

INFORMATION  
ANALYSIS  
DIRECTORATE



# Northern Ireland Waiting Time Statistics: Inpatient and Day Case Waiting Times Quarter Ending December 2020

# 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 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 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 December 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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**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.

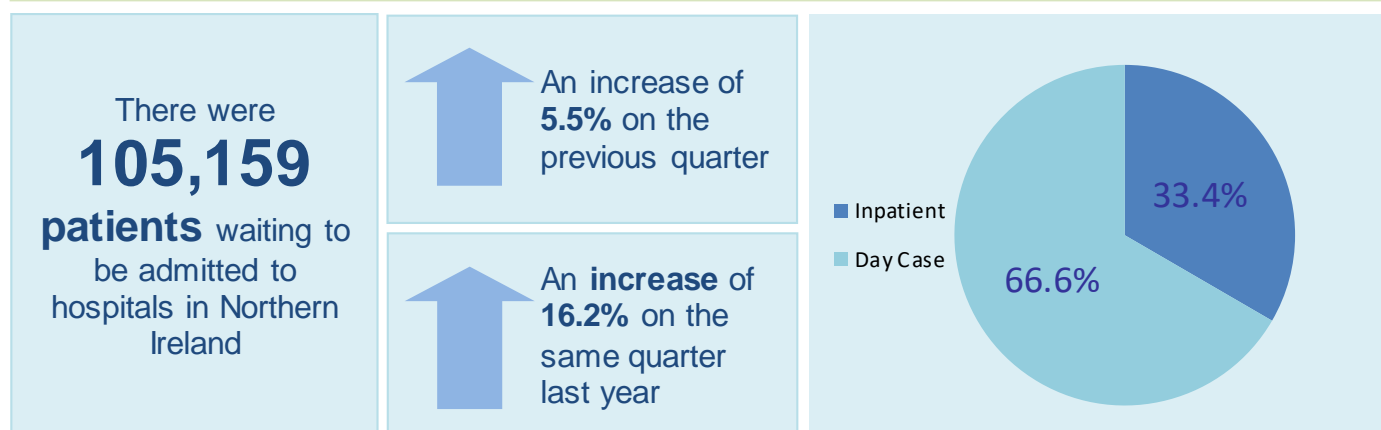
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## Contents

Total number of patients waiting for Inpatient and Day Case Admissions .....	4
Patients waiting longer than 13 weeks for Inpatient and Day Case Admissions.....	5
Patients waiting longer than 52 weeks for Inpatient and Day Case Admissions.....	6
Completed waits for Inpatient and Day Case Activity commissioned by the Health Service...	7
Patients waiting at a Day Case Procedure Centre.....	8
Appendix 1: Tables.....	9
Appendix 2: Explanatory Notes.....	13

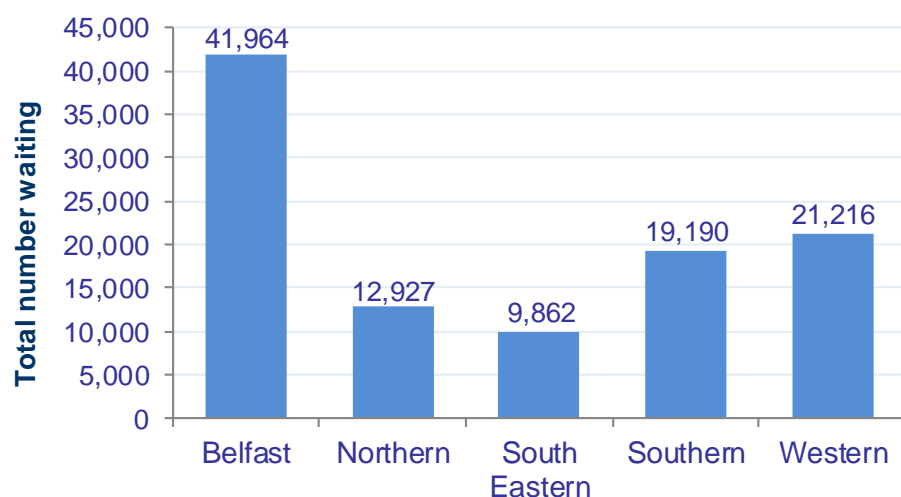
## Total number of patients waiting at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020



Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, a total of 105,159 patients were waiting to be admitted to hospitals in Northern Ireland, 5.5% (5,441) more than at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (99,718), and 16.2% (14,645) more than at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 (90,514) (Table 1).

