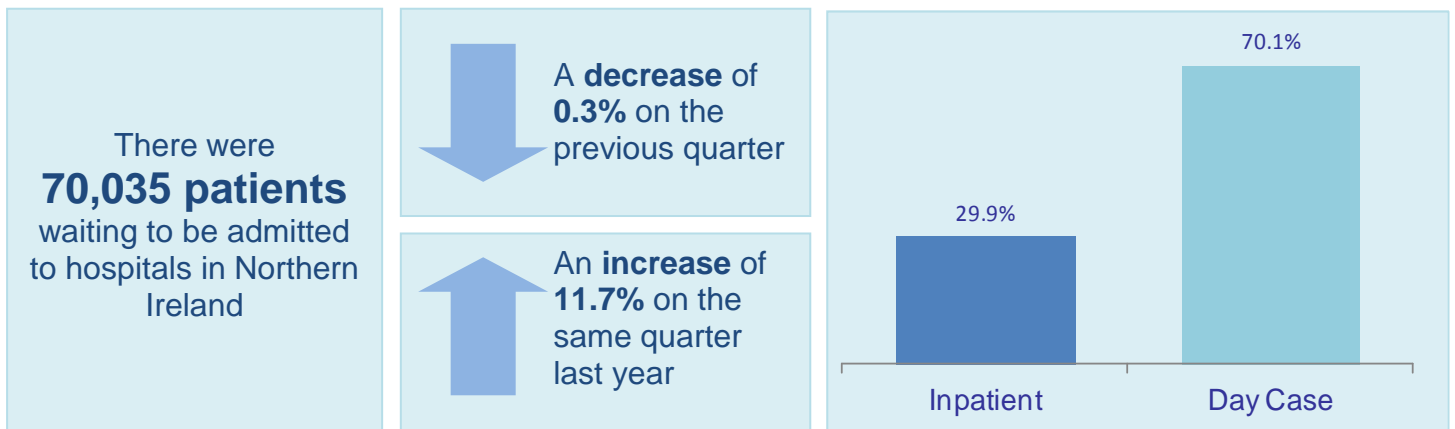
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By March 2017, 55% of patients should wait no longer than 13 weeks for inpatient/day case treatment, with no patient waiting longer than 52 weeks.

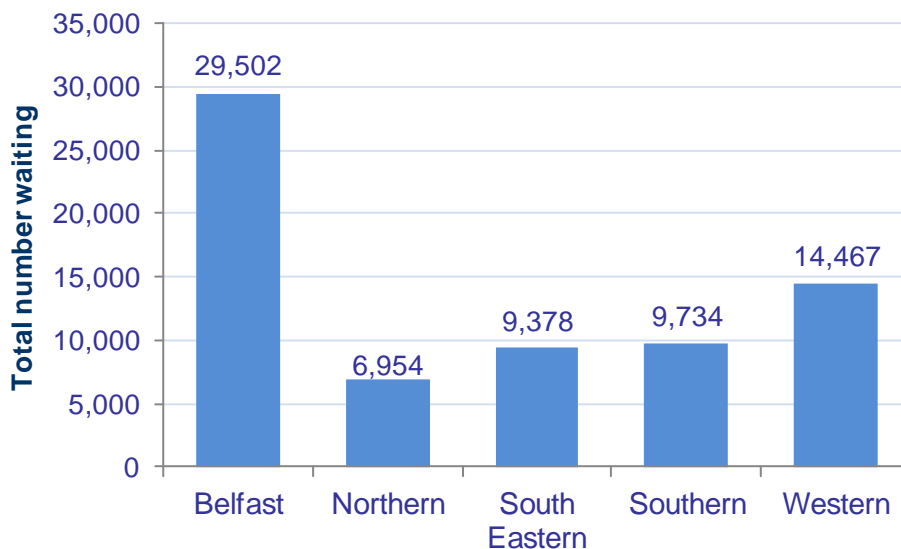
Total number of patients waiting at 30th September 2016



Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

At 30th September 2016, a total of 70,035 patients were waiting to be admitted to hospitals, 0.3% (208) less than at 30th June 2016 (70,243), and 11.7% (7,338) more than at 30th September 2015 (62,697) (Table 1).

Almost one third (29.9%, 20,925) of those waiting for admission at 30th September 2016 were waiting for an inpatient admission, with the remaining 70.1% (49,110) waiting for a day case admission (Table 1).



