

INFORMATION  
ANALYSIS  
DIRECTORATE



# Northern Ireland Waiting Time Statistics: Inpatient and Day Case Waiting Times Quarter Ending June 2016



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 2016/17 Ministerial waiting time target which states that:

*“By March 2017, 55% of patients should wait no longer than 13 weeks for inpatient/daycase 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 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 June 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-june-2016>

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**Authors:** Jennifer Lynn, Jennifer McCrea, Christine Kennedy

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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, academics, and Health & Social Care stakeholders, the media and general public.

**Price:** Free

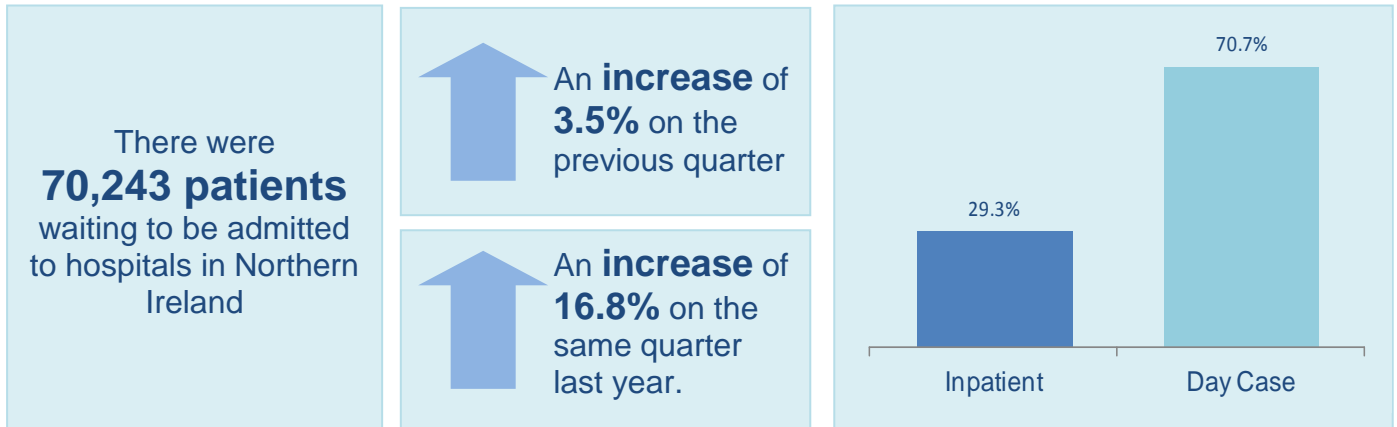
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The Ministerial target states that, by March 2017, 55% of patients should wait no longer than 13 weeks for inpatient/daycase treatment, with no patient waiting longer than 52 weeks.

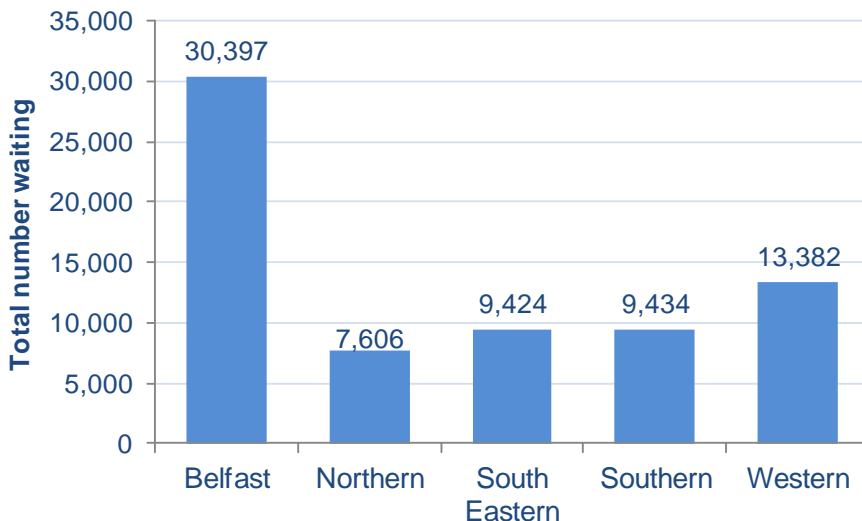
## Total number of patients waiting at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016



Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

At 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016, a total of 70,243 people were waiting to be admitted to hospital in Northern Ireland, 3.5% (2,345) more than at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 (67,898), and 16.8% (10,116) more than at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (60,127) (Table 1).

