

INFORMATION  
ANALYSIS  
DIRECTORATE



# Northern Ireland Waiting Time Statistics: Outpatient Waiting Times Quarter Ending December 2019



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 a first consultant-led outpatient appointment in Northern Ireland and reports on the performance of the Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts against the 2019/20 Draft Ministerial waiting time target, which states that:

*“By March 2020, 50% of patients should wait no longer than 9 weeks for a first outpatient appointment; 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 a first consultant-led outpatient appointment in HSC Trusts at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 (including patients waiting to be seen at a Regional Assessment and Surgical Centre (RASC)). It also includes activity for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment commissioned by the Health Service during the quarter ending December 2019. Data are presented by HSC Trust, specialty and time band. Information on Integrated Clinical Assessment and Treatment Services (ICATS) waiting times are available in the accompanying CSV file.

**Statistical Quality:** The ‘*Outpatient 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/outpatient-waiting-times-supporting-documentation>

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

**Authors:** Jenny Finlay, Mary Farrelly, Siobhán Morgan

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**Issued by:** Hospital Information Branch  
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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

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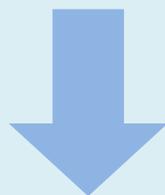
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**By March 2020, 50% of patients should wait no longer than 9 weeks for a first outpatient appointment, and no patient should wait longer than 52 weeks.**

**Total number of patients waiting at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 (excluding those waiting at the RASCs)**

There were **305,017 patients** waiting for a first outpatient appointment in Northern Ireland



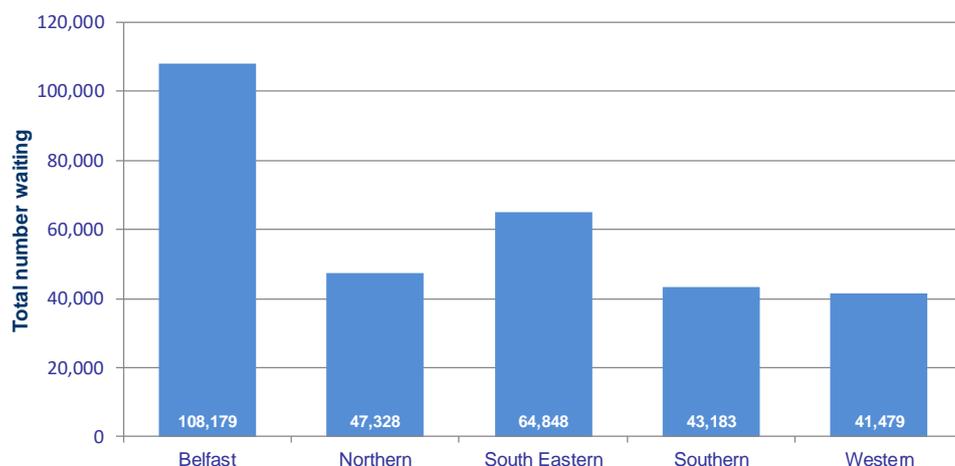
A **decrease of 0.4%** on the previous quarter



An **increase of 8.3%** on the same quarter last year

Source: CH3 Return

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, 305,017 patients were waiting for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment, 0.4% (1,158) less than at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 (306,175) and 8.3% (23,266) more than at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 (281,751) (Table 1). This does not include patients waiting to be seen at a Regional Centre.



More than one third (35.5%) of those waiting were in the Belfast HSC Trust, with a further 21.3% in the South Eastern HSC Trust, 15.5% in the Northern HSC Trust, 14.2% in the Southern HSC Trust and 13.6% in the Western HSC Trust (Table 2b).

Source: CH3 Return

A number of outpatient services may not be provided at a patient's local HSC Trust, and instead are provided as centralised services for Northern Ireland. As patients are reported against the HSC Trust responsible for the service to which they have been referred, users should be cautious in how they use these data (see explanatory note 9).

