





Northern Ireland Waiting Time Statistics:

Inpatient and Day Case Waiting Times

Quarter Ending June 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 2020/21 Ministerial waiting time target which states

that:

"By March 2021, 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 June 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 June

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

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Trusts in Northern Ireland, health care professionals, Health & Social

Care stakeholders, academics, the media and the general public.

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Total number of patients waiting at 30th June 2020



Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

At 30th June 2020, a total of 97,243 patients were waiting to be admitted to hospitals in Northern Ireland, 3.8% (3,602) more than at 31st March 2020 (93,641), and 10.2% (9,040) more than at 30th June 2019 (88,203) (Table 1).

One third (33.4%, 32,472) of those waiting for admission at 30th June 2020 were waiting for an inpatient admission, with the remaining 66.6% (64,771) 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 (40.9%) were waiting to be admitted in the Belfast HSC Trust, with a further 21.0% waiting in the Western HSC Trust, 17.4% in the Southern HSC Trust, 11.9% in the Northern HSC Trust and 8.9% in the South Eastern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

Of the 97,243 patients waiting for admission, four fifths (80.7%, 78,513) were in one of the following specialties: General Surgery (20,614); T & O Surgery (18,783); ENT (11,256); Urology (7,898); Gastroenterology (7,103); Ophthalmology (6,858) and Gynaecology (6,001) (Table 3a).

^{*} Figures revised on 29th September 2020.

Patients waiting more than 13 weeks at 30th June 2020

By March 2021, 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

88.8% of patients were waiting longer than 13 weeks



Percentage waiting over 13 weeks*

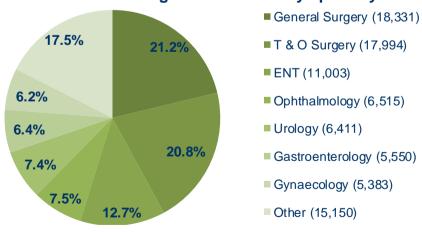
Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset*

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 June 2020, 88.8% (86,337) of patients were waiting more than 13 weeks to be admitted for treatment, compared with 71.4% (66,872) at 31st March 2020 and 66.7% (58,872) at 30th June 2019 (Table 1).

At 30th June 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, more than nine tenths (93.8%, 30,450) were waiting over 13 weeks. This is compared with 86.3% (55,887) waiting over 13 weeks for a day case admission (Table 1).





Over four fifths (82.5%, 71,187) of the 86,337 patients waiting more than 13 weeks at the end of June 2020 were in one of the following specialties: General Surgery (18,331); T & O Surgery (17,994);**ENT** (11,003);Ophthalmology (6,515); Urology Gastroenterology (6,411);(5,550)and Gynaecology (5,383) (Table 3a).

^{*} Figures revised on 29th September 2020.



38,354 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.

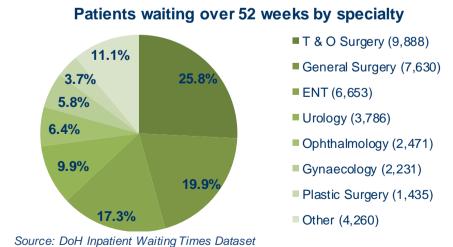
20.1%

At 30th June 2020, 39.4% (38,354) of patients were waiting more than 52 weeks for either an inpatient or day case admission, compared with 32.8% (30,696) at 31st March 2020, and 27.2% (23,996) at 30th June 2019 (Table 1).

At 30th June 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).

Almost half (47.9%, 19,064) of patients in the Belfast HSC Trust were waiting longer than 52 weeks at 30th June 2020, two-fifths (41.2%, 8,425) in the Western HSC Trust, 36.2% (6,112) in the Southern HSC Trust, 28.2% (2,431) in the South Eastern HSC Trust and 20.1% (2,322) in the Northern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

Of those waiting more than 52 weeks, 17,800 were waiting for an inpatient admission and 20,554 were waiting for a day case admission (Table 1).



Almost nine tenths (88.9%, 34,094) of the 38,354 patients waiting more than 52 weeks on the 30th June 2020 were in one of the following specialties: T & O Surgery; General Surgery; ENT; Urology; Ophthalmology; Gynaecology and Plastic Surgery (Table 3a).

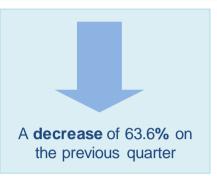
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^{*} Figures revised on 29th September 2020.

Completed waits for inpatient and day case activity during quarter ending 30th June 2020

There were **14,654**

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

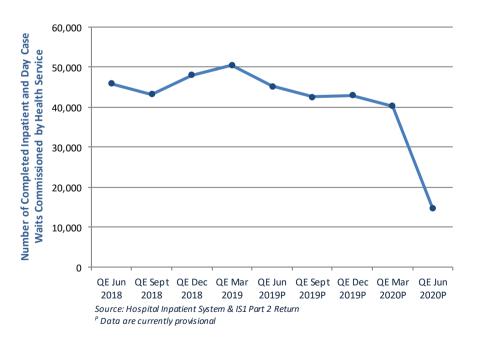




Source: Hospital Inpatient System & IS1 Part 2 Return

A total of 13,611 patients were admitted to Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland during the quarter ending 30th June 2020, 63.2% (23,335) fewer than during the quarter ending 31st March 2020 (36,946) and 68.3% (29,315) fewer than during the quarter ending 30th June 2019 (42,926) (Table 4). Users should be aware that the Covid-19 Pandemic drastically altered the functions of hospitals during the current reporting period and should exercise caution when using these provisional data given that hospital records may not be fully updated at this time.

