

INFORMATION  
ANALYSIS  
DIRECTORATE



# Northern Ireland Waiting Time Statistics: Inpatient and Day Case Waiting Times Quarter Ending June 2017



Department of  
**Health**  
An Roinn Sláinte  
Máinnystrie O Poustie  
[www.health-ni.gov.uk](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk)

# Reader Information

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**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 2017/18 Ministerial waiting time target which states that:

*“By March 2018, 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 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017. 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 June 2017.

**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-june-2017>

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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

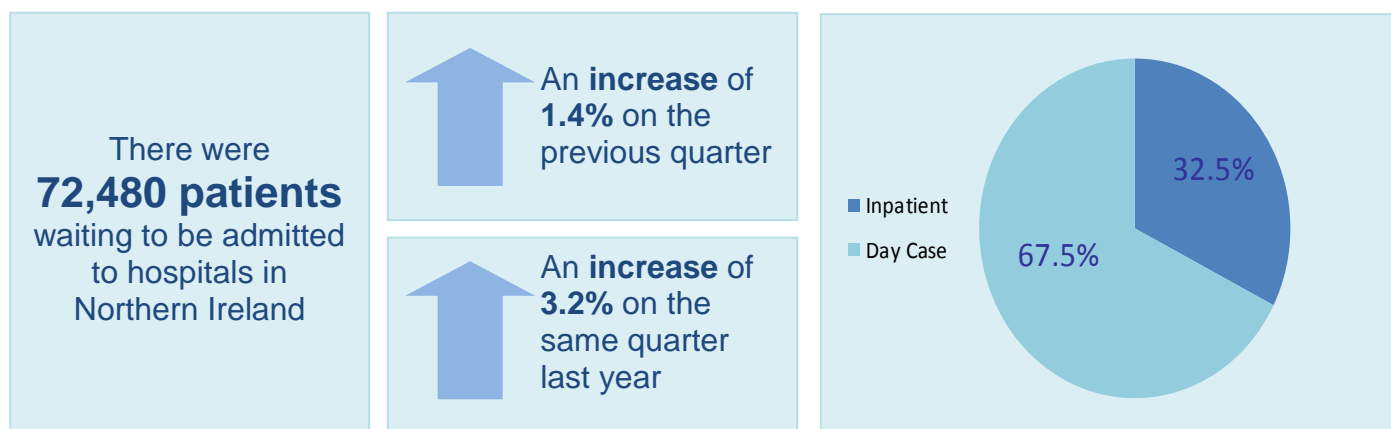
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**By March 2018, 55% of patients should wait no longer than 13 weeks for inpatient/day case treatment, with no patient waiting longer than 52 weeks.**

## Total number of patients waiting at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017



Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

At 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, a total of 72,480 patients were waiting to be admitted to hospitals in Northern Ireland, 1.4% (997) more than at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 (71,483), and 3.2% (2,237) more than at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 (70,243) (Table 1).

Almost one third (32.5%, 23,538) of those waiting for admission at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were waiting for an inpatient admission, with the remaining 67.5% (48,942) 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

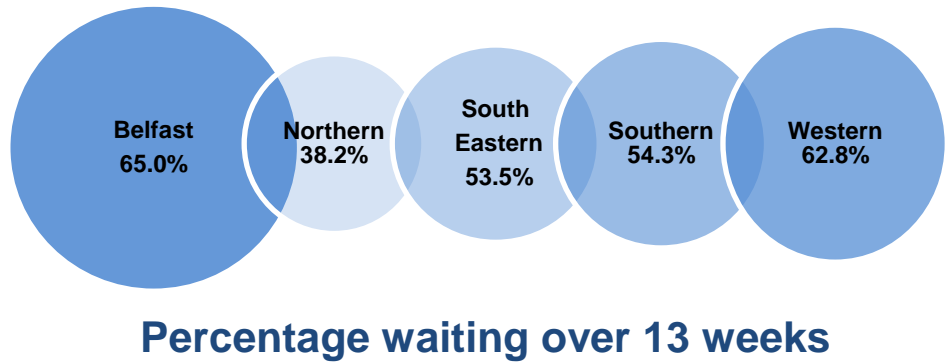
Over two fifths (41.3%) were waiting to be admitted in the Belfast HSC Trust, with a further 21.7% waiting in the Western HSC Trust, 15.1% in the Southern HSC Trust, 12.5% in the South Eastern HSC Trust and 9.3% in the Northern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

Over three quarters (77.9%, 56,457) of the 72,480 patients were waiting for admission in one of the following specialties: General Surgery (13,631); Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) Surgery (13,631); Ophthalmology (7,011); Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) (6,941); Urology (6,439) Gynaecology (5,432) and Gastroenterology (3,372) (Table 3a).