One third (33.4%, 35,093) of those waiting for admission at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 were waiting for an inpatient admission, with the remaining 66.6% (70,066) 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

Of patients waiting, two fifths (39.9%) were waiting to be admitted in the Belfast HSC Trust, with a further 20.2% waiting in the Western HSC Trust, 18.2% in the Southern HSC Trust, 12.3% in the Northern HSC Trust and 9.4% in the South Eastern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

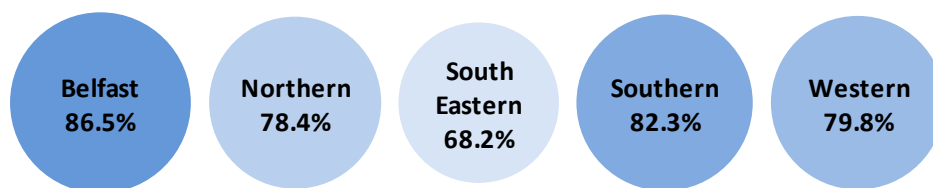
Of the 105,159 patients waiting for admission, 81%, (85,163) were in one of the following specialties: General Surgery (21.4%, 22,539); T & O Surgery (19.5%, 20,535); ENT (11.3%, 11,869); Urology (8.6%, 9,074); Gastroenterology (7.4%, 7,830); Ophthalmology (6.4%, 6,766) and General Medicine (6.2%, 6,550). (Table 3a).

## Patients waiting more than 13 weeks at 31<sup>st</sup> December 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

**81.7%**  
of patients were waiting longer than 13 weeks



### Percentage waiting over 13 weeks

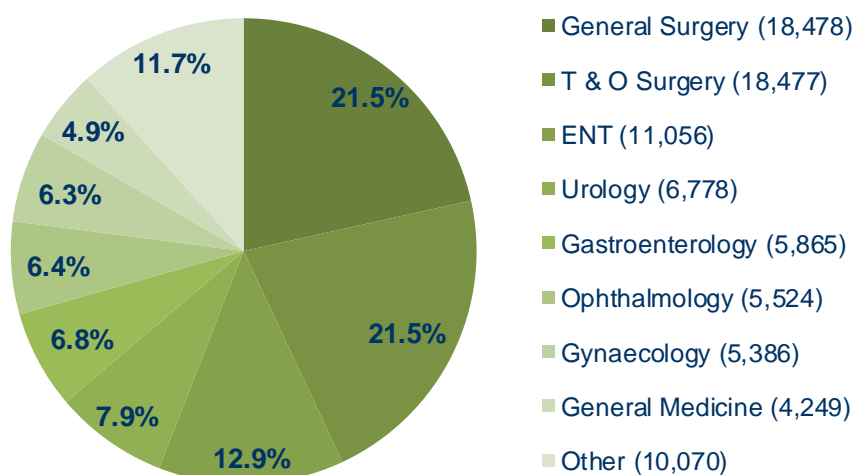
Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, 81.7% (85,883) of patients were waiting more than 13 weeks to be admitted for treatment, compared with 83.6% (83,381) at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and 68.7% (62,163) at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 (Table 1).

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 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, almost nine tenths (88.6%, 31,085) were waiting over 13 weeks. This is compared with 78.2% (54,798) waiting over 13 weeks for a day case admission (Table 1).