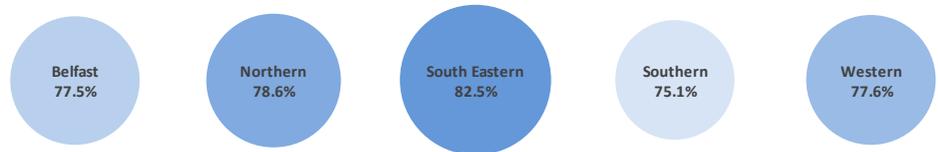
Of the 305,017 patients waiting, 61.1% (186,348) were waiting in one of the following specialties: Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) (36,760); Ophthalmology (31,352); General Surgery (30,667); Dermatology (24,619); Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) Surgery (24,224); Gynaecology (19,383) and Neurology (19,343) (Table 3b).

## Patients waiting more than 9 weeks at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

By March 2020, 50% of patients should wait no longer than 9 weeks for a first outpatient appointment

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

**78.4%**  
of patients  
were waiting longer  
than 9 weeks



Percentage waiting over 9 weeks

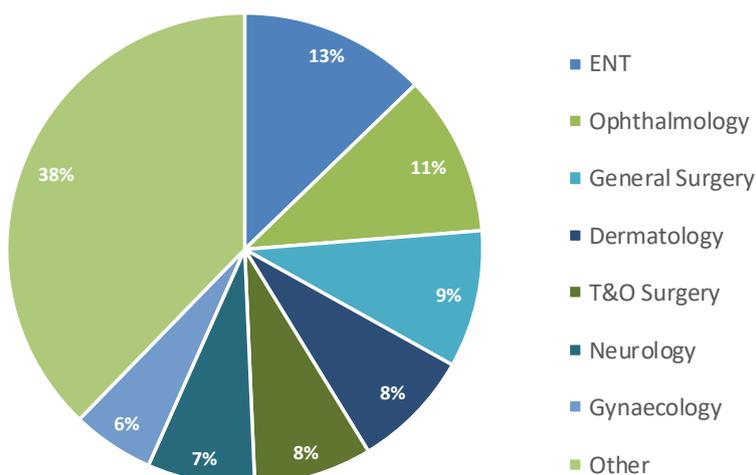
Source: CH3 Return

Over three quarters (78.4%, 239,130) of patients were waiting more than 9 weeks for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, compared with 75.9% (232,239) at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and 75.9% (213,758) at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 (Table 1).

The 9 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 not all outpatient services are provided at every HSC Trust (see explanatory note 9).

Over four fifths (82.5%, 53,496) of patients in the South Eastern HSC Trust were waiting longer than 9 weeks; 78.6% (37,207) in the Northern HSC Trust, 77.6% (32,204) in the Western HSC Trust, 77.5% (83,791) in the Belfast HSC Trust and 75.1% (32,432) in the Southern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

Patients waiting more than 9 weeks by specialty



More than three-fifths (62.2%, 148,796) of the 239,130 patients waiting more than 9 weeks were waiting for one of the following specialties: Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); Ophthalmology; General Surgery; Dermatology; Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) Surgery; Neurology and Gynaecology (Table 3a).

Source: CH3 Return

## Patients waiting more than 52 weeks at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

By March 2020, no patient should wait longer than 52 weeks for a first outpatient appointment