Over two fifths (42.1%) were waiting to be admitted in the Belfast HSC Trust, with a further 20.7% waiting in the Western HSC Trust, 13.9% in the Southern HSC Trust, 13.4% in the South Eastern HSC Trust and 9.9% in the Northern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

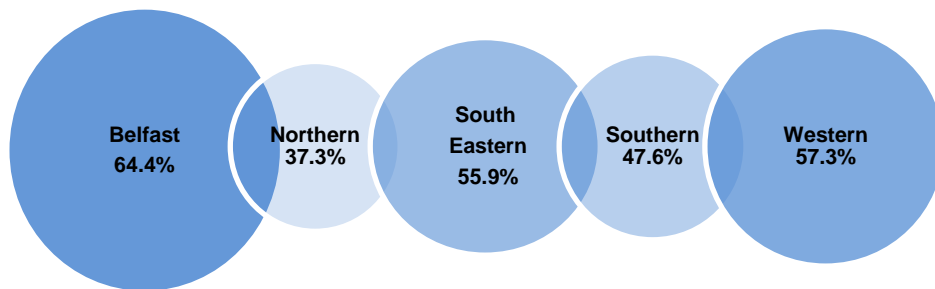
Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

Over three quarters (77.4%, 54,189) of the 70,035 patients were waiting for admission in one of the following specialties: General Surgery (14,450); Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) Surgery (12,221); Urology (6,291); Ear, Nose and Throat (5,891); Ophthalmology (5,761); Gynaecology (5,039) and Gastroenterology (4,536) (Table 3a).

Patients waiting more than 13 weeks at 30th September 2016

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

56.8%
of patients
were waiting longer
than 13 weeks



Percentage waiting over 13 weeks

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

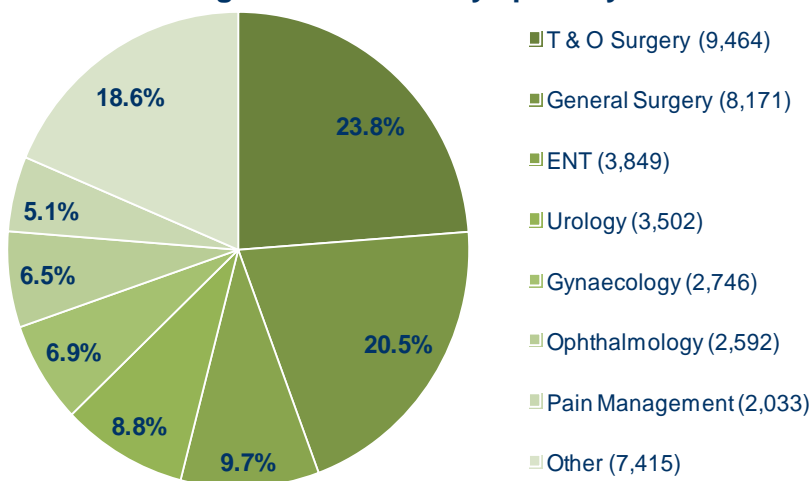
Achievement of the 13 week target requires that less than 45% of patients should be waiting over 13 weeks for inpatient or day case admission.

At 30th September 2016, 56.8% (39,772) of patients were waiting more than 13 weeks to be admitted for treatment, compared with 53.1% (37,308) at 30th June 2016 and 52.6% (32,981) at 30th September 2015 (Table 1).

At 30th September 2016, the 13 week element of the target was not achieved by Northern Ireland as a whole, but the Northern HSC Trust did meet this element of the target (Table 2a).

Over two thirds (70.2%, 14,685) of those patients waiting for an inpatient admission, were waiting over 13 weeks. This is compared to 51.1% (25,087) waiting over 13 weeks for a day case admission (Table 1).

Patients waiting over 13 weeks by specialty



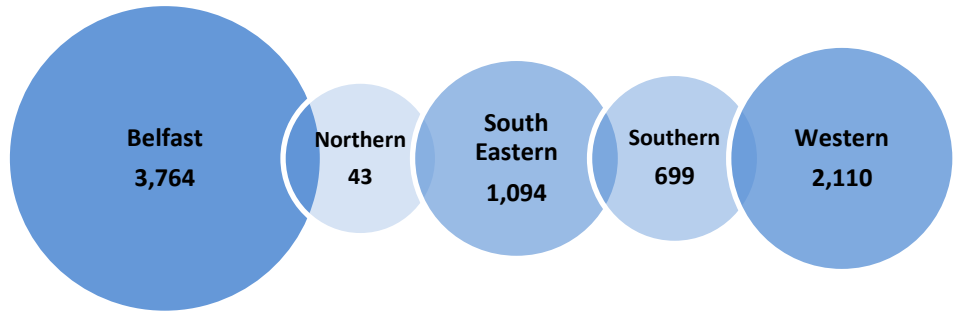
Just over four fifths (81.4%, 32,357) of the 39,772 patients waiting more than 13 weeks at 30th September 2016 were in one of the following specialties: Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) Surgery; General Surgery; Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); Urology; Gynaecology; Ophthalmology and Pain Management (Table 3a).