### Patients waiting over 13 weeks by specialty



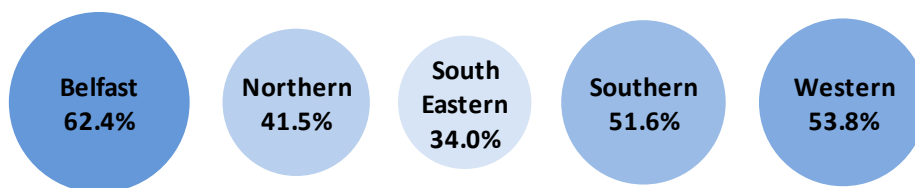
More than eight in ten (83.3%, 71,564) of the 85,883 patients waiting more than 13 weeks at the end of December 2020 were in one of the following specialties: General Surgery (18,478); T & O Surgery (18,477); ENT (11,056); Urology (6,778); Gastroenterology (5,865); Ophthalmology (5,524) and Gynaecology (5,386) (Table 3a).

## Patients waiting more than 52 weeks at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

By March 2021, no patient should wait longer than 52 weeks for inpatient/day case treatment

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

**56,242**  
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.

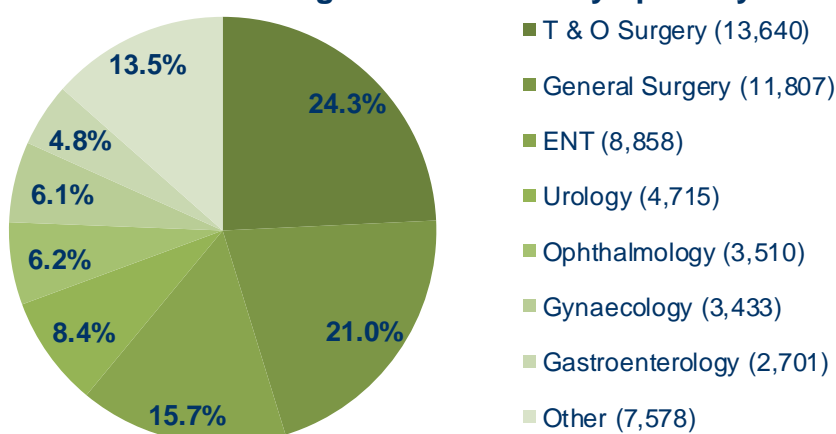
At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, 53.5% (56,242) of patients were waiting more than 52 weeks for either an inpatient or day case admission, compared with 46.5% (46,417) at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020, and 29.9% (27,090) at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 (Table 1).

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 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).

More than three fifths (62.4%, 26,204) of patients in the Belfast HSC Trust were waiting longer than 52 weeks at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, more than half in the Western (53.8%, 11,413) and Southern (51.6%, 9,911) HSC Trusts, two fifths (41.5%, 5,362) in the Northern HSC Trust and a third (34.0%, 3,352) in the South Eastern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

Of those waiting more than 52 weeks, 23,490 were waiting for an inpatient admission and 32,752 were waiting for a day case admission (Table 1).

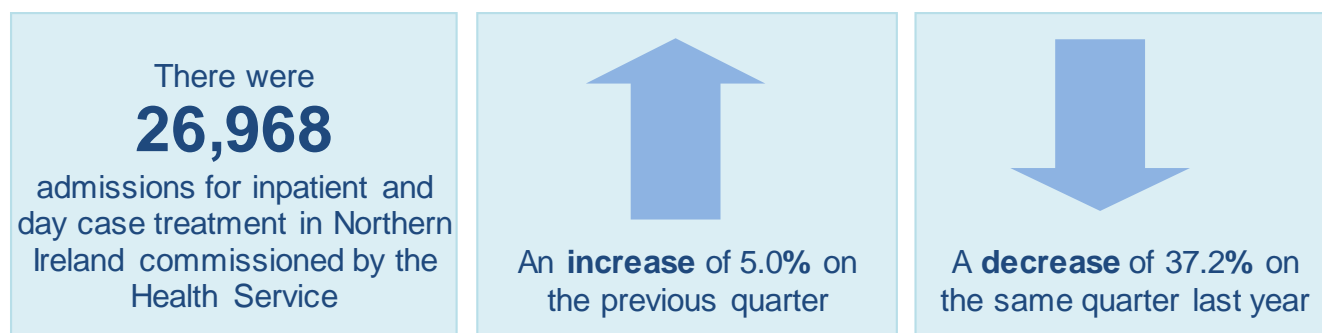
### Patients waiting over 52 weeks by specialty



Almost nine tenths (86.5%, 48,664) of the 56,242 patients waiting more than 52 weeks on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 were in one of the following specialties: T & O Surgery; General Surgery; ENT; Urology; Ophthalmology; Gynaecology and Gastroenterology (Table 3a).