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

**111,963**  
patients  
were waiting longer  
than 52 weeks



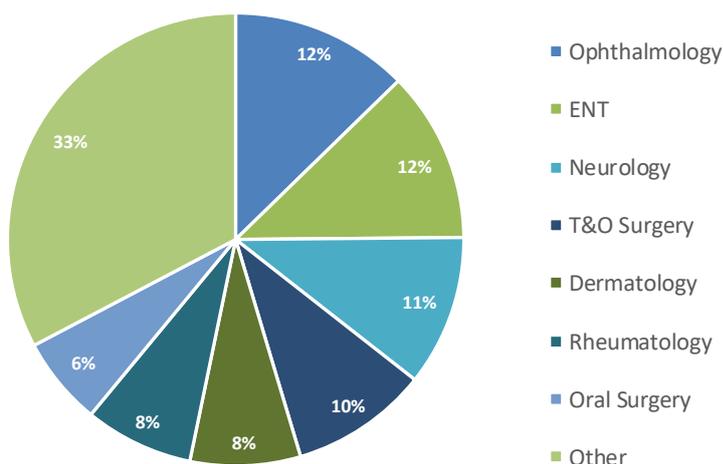
Source: CH3 Return

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, 36.7% (111,963) of patients were waiting more than 52 weeks for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment, compared with 35.5% (108,582) at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, and 33.7% (94,953) at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 (Table 1).

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 not all outpatient services are provided at every HSC Trust (see explanatory note 9).

Over two fifths (43.4%, 28,164) of patients in the South Eastern HSC Trust were waiting longer than 52 weeks, 37.7% (40,742) in the Belfast HSC Trust, 37.5% (15,574) in the Western HSC Trust, 35.5% (16,795) in the Northern HSC Trust and 24.8% (10,688) in the Southern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

Patients waiting more than 52 weeks by specialty



More than two thirds (67.3%, 75,296) of the 111,963 patients waiting more than 52 weeks were in one the following specialties: Ophthalmology; Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); Neurology; Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) Surgery; Dermatology; Rheumatology and Oral Surgery (Table 3a).

Source: CH3 Return

## Patients waiting for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment at a Regional Assessment and Surgical Centre

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 for outpatients and day cases. 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) Downe Hospital (South Eastern HSC Trust) South Tyrone Hospital (Southern HSC Trust)
Varicose Veins	Lagan Valley Hospital (South Eastern HSC Trust) Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex (Western HSC Trust)

Due to these changes in operational service delivery and concomitant changes in how Outpatient waiting times are recorded, the following data and information about RASC Waiting Lists is provisional and subject to revision.

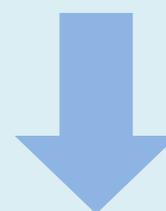
At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, 1,319 patients were waiting to be seen for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment at a Cataracts RASC (Table 5a). There were no outpatients waiting for varicose veins treatment at a RASC.

## Completed waits for a first outpatient appointment commissioned by the Health Service during quarter ending December 2019

There were  
**116,361**  
**first outpatient attendances**  
commissioned by the Health Service



An **increase** of **0.3%** on the previous quarter



A **decrease** of **8.4%** on the same quarter last year

Source: QOAR, R-QOAR and IS1 Part 1 Returns

There were 113,686 attendances for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment in Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland, 0.7% (752) less than during the quarter ending September 2019 (114,438), and 8.7% (10,844) less than during the quarter ending December 2018 (124,530). An additional 155 patients attended their appointment at a Regional Assessment and Surgical Centre (RASC) (Table 4).



Within the Independent Sector, 2,520 Health Service patients attended a first outpatient appointment, 76.8% (1,095) more than the quarter ending September 2019 (1,425), and 3.2% (78) more than in the same quarter last year (2,442) (Table 4).

When the number of attendances commissioned by the Health Service within the Independent Sector (2,520) is combined with that for outpatients attending a first outpatient appointment in Health Service hospitals (113,686), and those attending at a RASC (155), provisional figures indicate that 116,361 outpatients attended a first appointment in Northern Ireland commissioned by the Health Service. This is an increase of 0.3% (389) on the number seen during the quarter ending September 2019 (115,972), and 8.4% (10,611) less than during the quarter ending December 2018 (126,972) (Table 4).