## Patients waiting more than 13 weeks at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

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

**59.0%**  
of patients were waiting longer than 13 weeks



Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

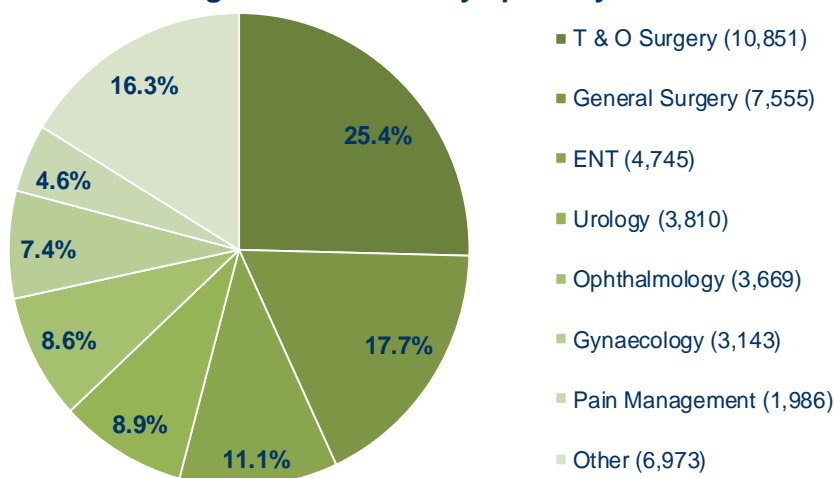
Achievement of the 13 week target requires that less than 45% of patients should be waiting over 13 weeks for inpatient or day case admission.

At 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 59.0% (42,732) of patients were waiting more than 13 weeks to be admitted for treatment, compared with 56.0% (40,037) at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and 53.1% (37,308) at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 (Table 1).

At 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, the 13 week element of the target was not achieved by Northern Ireland as a whole (Table 2a). The Northern HSC Trust did meet this element of the target, however, data users should be aware that many inpatient and day case services are not provided at every HSC Trust (see explanatory note 11).

Almost three quarters (73.7%, 17,359) of those patients waiting for an inpatient admission, were waiting over 13 weeks. This is compared with 51.8% (25,373) waiting over 13 weeks for a day case admission (Table 1).

### Patients waiting over 13 weeks by specialty



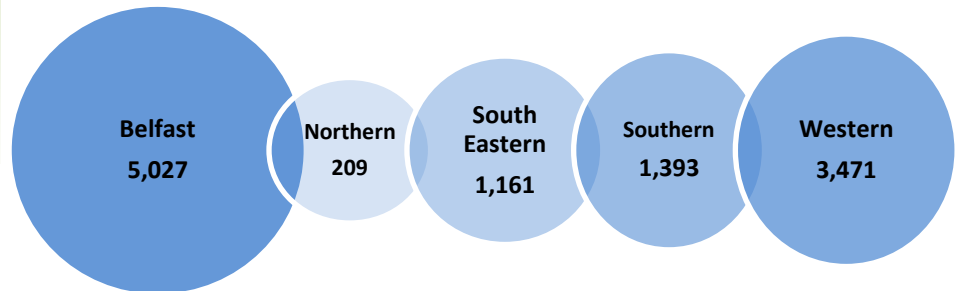
Just over four fifths (83.7%, 35,759) of the 42,732 patients waiting more than 13 weeks at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were in one of the following specialties: Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) Surgery; General Surgery; Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); Urology; Ophthalmology; Gynaecology; and Pain Management (Table 3a).