Almost one third (29.3%, 20,552) of those waiting for admission at the end of June 2016 were waiting for an inpatient admission, with the remaining 70.7% (49,691) waiting for a day case admission (Table 1).



Over two fifths (43.3%) of those waiting to be admitted were in the Belfast HSC Trust, with a further 19.1% waiting in the Western HSC Trust, 13.4% in the South Eastern HSC Trust, 13.4% in the Southern HSC Trust and 10.8% in the Northern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

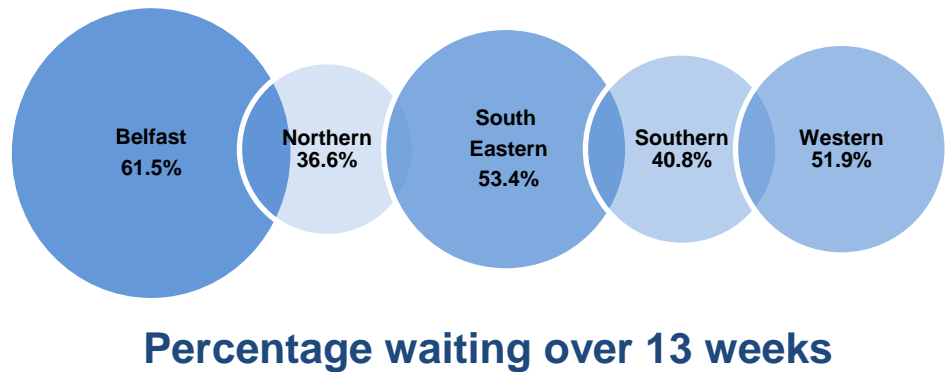
Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

Over three quarters (77.9%, 54,708) of the 70,243 patients waiting for admission were within the following seven specialties: General Surgery (15,146); Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) Surgery (11,684); Ear, Nose and Throat (6,070); Urology (6,002); Ophthalmology (5,582); Gastroenterology (5,156) and Gynaecology (5,068) (Table 3a).

## Patients waiting more than 13 weeks at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016

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

**53.1%**  
of patients  
were waiting longer  
than 13 weeks



Percentage waiting over 13 weeks

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

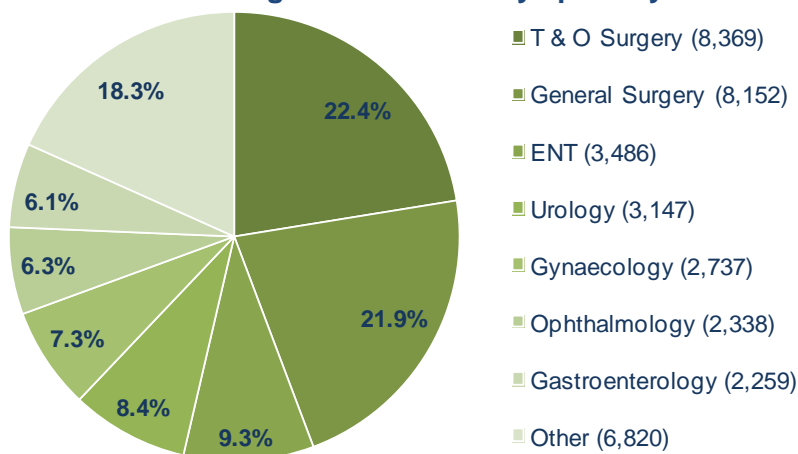
Achievement of the 13 week target requires that less than 45% of patients should be waiting over 13 weeks for inpatient or day case admission.

At the end of June 2016, 53.1% (37,308) of patients were waiting more than 13 weeks to be admitted for treatment, compared with 48.1% (32,676) at the end of March 2016 and 48.3% (29,028) at the end of June 2015 (Table 1).

At 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016, the 13 week element of the target was not achieved by Northern Ireland as a whole but the Northern and Southern HSC Trusts did meet this element of the target (Table 2a).

Over two thirds (66.9%, 13,752) of those patients waiting for an inpatient admission, were waiting over 13 weeks. This is compared to 47.4% (23,556) waiting over 13 weeks for a day case admission (Table 1).