## Appendix 1: Tables

**Table 1: Quarterly outpatient waiting lists – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019<sup>1</sup>**

First Consultant-Led Outpatient Appointment	Current Quarter (31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2019)	Previous Quarter (30 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2019)	Same Quarter Last Year (31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2018)
Total Patients Waiting	305,017	306,175	281,751
Number waiting over 9 weeks	239,130	232,239	213,758
<i>Percentage waiting over 9 weeks</i>	<i>78.4%</i>	<i>75.9%</i>	<i>75.9%</i>
Number waiting over 52 weeks	111,963	108,582	94,953

Source: CH3 Return

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–10 & 13-14

**Table 2a: Number of patients waiting for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019<sup>1</sup>**

HSC Trust	Patients waiting for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment, by weeks waiting							Total Waiting
	0 - 6	>6 - 9	>9 - 12	>12 - 15	>15 - 18	>18 - 52	>52	
Belfast	17,696	6,692	5,619	4,994	4,009	28,427	40,742	108,179
Northern	7,289	2,832	2,312	2,256	1,848	13,996	16,795	47,328
South Eastern	8,278	3,074	2,925	2,564	2,102	17,741	28,164	64,848
Southern	7,707	3,044	2,720	2,495	2,039	14,490	10,688	43,183
Western	6,857	2,418	2,189	1,915	1,724	10,802	15,574	41,479
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,827</b>	<b>18,060</b>	<b>15,765</b>	<b>14,224</b>	<b>11,722</b>	<b>85,456</b>	<b>111,963</b>	<b>305,017</b>

Source: CH3 Return

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–10 & 13-14

**Table 2b: Percentage of patients waiting for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019<sup>1</sup>**

HSC Trust	Patients waiting for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment, by weeks waiting						
	0 - 6	>6 - 9	>9 - 12	>12 - 15	>15 - 18	>18 - 52	>52
Belfast	16.4%	6.2%	5.2%	4.6%	3.7%	26.3%	37.7%
Northern	15.4%	6.0%	4.9%	4.8%	3.9%	29.6%	35.5%
South Eastern	12.8%	4.7%	4.5%	4.0%	3.2%	27.4%	43.4%
Southern	17.8%	7.0%	6.3%	5.8%	4.7%	33.6%	24.8%
Western	16.5%	5.8%	5.3%	4.6%	4.2%	26.0%	37.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>28.0%</b>	<b>36.7%</b>

Source: CH3 Return

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–10 & 13-14

**Table 3a: Number of patients waiting for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment by weeks waiting and speciality – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019<sup>1</sup>**

Specialty	Patients waiting for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment, by weeks waiting							Total Waiting
	0 - 6	>6 - 9	>9 - 12	>12 - 15	>15 - 18	>18 - 52	>52	
ENT	4,647	1,718	1,553	1,532	1,324	12,315	13,671	<b>36,760</b>
Ophthalmology	3,633	1,366	1,213	1,215	1,001	8,760	14,164	<b>31,352</b>
General Surgery	5,951	2,231	2,036	1,828	1,519	10,335	6,767	<b>30,667</b>
Dermatology	3,614	1,465	1,419	1,326	1,016	7,022	8,757	<b>24,619</b>
T&O Surgery	3,792	1,255	916	801	767	5,745	10,948	<b>24,224</b>
Gynaecology	4,322	1,701	1,373	1,208	982	5,172	4,625	<b>19,383</b>
Neurology	1,241	616	550	587	497	3,798	12,054	<b>19,343</b>
Rheumatology	1,266	526	475	460	373	3,036	8,632	<b>14,768</b>
Paediatrics	2,909	1,290	1,183	991	734	4,047	2,976	<b>14,130</b>
Oral Surgery	1,051	399	420	359	342	3,220	7,070	<b>12,861</b>
Gastroenterology	1,748	597	493	456	450	3,416	4,949	<b>12,109</b>
General Medicine	1,601	548	447	410	350	2,479	5,107	<b>10,942</b>
Cardiology	2,817	1,039	968	683	499	3,447	962	<b>10,415</b>
Urology	1,757	592	534	489	394	2,425	3,137	<b>9,328</b>
Thoracic Medicine	1,364	557	463	419	311	2,668	3,111	<b>8,893</b>
Pain Management	756	339	347	336	268	2,632	3,021	<b>7,699</b>
Plastic Surgery	733	264	231	194	169	1,122	1,418	<b>4,131</b>
Geriatric Medicine	676	263	174	175	102	410	129	<b>1,929</b>
Haematology (Clinical)	528	140	113	83	59	367	279	<b>1,569</b>
Other	3,421	1,154	857	672	565	3,040	186	<b>9,895</b>
<b>All Specialties</b>	<b>47,827</b>	<b>18,060</b>	<b>15,765</b>	<b>14,224</b>	<b>11,722</b>	<b>85,456</b>	<b>111,963</b>	<b>305,017</b>