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

Patients waiting more than 52 weeks at 30th September 2016

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

7,710
patients
were waiting longer
than 52 weeks



Number waiting over 52 weeks

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

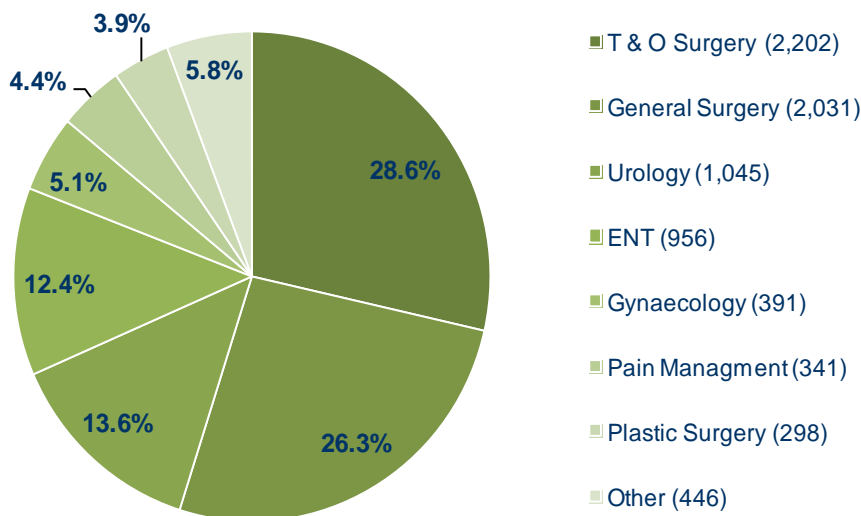
At 30th September 2016, over one in ten (11.0%, 7,710) of patients were waiting more than 52 weeks for either an inpatient or day case admission, compared with 9.7% (6,787) at 30th June 2016, and 8.0% (4,998) at 30th September 2015 (Table 1).

At 30th September 2016, the 52 week element of the target was not achieved by Northern Ireland as a whole or by any individual HSC Trust (Table 2a).

Just over one in seven (14.6%, 2,110) of patients in the Western HSC Trust were waiting longer than 52 weeks at 30th September 2016, 12.8% (3,764) in the Belfast HSC Trust, 11.7% (1,094) in the South Eastern HSC Trust, 7.2% (699) in the Southern HSC Trust and 0.6% (43) in the Northern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

Of those waiting more than 52 weeks, 3,779 were waiting for an inpatient admission and 3,931 were waiting for a day case admission (Table 1).

Patients waiting over 52 weeks by specialty



A total of 94.2% (7,264) of the 7,710 patients waiting more than 52 weeks to be admitted were in one of the following specialties: Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) Surgery; General Surgery; Urology; Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); Gynaecology; Pain Management and Plastic Surgery (Table 3a).

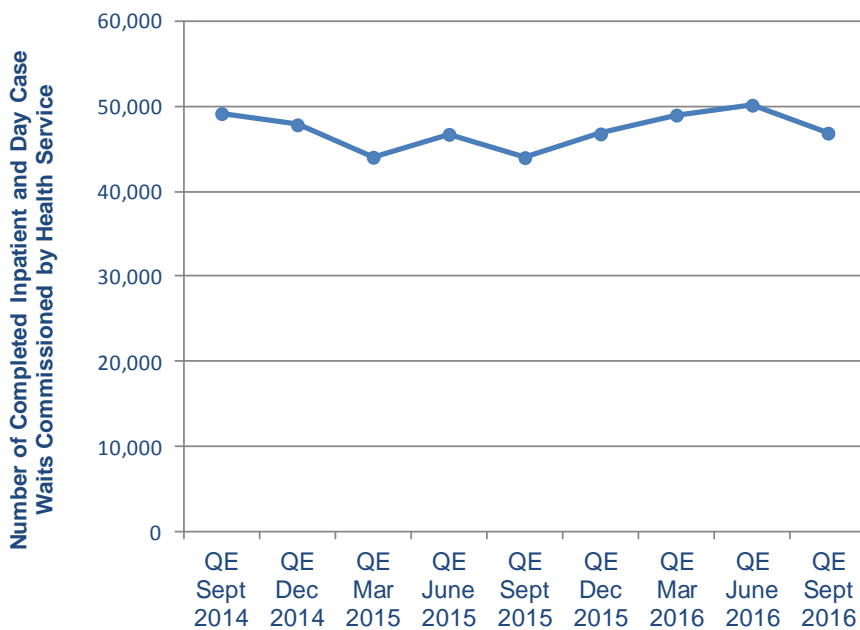
Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