### Patients waiting over 13 weeks by speciality



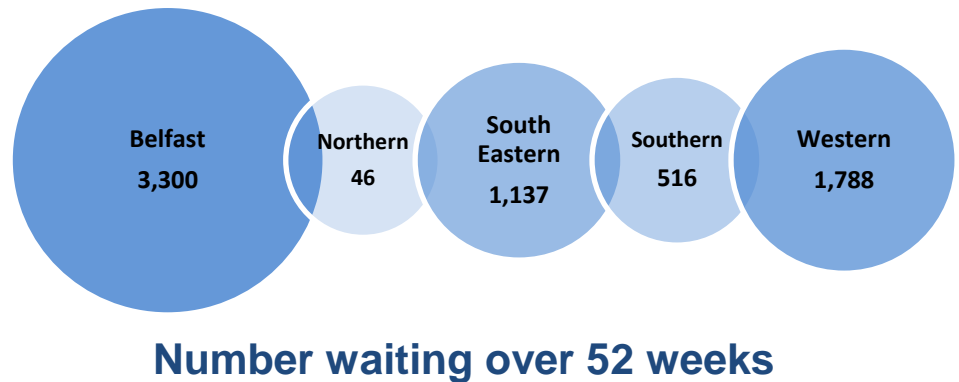
A total of 81.7% (30,488) of the 37,308 patients waiting more than 13 weeks at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 were within the following seven specialties: Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) Surgery; General Surgery; Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); Urology; Gynaecology; Ophthalmology and Gastroenterology (Table 3a).

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

## Patients waiting more than 52 weeks at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016

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

**6,787**  
patients  
were waiting longer  
than 52 weeks



### Number waiting over 52 weeks

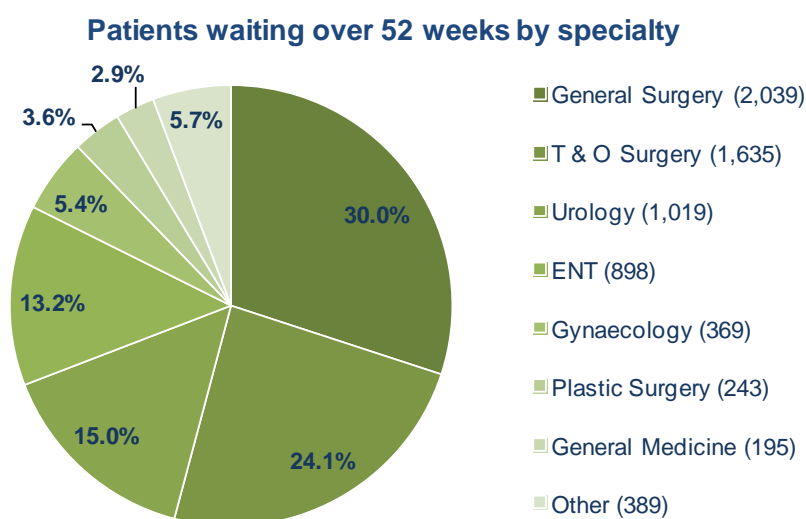
Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

At the end of June 2016, almost one in ten (9.7%, 6,787) patients were waiting more than 52 weeks for either an inpatient or day case admission. This is an increase of 13.9% (826) compared with the end of March 2016 (5,961), and almost twice the number waiting at the end of June 2015 (3,406) (Table 1).

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

The proportion of patients waiting longer than 52 weeks at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 was 13.4% (1,788) in the Western HSC Trust, 12.1% (1,137) in the South Eastern HSC Trust, 10.9% (3,300) in the Belfast HSC Trust, 5.5% (516) in the Southern HSC Trust and 0.6% (46) in the Northern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

Of those waiting more than 52 weeks, 3,331 were waiting for an inpatient admission and 3,456 were waiting for a day case admission (Table 1).



A total of 94.3% (6,398) of the 6,787 patients waiting more than 52 weeks to be admitted were within the following seven specialties: General Surgery; Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) Surgery; Urology; Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); Gynaecology; Plastic Surgery and General Medicine (Table 3a).