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

## Completed waits for inpatient and day case activity during quarter ending 31st December 2020



Source: Hospital Inpatient System & IS1 Part 2 Return

A total of 25,242 patients were admitted to Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland during the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, 3.3% (816) more than during the quarter ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (24,426) and 38.1% (15,543) fewer than during the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 (40,785) (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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, 1,726 patients received inpatient or day case treatment commissioned by the Health Service within the Independent Sector, 37.1% (467) more than the number seen during the quarter ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (1,259), and 19.2% (409) lower than that seen during quarter ending December 2019 (2,135).

When the number of completed inpatient and day case waits within the Independent Sector during the quarter ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 (1,726) is combined with those treated in Health Service hospitals during the same period (25,242), provisional figures indicate that 26,968 inpatients and day cases received treatment in Northern Ireland commissioned by the Health Service. This was a 5.0% (1,283) increase in the number of completed waits commissioned by the Health Service between the quarter ending September 2020 (25,685) and the quarter ending December 2020 (26,968) and a decrease of 37.2% (15,952) compared to the quarter ending December 2019 (42,920) (Table 4).

## Patients waiting at a Day Case Procedure Centre (DPC) at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

There were

**3,893**

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

There were

**872**

Patients waiting to be admitted to a Varicose Veins DPC

There were

**3,021**

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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, 872 patients were waiting to be admitted to a Varicose Veins DPC, with a further 3,021 patients waiting to be admitted to a Cataracts DPC (Table 5).



## Appendix 1: Tables

**Table 1: Quarterly inpatient and day case waiting lists – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020<sup>1</sup>**

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–14 & 18-19

Type of Admission		Current Quarter (Dec 20)	Previous Quarter (Sep 20)	Same Quarter Last Year (Dec 19)
<b>Inpatient</b>	Total Patients Waiting	35,093	33,136	30,640
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	31,085	29,984	25,115
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	88.6%	90.5%	82.0%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	23,490	20,417	13,643
<b>Day Case</b>	Total Patients Waiting	70,066	66,582	59,874
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	54,798	53,397	37,048
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	78.2%	80.2%	61.9%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	32,752	26,000	13,447
<b>All Admissions</b>	Total Patients Waiting	105,159	99,718	90,514
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	85,883	83,381	62,163
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	81.7%	83.6%	68.7%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	56,242	46,417	27,090

**Table 2a: Number of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020<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	3,023	2,635	2,028	1,003	7,071	26,204	41,964
Northern	1,593	1,202	802	437	3,531	5,362	12,927
South							
Eastern	1,899	1,239	919	315	2,138	3,352	9,862
Southern	1,765	1,634	1,343	555	3,982	9,911	19,190
Western	2,435	1,851	1,309	586	3,622	11,413	21,216
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,715</b>	<b>8,561</b>	<b>6,401</b>	<b>2,896</b>	<b>20,344</b>	<b>56,242</b>	<b>105,159</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–14 & 18-19

**Table 2b: Percentage of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020<sup>1</sup>**

HSC Trust	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting					
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52
Belfast	7.2%	6.3%	4.8%	2.4%	16.9%	62.4%
Northern South	12.3%	9.3%	6.2%	3.4%	27.3%	41.5%
Eastern	19.3%	12.6%	9.3%	3.2%	21.7%	34.0%
Southern	9.2%	8.5%	7.0%	2.9%	20.8%	51.6%
Western	11.5%	8.7%	6.2%	2.8%	17.1%	53.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>53.5%</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–14 & 18-19