Source: CH3 Return

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–10 & 13-14

**Table 3b: Percentage of patients waiting for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment by weeks waiting and specialty – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019<sup>1</sup>**

Specialty	Patients waiting for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment, by weeks waiting						
	0 - 6	>6 - 9	>9 - 12	>12 - 15	>15 - 18	>18 - 52	>52
ENT	12.6%	4.7%	4.2%	4.2%	3.6%	33.5%	37.2%
Ophthalmology	11.6%	4.4%	3.9%	3.9%	3.2%	27.9%	45.2%
General Surgery	19.4%	7.3%	6.6%	6.0%	5.0%	33.7%	22.1%
Dermatology	14.7%	6.0%	5.8%	5.4%	4.1%	28.5%	35.6%
T&O Surgery	15.7%	5.2%	3.8%	3.3%	3.2%	23.7%	45.2%
Gynaecology	22.3%	8.8%	7.1%	6.2%	5.1%	26.7%	23.9%
Neurology	6.4%	3.2%	2.8%	3.0%	2.6%	19.6%	62.3%
Rheumatology	8.6%	3.6%	3.2%	3.1%	2.5%	20.6%	58.5%
Paediatrics	20.6%	9.1%	8.4%	7.0%	5.2%	28.6%	21.1%
Oral Surgery	8.2%	3.1%	3.3%	2.8%	2.7%	25.0%	55.0%
Gastroenterology	14.4%	4.9%	4.1%	3.8%	3.7%	28.2%	40.9%
General Medicine	14.6%	5.0%	4.1%	3.7%	3.2%	22.7%	46.7%
Cardiology	27.0%	10.0%	9.3%	6.6%	4.8%	33.1%	9.2%
Urology	18.8%	6.3%	5.7%	5.2%	4.2%	26.0%	33.6%
Thoracic Medicine	15.3%	6.3%	5.2%	4.7%	3.5%	30.0%	35.0%
Pain Management	9.8%	4.4%	4.5%	4.4%	3.5%	34.2%	39.2%
Plastic Surgery	17.7%	6.4%	5.6%	4.7%	4.1%	27.2%	34.3%
Geriatric Medicine	35.0%	13.6%	9.0%	9.1%	5.3%	21.3%	6.7%
Haematology (Clinical)	33.7%	8.9%	7.2%	5.3%	3.8%	23.4%	17.8%
Other	34.6%	11.7%	8.7%	6.8%	5.7%	30.7%	1.9%
<b>All Specialties</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>28.0%</b>	<b>36.7%</b>

Source: CH3 Return

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–10 & 13-14

**Table 4: Number of completed waits for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment commissioned by the Health Service: QE December 2017 - QE December 2019<sup>2</sup>**

Quarter Ending	Number of Completed First Outpatient Waits			
	Within Health Service Hospitals	Within Regional Assessment and Surgical Centres*	Independent Sector*	Total Commissioned by Health Service
Dec-17	117,820	0	880	118,700
Mar-18	120,967	0	2,328	123,295
Jun-18	123,397	0	820	124,217
Sep-18	114,855	0	1,945	116,800
Dec-18	124,530	0	2,442	126,972
Mar-19	119,502	45	2,766	122,313
Jun-19 (p)	118,002	106	1,453	119,561
Sep-19 (p)	114,438	109	1,425	115,972
Dec-19 (p)	113,686	155	2,520	116,361