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

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

There were  
**49,960**

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



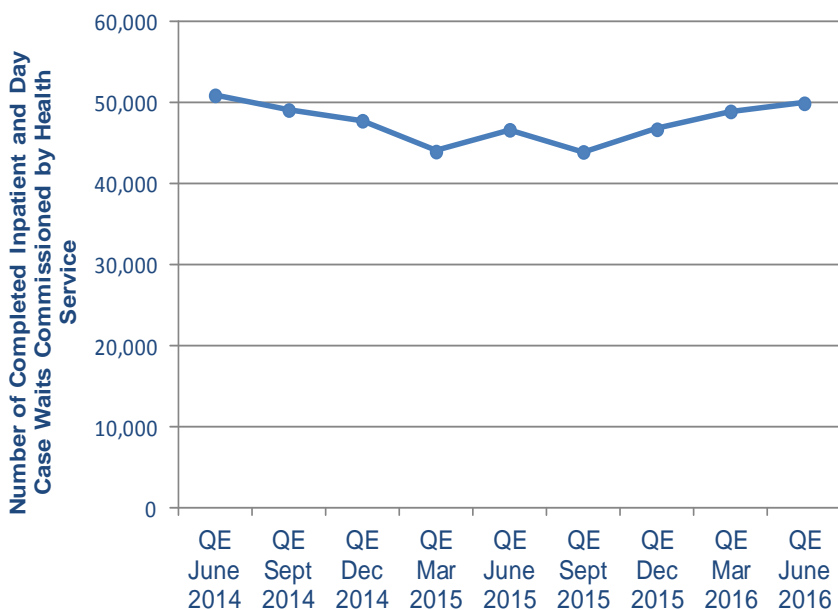
An **increase of 2.0%** on the previous quarter



An **increase of 7.0%** on the same quarter last year

Source: Hospital Inpatient System & IS1 Part 2Return

A total of 45,630 patients were admitted to Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland during the quarter ending June 2016, 3.4% (1,518) more than the quarter ending March 2016 (44,112) and 4.6% (2,027) more than the quarter ending June 2015 (43,603) (Table 4).



During the quarter ending June 2016, 4,366 patients received inpatient or day case treatment commissioned by the Health Service, within the Independent Sector, 10.6% (517) less than the quarter ending March 2016 (4,883) but 39.9% (1,245) more than the same quarter in the previous year (3,121) (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 June 2016 (4,366) is combined with those treated in Health Service hospitals during the same period (45,630), it is estimated that approximately 49,996 inpatients and day cases received treatment in Northern Ireland commissioned by the Health Service. There has been a 2.0% (1,001) increase in the number of completed waits commissioned by the Health Service between the quarter ending March 2016 (48,995) and quarter ending June 2016 (49,996) and an increase of 7.0% (3,272) compared to quarter ending June 2015 (46,724) (Table 4).

## Appendix 1: Tables

**Table 1: Quarterly inpatient and day case waiting lists – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016<sup>1</sup>**

Type of Admission		Current Quarter (30 <sup>th</sup> June 2016)	Previous Quarter (31 <sup>st</sup> March 2016)	Same Quarter Last Year (30 <sup>th</sup> June 2015)
<b>Inpatient</b>	Total Patients Waiting	20,552	20,144	19,181
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	13,752	13,129	12,205
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	66.9%	65.2%	63.6%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	3,331	2,932	1,585
<b>Day Case</b>	Total Patients Waiting	49,691	47,754	40,946
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	23,556	19,547	16,823
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	47.4%	40.9%	41.1%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	3,456	3,029	1,821
<b>All Admissions</b>	Total Patients Waiting	70,243	67,898	60,127
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	37,308	32,676	29,028
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	53.1%	48.1%	48.3%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	6,787	5,961	3,406

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–15

**Table 2a: Number of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016<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	5,617	6,092	6,037	2,420	6,931	3,300	30,397
Northern	2,782	2,038	1,737	416	587	46	7,606
South Eastern	2,459	1,929	1,675	727	1,497	1,137	9,424
Southern	3,240	2,344	1,434	621	1,279	516	9,434
Western	3,744	2,690	1,822	892	2,446	1,788	13,382
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,842</b>	<b>15,093</b>	<b>12,705</b>	<b>5,076</b>	<b>12,740</b>	<b>6,787</b>	<b>70,243</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–15

**Table 2b: Percentage of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016<sup>1</sup>**

HSC Trust	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting					
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52
Belfast	18.5%	20.0%	19.9%	8.0%	22.8%	10.9%
Northern	36.6%	26.8%	22.8%	5.5%	7.7%	0.6%
South Eastern	26.1%	20.5%	17.8%	7.7%	15.9%	12.1%
Southern	34.3%	24.8%	15.2%	6.6%	13.6%	5.5%
Western	28.0%	20.1%	13.6%	6.7%	18.3%	13.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.4%</b>	<b>21.5%</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	<b>9.7%</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–15