**Table 3a: Number of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by weeks waiting and speciality – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020<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	2,252	1,809	1,414	617	4,640	11,807	22,539
T & O Surgery	870	1,188	909	534	3,394	13,640	20,535
Ophthalmology	598	644	455	234	1,325	3,510	6,766
ENT	374	439	390	107	1,701	8,858	11,869
Urology	1,476	820	504	238	1,321	4,715	9,074
Gynaecology	545	519	408	181	1,364	3,433	6,450
Gastroenterology	1,235	730	670	315	2,179	2,701	7,830
General Medicine	1,426	875	669	273	1,471	1,836	6,550
Cardiology	528	361	238	109	445	604	2,285
Pain Management	145	175	99	61	376	1,057	1,913
Plastic Surgery	182	171	98	34	496	1,929	2,910
Oral Surgery	135	144	100	18	216	273	886
Paediatric Surgery	48	98	50	28	164	399	787
GP Other	228	210	97	12	301	82	930
Dermatology	230	88	72	29	236	216	871
Paediatrics	29	26	25	11	142	335	568
Neurology	43	23	27	17	63	132	305
Rheumatology	58	38	44	23	193	1	357
Neurosurgery	28	51	21	14	68	144	326
Other	285	152	111	41	249	570	1,408
<b>All Specialties</b>	<b>10,715</b>	<b>8,561</b>	<b>6,401</b>	<b>2,896</b>	<b>20,344</b>	<b>56,242</b>	<b>105,159</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–14 & 18-19

**Table 3b: Percentage of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by weeks waiting and specialty – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020<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	10.0%	8.0%	6.3%	2.7%	20.6%	52.4%
T & O Surgery	4.2%	5.8%	4.4%	2.6%	16.5%	66.4%
Ophthalmology	8.8%	9.5%	6.7%	3.5%	19.6%	51.9%
ENT	3.2%	3.7%	3.3%	0.9%	14.3%	74.6%
Urology	16.3%	9.0%	5.6%	2.6%	14.6%	52.0%
Gynaecology	8.4%	8.0%	6.3%	2.8%	21.2%	53.2%
Gastroenterology	15.8%	9.3%	8.6%	4.0%	27.8%	34.5%
General Medicine	21.8%	13.4%	10.2%	4.2%	22.5%	28.0%
Cardiology	23.1%	15.8%	10.4%	4.8%	19.5%	26.4%
Pain Management	7.6%	9.1%	5.2%	3.2%	19.7%	55.3%
Plastic Surgery	6.3%	5.9%	3.4%	1.2%	17.0%	66.3%
Oral Surgery	15.2%	16.3%	11.3%	2.0%	24.4%	30.8%
Paediatric Surgery	6.1%	12.5%	6.4%	3.6%	20.8%	50.7%
GP Other	24.5%	22.6%	10.4%	1.3%	32.4%	8.8%
Dermatology	26.4%	10.1%	8.3%	3.3%	27.1%	24.8%
Paediatrics	5.1%	4.6%	4.4%	1.9%	25.0%	59.0%
Neurology	14.1%	7.5%	8.9%	5.6%	20.7%	43.3%
Rheumatology	16.2%	10.6%	12.3%	6.4%	54.1%	0.3%
Neurosurgery	8.6%	15.6%	6.4%	4.3%	20.9%	44.2%
Other	20.2%	10.8%	7.9%	2.9%	17.7%	40.5%
<b>All Specialties</b>	<b>10.2%</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>6.1%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>53.5%</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>1</sup>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 2017 - QE December 2020<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 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 June 2019	42,926	2,262	45,188
QE September 2019	41,082	1,414	42,496
QE December 2019	40,785	2,135	42,920
QE March 2020	36,946	3,346	40,292
QE June 2020 <sup>P</sup>	13,629	1,043	14,672
QE September 2020 <sup>R</sup>	24,426	1,259	25,685
QE December 2020 <sup>R</sup>	25,242	1,726	26,968

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 & 15-19

**Table 5: Number of patients waiting for admission to Day Case Procedure Centres (DPC), 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

DPC	Number of patients waiting for DPC Admission by Weeks Waiting						Total Waiting
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52	
Varicose Veins	10	34	38	14	258	518	<b>872</b>
Cataracts	408	483	278	110	720	1,022	<b>3,021</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>3,893</b>

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

## 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-December-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 2021, 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 will be released on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

## 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](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/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 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](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>