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

## Patients waiting more than 52 weeks at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

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

**11,261**  
patients were waiting longer than 52 weeks



### Number waiting over 52 weeks

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

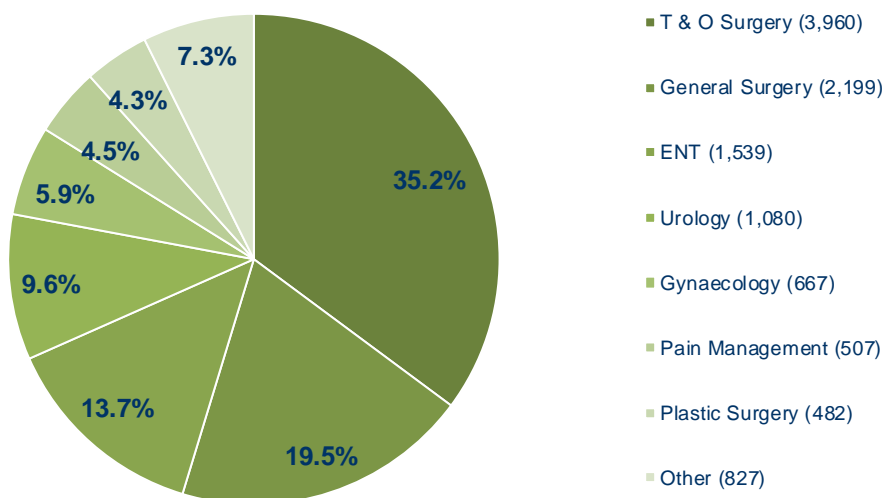
At 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 15.5% (11,261) of patients were waiting more than 52 weeks for either an inpatient or day case admission, compared with 13.5% (9,615) at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, and 9.7% (6,787) at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 (Table 1).

At 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 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).

More than a fifth (22.0%, 3,471) of patients in the Western HSC Trust were waiting longer than 52 weeks at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 16.8% (5,027) in the Belfast HSC Trust, 12.8% (1,161) in the South Eastern HSC Trust, 12.7% (1,393) in the Southern HSC Trust, and 3.1% (209) in the Northern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

Of those waiting more than 52 weeks, 6,161 were waiting for an inpatient admission and 5,100 were waiting for a day case admission (Table 1).

### Patients waiting over 52 weeks by specialty



Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

A total of 92.7% (10,434) of the 11,261 patients waiting more than 52 weeks to be admitted were in one of the following specialties: Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) Surgery; General Surgery; Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); Urology; Gynaecology; Pain Management and Plastic Surgery (Table 3a).

## Completed waits for inpatient and day case activity during quarter ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