During the quarter ending 30th June 2020, 1,043 patients received inpatient or day case treatment commissioned by the Health Service within the Independent Sector, 68.8% (2,303) lower than the number seen during the quarter ending 31st March 2020 (3,346), and 53.9% (1,219) lower than that seen during quarter ending June 2019 (2,262).



When the number of completed inpatient and day case waits within the Independent Sector during the quarter ending 30th June 2020 (1,043) is combined with those treated in Health Service hospitals during the same period (13,611), provisional figures indicate that 14,654 inpatients and day cases received treatment in Northern Ireland

commissioned by the Health Service. This was a 63.6% (25,638) decrease in the number of completed waits commissioned by the Health Service between the quarter ending March 2020 (40,292) and the quarter ending June 2020 (14,654) and a decrease of 67.6% (30,534) compared to quarter ending June 2019 (45,188) (Table 4).

Patients waiting at a Day Case Procedure Centre (DPC) at 30th June 2020

There were

3,583

Patients waiting to be admitted to a Day Case Procedure Centre (DPC) There were

934

Patients waiting to be admitted to a Varicose Veins DPC

There were

2,649

Patients waiting to be admitted to a Cataracts DPC

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 'Day Case Procedure Centres' (DPC) became operational for the surgical treatment of Cataracts and Varicose Veins. Patients waiting for either of these procedures can now be referred to a DPC for treatment rather than attend the hospital site they may have been referred to previously.

DPCs have been set up in the following locations:

DPC	Location(s) of 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)

At 30th June 2020, 934 patients were waiting to be admitted to a Varicose Veins DPC, with a further 2,649 patients waiting to be admitted to a Cataracts DPC (Table 5).

Appendix 1: Tables

Table 1: Quarterly inpatient and day case waiting lists - 30th June 20201

	my impationt and day babe waiting	J					
Type of Adm	ission	Current Quarter (Jun 20)	Previous Quarter (Mar 20)	Same Quarter Last Year (Jun 19)			
	Total Patients Waiting	32,472	31,696	30,004			
Inpatient	Number waiting over 13 weeks Percentage waiting over 13	30,450	26,471	24,088			
-	weeks	93.8%	83.5%	80.3%			
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	38,354	30,696	23,996			
	Total Patients Waiting	64,771	61,945	58,199			
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	55,887	40,401	34,784			
Day Case	Percentage waiting over 13 weeks	86.3%	65.2%	59.8%			
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	20,554	15,631	11,614			
	Total Patients Waiting	97,243	93,641	88,203			
All Admissions	Number waiting over 13 weeks	86,337	66,872	58,872			
	Percentage waiting over 13 weeks	88.8%	71.4%	66.7%			
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	58,908	46,327	35,610			

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset ¹Refer 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 - 30th June 20201*

	Patio	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting							
HSC Trust	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52	Waiting for Admission		
Belfast	2,391	1,179	4,487	2,766	9,887	19,064	39,774		
Northern*	822	653	2,515	1,314	3,911	2,322	11,537		
South Eastern	1,256	649	1,882	736	1,656	2,431	8,610		
Southern	991	667	2,773	1,433	4,913	6,112	16,889		
Western*	1,519	779	2,993	1,517	5,200	8,425	20,433		
Total	6,979	3,927	14,650	7,766	25,567	38,354	97,243		

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset ¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–14 & 18-19

* Figures revised on 29th September 2020.

Table 2b: Percentage of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by HSC

Trust and weeks waiting - 30th June 20201*

	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting						
HSC Trust	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52	
Belfast	6.0%	3.0%	11.3%	7.0%	24.9%	47.9%	
Northern*	7.1%	5.7%	21.8%	11.4%	33.9%	20.1%	
South Eastern	14.6%	7.5%	21.9%	8.5%	19.2%	28.2%	
Southern	5.9%	3.9%	16.4%	8.5%	29.1%	36.2%	
Western*	7.4%	3.8%	14.6%	7.4%	25.4%	41.2%	
Total	7.2%	4.0%	15.1%	8.0%	26.3%	39.4%	

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset ¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–14 & 18-19