Source: QOAR, R-QOAR and IS1 Part 1 Returns

(p) Data are currently provisional

\* Not National Statistics

<sup>2</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1-2, 4 & 11-14

**Table 5a: Number of patients waiting for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment at a Cataracts Regional Assessment and Surgical Centre, by HSC Trust and weeks waiting, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019**

Trust	Weeks Waiting							Total Waiting
	0 - 6	>6 - 9	>9 - 12	>12 - 15	>15 - 18	>18 - 52	>52	
Belfast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Eastern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western	215	148	147	162	116	531	0	1,319
<b>Total</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,319</b>

Source: CH3-R Return

\* Not National Statistics

## Appendix 2: Explanatory Notes

1. The sources for the data contained in this release are the DoH CH3, CH3-R, QOAR, R-QOAR and IS1 Part 1 Returns. These returns collect information from Health and Social Care Trusts on a quarterly basis.
2. The '*Outpatient 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/articles/outpatient-waiting-times>.
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 waiting times for a first consultant-led outpatient appointment have been published in spreadsheet format (CSV), split by HSC Trust, Specialty and Programme of Care, in order to aid secondary analysis. These data are available at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-waiting-time-statistics-outpatient-waiting-times-december-2019>.
4. Information includes patients living outside Northern Ireland and privately funded patients waiting for treatment in Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland.
5. Outpatient waiters are defined as patients still waiting for their first outpatient appointment at the end of the quarter, including those who have cancelled or missed a previous appointment. An outpatient appointment is to enable a patient to see a consultant, a member of their team or locum for such a member, in respect of one referral. Waiting time for a first outpatient appointment begins on the date the HSC Trust receives a referral for a first outpatient appointment and ends on the date a patient attends a first outpatient appointment. 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 their DNA.
6. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, Oral Surgery services undertaken by consultants contracted to the South Eastern HSC Trust were centralised, meaning that records for patients waiting for this service in both the Northern and Southern HSC Trusts are now held and managed in the South Eastern HSC Trust. A breakdown of the waiting times for these patients broken down by HSC Trust has been provided in the spreadsheet located at: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-waiting-time-statistics-outpatient-waiting-times-december-2019>.

7. Each outpatient waiting time band relates to the number of completed weeks a patient has been waiting for outpatient assessment. 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 >6-9 (greater than 6 weeks but waiting no longer than 9 weeks) time band. The Ministerial target, for outpatient waiting times, as set out in the Health and Social Care (Commissioning Plan) Direction states that by March 2020, 50% of patients should wait no longer than nine weeks for a first outpatient appointment, with no patient waiting longer than 52 weeks.
8. 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.
9. A number of outpatient services may not be provided at a patient's local HSC Trust or at each of the five HSC Trusts, and instead are provided as centralised services 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. In some cases a consultant from one HSC Trust may provide a 'visiting' service at another HSC Trust, and so the patient may not be reported at the HSC Trust at which they attend. 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
10. In February 2019, prototype 'Regional Assessment and Surgical Centres' (RASCs) became operational for the surgical outpatient treatment of Cataracts. Patients waiting for this procedure can now be referred to a RASC for treatment rather than attend the hospital site they may have been referred to previously.
11. The total number of completed outpatient waits each quarter, within HSC hospitals, is derived as the total number of attendances at a first outpatient appointment from the Departmental Quarterly Outpatient Activity Return (QOAR) and the Regional Quarterly Outpatient Activity Return (R-QOAR).

12. The number of patients who received an outpatient assessment, commissioned by the Health Service, in the Independent Sector is collected on the IS1 Part 1 Return. These figures are provided by the HSC Board. They are published for each transferring Health and Social Care Trust (Trust responsible for the patient's waiting time). 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 outpatient waits during each quarter.
  
13. 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 within HIB's requirements for this publication, based on HSC salary costs, was £3,110.
  
14. Figures relating to outpatient waiting times for the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 will be released on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

## Appendix 3: National Statistics

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

[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 Outpatient 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>