There were  
**44,931**

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



A **decrease of 7.1%** on the previous quarter

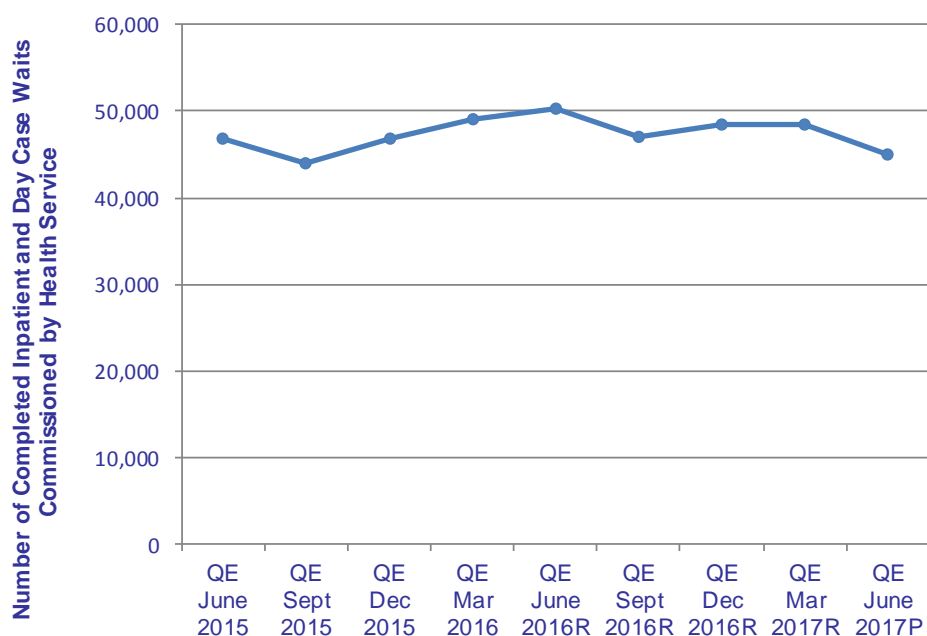


A **decrease of 10.7%** on the same quarter last year

Source: Hospital Inpatient System & IS1 Part 2 Return

A total of 44,254 patients were admitted to Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland during the quarter ending June 2017, 0.9% (406) less than during the quarter ending March 2017 (44,660), and 3.3% (1,531) less than during the quarter ending June 2016 (45,785) (Table 4).

During the quarter ending June 2017, 677 patients received inpatient or day case treatment commissioned by the Health Service, within the Independent Sector, 81.8% (3,042) less than the quarter ending March 2017 (3,719), and 85.0% (3,840) less than the same quarter last year (4,517) (Table 4).



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 June 2017 (677) is combined with those treated in Health Service hospitals during the same period (44,254), provisional figures indicate that 44,931 inpatients and day cases received treatment in Northern Ireland commissioned by the Health Service. This was a 7.1% (3,448) decrease

in the number of completed waits commissioned by the Health Service between the quarter ending March 2017 (48,379) and the quarter ending June 2017 (44,931) and a decrease of 10.7% (5,371) compared to quarter ending June 2016 (50,302) (Table 4).

## Appendix 1: Tables

Table 1: Quarterly inpatient and day case waiting lists – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017<sup>1</sup>

Type of Admission		Current Quarter (30 <sup>th</sup> June 2017)	Previous Quarter (31 <sup>st</sup> Mar 2016)	Same Quarter Last Year (30 <sup>th</sup> June 2016)
<b>Inpatient</b>	Total Patients Waiting	23,538	23,168	20,552
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	17,359	16,859	13,752
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	73.7%	72.8%	66.9%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	6,161	5,270	3,331
<b>Day Case</b>	Total Patients Waiting	48,942	48,315	49,691
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	25,373	23,178	23,556
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	51.8%	48.0%	47.4%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	5,100	4,345	3,456
<b>All Admissions</b>	Total Patients Waiting	72,480	71,483	70,243
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	42,732	40,037	37,308
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	59.0%	56.0%	53.1%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	11,261	9,615	6,787

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–13

Table 2a: Number of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017<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	5,294	5,192	4,719	2,339	7,367	5,027	29,938
Northern	2,574	1,608	1,132	370	878	209	6,771
South Eastern	2,561	1,659	1,486	620	1,581	1,161	9,068
Southern	2,920	2,087	1,879	714	1,966	1,393	10,959
Western	3,337	2,516	1,827	1,122	3,471	3,471	15,744
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,686</b>	<b>13,062</b>	<b>11,043</b>	<b>5,165</b>	<b>15,263</b>	<b>11,261</b>	<b>72,480</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–13



**Table 2b: Percentage of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017<sup>1</sup>**

HSC Trust	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting					
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52
Belfast	17.7%	17.3%	15.8%	7.8%	24.6%	16.8%
Northern	38.0%	23.7%	16.7%	5.5%	13.0%	3.1%
South Eastern	28.2%	18.3%	16.4%	6.8%	17.4%	12.8%
Southern	26.6%	19.0%	17.1%	6.5%	17.9%	12.7%
Western	21.2%	16.0%	11.6%	7.1%	22.0%	22.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23.0%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>21.1%</b>	<b>15.5%</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–13