Table 3a: Number of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by weeks waiting and specialty – 30th June 20201

alting and specialty	001110	Turic 2020					Total	
Specialty	Patio	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting						
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52	for Admission	
General Surgery	1,446	837	3,352	1,769	5,580	7,630	20,614	
T & O Surgery	525	264	1,800	1,326	4,980	9,888	18,783	
Ophthalmology	224	119	1,005	682	2,357	2,471	6,858	
ENT	164	89	1,165	681	2,504	6,653	11,256	
Urology	1,025	462	847	421	1,357	3,786	7,898	
Gynaecology	432	186	958	542	1,652	2,231	6,001	
Gastroenterology	846	707	1,454	669	2,228	1,199	7,103	
General Medicine	934	544	1,459	377	1,342	694	5,350	
Cardiology	351	277	480	205	771	245	2,329	
Pain Management	71	39	304	206	593	704	1,917	
Plastic Surgery	173	105	350	147	574	1,435	2,784	
Oral Surgery Paediatric	90	25	249	109	231	219	923	
Surgery	53	20	127	79	291	204	774	
GP Other	40	9	306	180	167	3	705	
Dermatology	180	60	201	126	278	142	987	
Paediatrics	16	6	93	45	174	225	559	
Neurology	40	20	73	29	105	89	356	
Rheumatology	65	64	165	24	5	1	324	
Neurosurgery	34	25	49	24	67	128	327	
Other	270	69	213	125	311	407	1,395	
All Specialties	6,979	3,927	14,650	7,766	25,567	38,354	97,243	

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset ¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–14 & 18-19

* Figures revised on 29th September 2020.

Table 3b: Percentage of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by weeks waiting and specialty – 30th June 2020¹

anting and specialty		dric 2020						
Specialty	Percentage of Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting							
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52		
General Surgery	7.0%	4.1%	16.3%	8.6%	27.1%	37.0%		
T & O Surgery	2.8%	1.4%	9.6%	7.1%	26.5%	52.6%		
Ophthalmology	3.3%	1.7%	14.7%	9.9%	34.4%	36.0%		
ENT	1.5%	0.8%	10.4%	6.1%	22.2%	59.1%		
Urology	13.0%	5.8%	10.7%	5.3%	17.2%	47.9%		
Gynaecology	7.2%	3.1%	16.0%	9.0%	27.5%	37.2%		
Gastroenterology	11.9%	10.0%	20.5%	9.4%	31.4%	16.9%		
General Medicine	17.5%	10.2%	27.3%	7.0%	25.1%	13.0%		
Cardiology	15.1%	11.9%	20.6%	8.8%	33.1%	10.5%		
Pain Management	3.7%	2.0%	15.9%	10.7%	30.9%	36.7%		
Plastic Surgery	6.2%	3.8%	12.6%	5.3%	20.6%	51.5%		
Oral Surgery Paediatric	9.8%	2.7%	27.0%	11.8%	25.0%	23.7%		
Surgery	6.8%	2.6%	16.4%	10.2%	37.6%	26.4%		
GP Other	5.7%	1.3%	43.4%	25.5%	23.7%	0.4%		
Dermatology	18.2%	6.1%	20.4%	12.8%	28.2%	14.4%		
Paediatrics	2.9%	1.1%	16.6%	8.1%	31.1%	40.3%		
Neurology	11.2%	5.6%	20.5%	8.1%	29.5%	25.0%		
Rheumatology	20.1%	19.8%	50.9%	7.4%	1.5%	0.3%		
Neurosurgery	10.4%	7.6%	15.0%	7.3%	20.5%	39.1%		
Other	19.4%	4.9%	15.3%	9.0%	22.3%	29.2%		
All Specialties	7.2%	4.0%	15.1%	8.0%	26.3%	39.4%		

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

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 2020²

	Number of Completed Inpatient and Day Case Waits					
Quarter Ending	Within Health Service Hospitals	Independent Sector*	Total Commissioned by Health Service			
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 Jun 2018	44,735	1,164	45,899			
QE Sept 2018	42,077	1,135	43,212			
QE Dec 2018	45,499	2,514	48,013			
QE Mar 2019	43,868	6,595	50,463			
QE Jun 2019PR	42,926	2,262	45,188			
QE Sept 2019PR	41,078	1,414	42,492			
QE Dec 2019PR	40,781	2,135	42,916			
QE Mar 2020 ^{PR}	36,946	3,346	40,292			
QE Jun 2020P	13,611	1,043	14,654			

Source: Hospital Inpatient System & IS1 Part 2 Return

Table 5: Table 5: Number of patients waiting for admission to Day Case Procedure Centres (DPC), 30th June 2020

DPC	Num	Total					
Di O	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52	Waiting
Varicose Veins	45	10	138	120	402	219	934
Cataracts	110	32	449	348	1,114	596	2,649
Total	155	42	587	468	1,516	815	3,583

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

P Data are currently provisional

R Data has been revised

^{*} Not National Statistics

² Refer to Explanatory Notes 1, 4 &15-19

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/inpatient-and-day-case-waiting-times-supporting-documentation
- 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-June-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 31st September 2020 will be released on Thursday 26th November 2020.

Appendix 3: National Statistics

Data contained within this publication are National Statistics except for information relating to DPC 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

Designation was awarded in March 2013:

https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/imagesletterofconfirmationasnationalstatisticsassessmentreport15_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

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