**Table 3a: Number of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by weeks waiting and specialty – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016<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	4,116	2,878	2,599	984	2,530	2,039	15,146
T & O Surgery	1,059	2,256	2,038	1,067	3,629	1,635	11,684
ENT	1,315	1,269	1,106	443	1,039	898	6,070
Urology	1,799	1,056	719	366	1,043	1,019	6,002
Ophthalmology	1,502	1,742	1,424	443	433	38	5,582
Gastroenterology	1,555	1,342	1,502	291	351	115	5,156
Gynaecology	1,357	974	925	412	1,031	369	5,068
General Medicine	1,538	578	227	110	321	195	2,969
Pain Management	442	525	427	278	988	161	2,821
Cardiology	762	650	449	209	350	6	2,426
Plastic Surgery	414	346	378	133	371	243	1,885
Oral Surgery	298	268	254	95	182	17	1,114
Dermatology	344	200	111	46	63	33	797
Paediatric Surgery	104	150	152	61	242	4	713
GP Other	272	230	112	11	7	1	633
Neurology	135	93	51	33	21	0	333
Rheumatology	188	74	10	4	5	3	284
Cardiac Surgery	84	76	37	14	12	0	223
Paediatric Dentistry	73	64	36	23	25	1	222
Other	485	322	148	53	97	10	1,115
<b>All Specialties</b>	<b>17,842</b>	<b>15,093</b>	<b>12,705</b>	<b>5,076</b>	<b>12,740</b>	<b>6,787</b>	<b>70,243</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–15

**Table 3b: Percentage of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by weeks waiting and specialty – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016<sup>1</sup>**

Specialty	Percentage of Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting					
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52
T & O Surgery	27.2%	19.0%	17.2%	6.5%	16.7%	13.5%
General Surgery	9.1%	19.3%	17.4%	9.1%	31.1%	14.0%
Urology	21.7%	20.9%	18.2%	7.3%	17.1%	14.8%
Ophthalmology	30.0%	17.6%	12.0%	6.1%	17.4%	17.0%
ENT	26.9%	31.2%	25.5%	7.9%	7.8%	0.7%
Gynaecology	30.2%	26.0%	29.1%	5.6%	6.8%	2.2%
Gastroenterology	26.8%	19.2%	18.3%	8.1%	20.3%	7.3%
Pain Management	51.8%	19.5%	7.6%	3.7%	10.8%	6.6%
General Medicine	15.7%	18.6%	15.1%	9.9%	35.0%	5.7%
Cardiology	31.4%	26.8%	18.5%	8.6%	14.4%	0.2%
Plastic Surgery	22.0%	18.4%	20.1%	7.1%	19.7%	12.9%
Oral Surgery	26.8%	24.1%	22.8%	8.5%	16.3%	1.5%
Dermatology	43.2%	25.1%	13.9%	5.8%	7.9%	4.1%
GP Other	14.6%	21.0%	21.3%	8.6%	33.9%	0.6%
Paediatric Surgery	43.0%	36.3%	17.7%	1.7%	1.1%	0.2%
Cardiac Surgery	40.5%	27.9%	15.3%	9.9%	6.3%	0.0%
Rheumatology	66.2%	26.1%	3.5%	1.4%	1.8%	1.1%
Paediatrics	37.7%	34.1%	16.6%	6.3%	5.4%	0.0%
Neurosurgery	32.9%	28.8%	16.2%	10.4%	11.3%	0.5%
Other	43.5%	28.9%	13.3%	4.8%	8.7%	0.9%
<b>All Specialties</b>	<b>25.4%</b>	<b>21.5%</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>18.1%</b>	<b>9.7%</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–15

**Table 4: Number of completed inpatient and day case waits commissioned by the Health Service: QE June 2015 - QE June 2016<sup>2</sup>**

Quarter Ending	Number of Completed Inpatient and Day Case Waits		
	Within Health Service Hospitals	Independent Sector*	Total Commissioned by Health Service
QE June 2014	44,609	6,370	50,979
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 <sup>R</sup>	43,603	3,121	46,724
QE Sept 2015 <sup>R</sup>	42,865	1,130	43,995
QE Dec 2015 <sup>R</sup>	45,708	1,081	46,789
QE Mar 2016 <sup>R</sup>	44,112	4,883	48,995

Source: Hospital Inpatient System & IS1 Part 2 Return

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

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

<sup>2</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1, 4 & 14-16

## Appendix 2: Explanatory Notes

1. The source for the data contained in this release is the DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset, Hospital Inpatient System and IS1 Part 2 Return. These returns collect information from Health and Social Care Trusts and 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-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 of 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). (See explanatory note 7). 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 timeband 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 timeband 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 timeband. 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 timeband.

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 patienty
- 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 2016 will be released on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016.



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

**Jennifer Lynn**

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)

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