Completed waits for inpatient and day case activity during quarter ending 30th September 2016



Source: Hospital Inpatient System & IS1 Part 2Return

A total of 42,812 patients were admitted to Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland during the quarter ending September 2016, 6.5% (2,978) less than the quarter ending June 2016 (45,790) and 0.1% (52) less than the quarter ending September 2015 (42,864) (Table 4).



During the quarter ending September 2016, 4,057 patients received inpatient or day case treatment commissioned by the Health Service, within the Independent Sector, 7.1% (309) less than the quarter ending June 2016 (4,366) but more than double (2,927) the same quarter in the previous year (1,130) (Table 4).

Source: Hospital Inpatient System & IS1 Part 2Return

When the number of completed inpatient and day case waits within the Independent Sector during the quarter ending September 2016 (4,057) is combined with those treated in Health Service hospitals during the same period (42,812), it is estimated that approximately 46,869 inpatients and day cases received treatment in Northern Ireland commissioned by the Health Service. There is a 6.6% (3,287) decrease in the number of completed waits commissioned by the Health Service between the quarter ending June 2016 (50,156) and the quarter ending September 2016 (46,869) and an increase of 6.5% (2,874) compared to quarter ending September 2015 (43,994) (Table 4).

Appendix 1: Tables

Table 1: Quarterly inpatient and day case waiting lists – 30th September 2016¹

Type of Admission		Current Quarter (30 th Sept 2016)	Previous Quarter (30 th June 2016)	Same Quarter Last Year (30 th Sept 2015)
Inpatient	Total Patients Waiting	20,925	20,552	19,437
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	14,685	13,752	13,286
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	70.2%	66.9%	68.4%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	3,779	3,331	2,313
Day Case	Total Patients Waiting	49,110	49,691	43,260
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	25,087	23,556	19,695
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	51.1%	47.4%	45.5%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	3,931	3,456	2,685
All Admissions	Total Patients Waiting	70,035	70,243	62,697
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	39,772	37,308	32,981
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	56.8%	53.1%	52.6%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	7,710	6,787	4,998

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–15

Table 2a: Number of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 30th September 2016¹

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	5393	5,106	5,196	2,604	7,439	3,764	29,502
Northern	2556	1,806	1,341	484	724	43	6,954
South Eastern	2442	1,690	1,582	604	1,966	1,094	9,378
Southern	3103	1,993	1,383	732	1,824	699	9,734
Western	3738	2,436	2,121	1,022	3,040	2,110	14,467
Total	17,232	13,031	11,623	5,446	14,993	7,710	70,035

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–15

Table 2b: Percentage of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 30th September 2016¹

HSC Trust	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting					
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52
Belfast	18.3%	17.3%	17.6%	8.8%	25.2%	12.8%
Northern	36.8%	26.0%	19.3%	7.0%	10.4%	0.6%
South Eastern	26.0%	18.0%	16.9%	6.4%	21.0%	11.7%
Southern	31.9%	20.5%	14.2%	7.5%	18.7%	7.2%
Western	25.8%	16.8%	14.7%	7.1%	21.0%	14.6%
Total	24.6%	18.6%	16.6%	7.8%	21.4%	11.0%

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–15

Table 3a: Number of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by weeks waiting and specialty – 30th September 2016¹

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	3,819	2,460	2,229	1,018	2,893	2,031	14,450
T & O Surgery	927	1,830	2,227	1,198	3,837	2,202	12,221
Urology	1,836	953	784	347	1,326	1,045	6,291
ENT	1,079	963	1,100	480	1,313	956	5,891
Ophthalmology	1,515	1,654	1,268	518	748	58	5,761
Gynaecology	1,433	860	833	360	1,162	391	5,039
Gastroenterology	1,597	1,064	748	423	619	85	4,536
General Medicine	1,413	642	294	115	401	165	3,030
Pain Management	406	433	479	286	927	341	2,872
Cardiology	744	636	447	246	452	8	2,533
Plastic Surgery	370	214	320	113	423	298	1,738
Oral Surgery	316	229	163	59	278	26	1,071
Dermatology	429	215	104	33	66	59	906
Paediatric Surgery	112	108	140	86	282	23	751
GP Other	318	227	130	13	16	1	705
Neurology	126	104	49	27	42	0	348
Rheumatology	181	100	31	1	16	4	333
Cardiac Surgery	79	58	52	18	10	0	217
Paediatrics	52	59	63	32	3	0	209
Other	480	222	162	73	179	17	1,133
All Specialties	17,232	13,031	11,623	5,446	14,993	7,710	70,035