**Table 3a: Number of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by weeks waiting and specialty – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017<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	3,633	2,443	2,053	894	2,409	2,199	13,631
T & O Surgery	929	1,851	1,856	959	4,076	3,960	13,631
Ophthalmology	1,653	1,689	1,390	664	1,375	240	7,011
ENT	1,139	1,057	1,057	568	1,581	1,539	6,941
Urology	1,737	892	948	501	1,281	1,080	6,439
Gynaecology	1,303	986	751	384	1,341	667	5,432
Gastroenterology	1,504	968	668	95	120	17	3,372
General Medicine	1,386	601	315	144	405	65	2,916
Pain Management	381	435	432	240	807	507	2,802
Cardiology	634	534	475	221	606	130	2,600
Plastic Surgery	390	349	216	119	392	482	1,948
Oral Surgery	329	210	181	89	279	113	1,201
Dermatology	347	188	196	48	59	54	892
Paediatric Surgery	147	137	104	67	257	138	850
GP Other	321	196	118	27	12	1	675
Rheumatology	167	104	25	1	13	22	332
Paediatrics	65	78	78	41	26	1	289
Neurology	59	31	37	41	114	1	283
Joint Consultant Clinic	59	89	46	0	0	0	194
Other	503	224	97	62	110	45	1,041
<b>All Specialties</b>	<b>16,686</b>	<b>13,062</b>	<b>11,043</b>	<b>5,165</b>	<b>15,263</b>	<b>11,261</b>	<b>72,480</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–13

**Table 3b: Percentage of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by weeks waiting and specialty – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017<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	26.7%	17.9%	15.1%	6.6%	17.7%	16.1%
T & O Surgery	6.8%	13.6%	13.6%	7.0%	29.9%	29.1%
Urology	23.6%	24.1%	19.8%	9.5%	19.6%	3.4%
ENT	16.4%	15.2%	15.2%	8.2%	22.8%	22.2%
Ophthalmology	27.0%	13.9%	14.7%	7.8%	19.9%	16.8%
Gynaecology	24.0%	18.2%	13.8%	7.1%	24.7%	12.3%
Gastroenterology	44.6%	28.7%	19.8%	2.8%	3.6%	0.5%
General Medicine	47.5%	20.6%	10.8%	4.9%	13.9%	2.2%
Pain Management	13.6%	15.5%	15.4%	8.6%	28.8%	18.1%
Cardiology	24.4%	20.5%	18.3%	8.5%	23.3%	5.0%
Plastic Surgery	20.0%	17.9%	11.1%	6.1%	20.1%	24.7%
Oral Surgery	27.4%	17.5%	15.1%	7.4%	23.2%	9.4%
Dermatology	38.9%	21.1%	22.0%	5.4%	6.6%	6.1%
Paediatric Surgery	17.3%	16.1%	12.2%	7.9%	30.2%	16.2%
GP Other	47.6%	29.0%	17.5%	4.0%	1.8%	0.1%
Neurology	50.3%	31.3%	7.5%	0.3%	3.9%	6.6%
Rheumatology	22.5%	27.0%	27.0%	14.2%	9.0%	0.3%
Cardiac Surgery	20.8%	11.0%	13.1%	14.5%	40.3%	0.4%
Paediatrics	30.4%	45.9%	23.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	48.3%	21.5%	9.3%	6.0%	10.6%	4.3%
<b>All Specialties</b>	<b>23.0%</b>	<b>18.0%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>21.1%</b>	<b>15.5%</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–13

**Table 4: Number of completed inpatient and day case waits commissioned by the Health Service: QE June 2015 - QE June 2017**

Quarter Ending	Number of Completed Inpatient and Day Case Waits		
	Within Health Service Hospitals	Independent Sector*	Total Commissioned by Health Service
QE June 2015	43,606	3,121	46,727
QE Sept 2015	42,864	1,130	43,994
QE Dec 2015	45,700	1,081	46,781
QE Mar 2016	44,109	4,883	48,992
QE June 2016 <sup>R</sup>	45,785	4,517	50,151
QE Sept 2016 <sup>R</sup>	42,992	4,118	47,049
QE Dec 2016 <sup>R</sup>	45,880	2,589	48,456
QE Mar 2017 <sup>R</sup>	44,660	3,719	48,378
QE June 2017 <sup>P</sup>	44,254	677	44,931

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 & 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-june-2017>.

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 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. 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 2018, 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. 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.

12. 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.

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

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 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 will be released on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

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

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