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–15

Table 3b: Percentage of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by weeks waiting and specialty – 30th September 2016¹

Specialty	Percentage of Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting					
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52
General Surgery	26.4%	17.0%	15.4%	7.0%	20.0%	14.1%
T & O Surgery	7.6%	15.0%	18.2%	9.8%	31.4%	18.0%
Urology	29.2%	15.1%	12.5%	5.5%	21.1%	16.6%
ENT	18.3%	16.3%	18.7%	8.1%	22.3%	16.2%
Ophthalmology	26.3%	28.7%	22.0%	9.0%	13.0%	1.0%
Gynaecology	28.4%	17.1%	16.5%	7.1%	23.1%	7.8%
Gastroenterology	35.2%	23.5%	16.5%	9.3%	13.6%	1.9%
General Medicine	46.6%	21.2%	9.7%	3.8%	13.2%	5.4%
Pain Management	14.1%	15.1%	16.7%	10.0%	32.3%	11.9%
Cardiology	29.4%	25.1%	17.6%	9.7%	17.8%	0.3%
Plastic Surgery	21.3%	12.3%	18.4%	6.5%	24.3%	17.1%
Oral Surgery	29.5%	21.4%	15.2%	5.5%	26.0%	2.4%
Dermatology	47.4%	23.7%	11.5%	3.6%	7.3%	6.5%
Paediatric Surgery	14.9%	14.4%	18.6%	11.5%	37.5%	3.1%
GP Other	45.1%	32.2%	18.4%	1.8%	2.3%	0.1%
Neurology	36.2%	29.9%	14.1%	7.8%	12.1%	0.0%
Rheumatology	54.4%	30.0%	9.3%	0.3%	4.8%	1.2%
Cardiac Surgery	36.4%	26.7%	24.0%	8.3%	4.6%	0.0%
Paediatrics	24.9%	28.2%	30.1%	15.3%	1.4%	0.0%
Other	42.4%	19.6%	14.3%	6.4%	15.8%	1.5%
All Specialties	24.6%	18.6%	16.6%	7.8%	21.4%	11.0%

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–15

Table 4: Number of completed inpatient and day case waits commissioned by the Health Service: QE September 2014 - QE September 2016²

Quarter Ending	Number of Completed Inpatient and Day Case Waits		
	Within Health Service Hospitals	Independent Sector*	Total Commissioned by Health Service
QE Sept 2014	43,240	5,927	49,167
QE Dec 2014	45,018	2,826	47,844
QE Mar 2015	42,796	1,240	44,036
QE June 2015 ^R	43,606	3,121	46,727
QE Sept 2015 ^R	42,864	1,130	43,994
QE Dec 2015 ^R	45,700	1,081	46,781
QE Mar 2016 ^R	44,109	4,883	48,992
QE June 2016 ^R	45,790	4,366	50,156
QE Sept 2016 ^P	42,812	4,057	46,869

Source: Hospital Inpatient System & IS1 Part 2 Return

^RData have been revised

^PData are currently provisional

²Refer to Explanatory Notes 1, 4 & 14-16

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, 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/publications/northern-ireland-waiting-time-statistics-inpatient-waiting-times-september-2016>.

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>.

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 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. Day cases are not included.

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 waiting list figures include people waiting to be admitted either as day cases or inpatient admissions. They 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 subsequently offered a date but unable to attend have their waiting times calculated from the most recent date offered. These are known as CNA's (Could Not Attend) and are included in the total number waiting.

10. 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 2017, 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.

11. 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 timebands. Patients waiting 'more than 52 weeks' includes all patients in the >52 time band.

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

13. Data users should be aware that many inpatient and day case services are not provided at each of the five HSC Trusts in 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. It is therefore not possible to accurately calculate the number of patients waiting per head of the population in any specific HSC

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.

14. 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.

15. 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)

16. The numbers of patients that 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.

17. 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.

18. Figures relating to inpatient and day case waiting times for the quarter ending 31st December 2016 will be released on Thursday 23rd February 2017.

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

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