

INFORMATION
ANALYSIS
DIRECTORATE



Northern Ireland Waiting Time Statistics: Inpatient and Day Case Waiting Times Quarter Ending March 2022

Reader Information

This will be the final release of this publication in pdf format. A new interactive HTML format will be used going forward. This is also available this quarter at the following link:

<https://datavis.nisra.gov.uk/health/ni-inpatient-waiting-times-mar-22.html>

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 2021/22 ministerial waiting time target which states that:

“By March 2022, 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 31st March 2022. 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 March 2022.

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>

Authors: Ben Simpson, Adam Robinson, Siobhán Morgan

Publication Date: Thursday 26th May 2022

Reporting Period: 1st January 2022 – 31st March 2022

Issued by: Hospital Information Branch
Information & Analysis Directorate
Department of Health
Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT4 3SQ

Contact Information and further copies: statistics@health-ni.gov.uk

Target audience: Department of Health (DoH), Chief Executives of the HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland, Health & Social Care stakeholders, health care professionals, academics, the media and the general public.

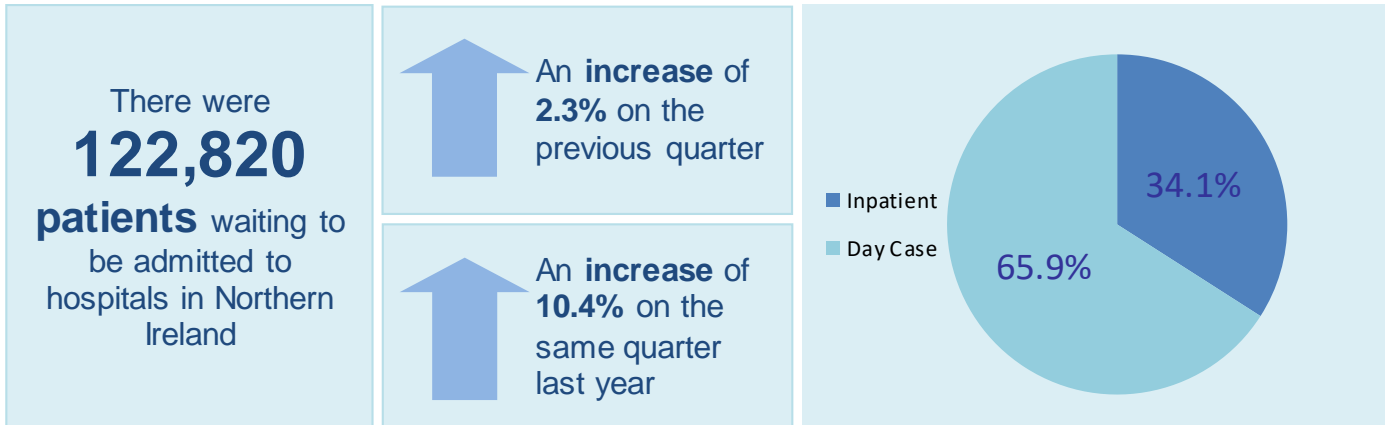
Price: Free

Copyright: This publication is Crown copyright and may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium. Any material used must be acknowledged and the title of the publication specified.

Contents

Total number of patients waiting for Inpatient and Day Case Admissions	5
Patients waiting longer than 13 weeks for Inpatient and Day Case Admissions.....	6
Patients waiting longer than 52 weeks for Inpatient and Day Case Admissions.....	7
Completed waits for Inpatient and Day Case Activity commissioned by the Health Service...	8
Patients waiting at a Day Case Procedure Centre.....	9
Appendix 1: Tables.....	10
Appendix 2: Explanatory Notes.....	14
Appendix 3: National Statistics.....	17

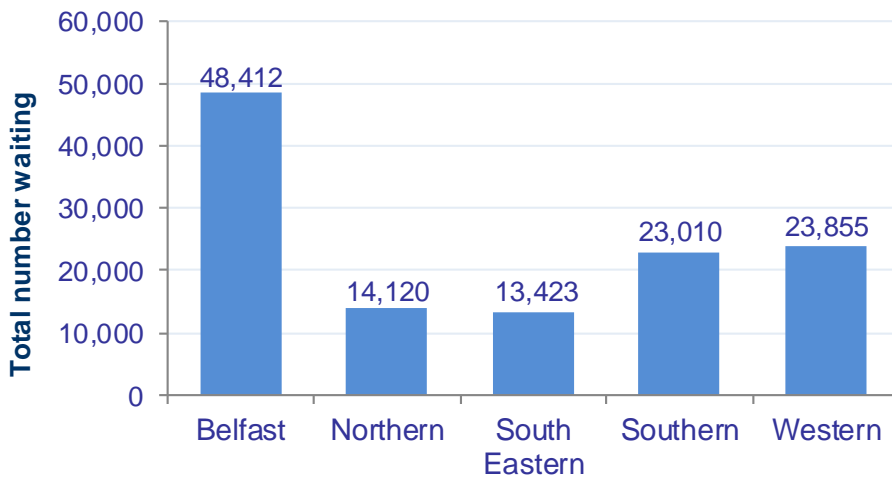
Total number of patients waiting at 31st March 2022



Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

At 31st March 2022, a total of 122,820 patients were waiting to be admitted to hospitals in Northern Ireland, 2.3% (2,723) more than at 31st December 2021 (120,097), and 10.4% (11,611) more than at 31st March 2021 (111,209) (Table 1).

Around one third (34.1%, 41,827) of those waiting for admission at 31st March 2022 were waiting for an inpatient admission, with the remaining 65.9% (80,993) 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 12).

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

Of patients waiting, almost two fifths (39.4%) were waiting to be admitted in the Belfast HSC Trust, with a further 19.4% waiting in the Western HSC Trust, 18.7% in the Southern HSC Trust, 11.5% in the Northern HSC Trust and 10.9% in the South Eastern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

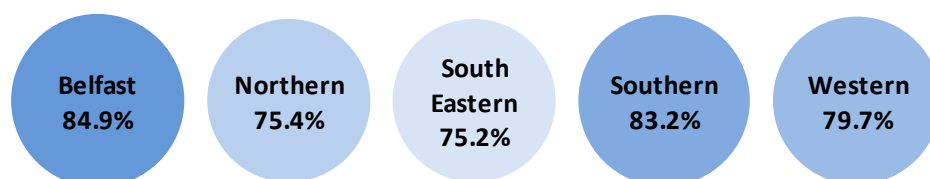
Of the 122,820 patients waiting for admission, four fifths (81.4%, 99,983) were in one of the following specialties: General Surgery (27,068); T & O Surgery (25,742); ENT (13,640); Urology (10,146); General Medicine (7,979); Gynaecology (7,789) and Gastroenterology (7,619) (Table 3a).

Patients waiting more than 13 weeks at 31st March 2022

By March 2022, 55% of patients should wait no longer than 13 weeks for inpatient/day case treatment

This element was **not achieved** by any HSC Trust

81.5%
of patients were waiting longer than 13 weeks



Percentage waiting over 13 weeks

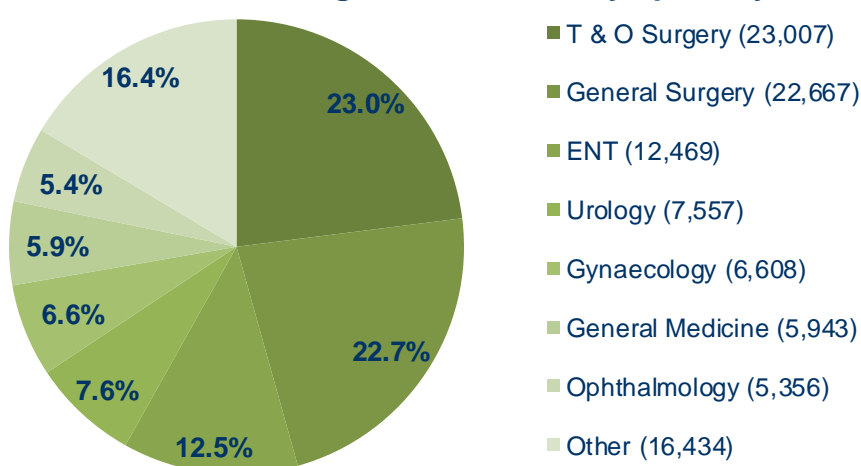
Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

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 31st March 2022, 81.5% (100,041) of patients were waiting more than 13 weeks to be admitted for treatment, 81.5% (97,850) were also waiting longer than 13 weeks at 31st December 2021 compared with 83.3% (92,690) at 31st March 2021 (Table 1).

At 31st March 2022, the 13 week element of the target was not achieved by Northern Ireland as a whole (Table 2a), nor by any of the HSC Trusts. Data users should be aware that not all inpatient and day case services are provided at every HSC Trust (see explanatory note 12).

Of patients waiting for an inpatient admission, almost nine out of ten (88.4%, 36,969) were waiting over 13 weeks. This is compared with 77.9% (63,072) waiting over 13 weeks for a day case admission (Table 1).

Patients waiting over 13 weeks by specialty



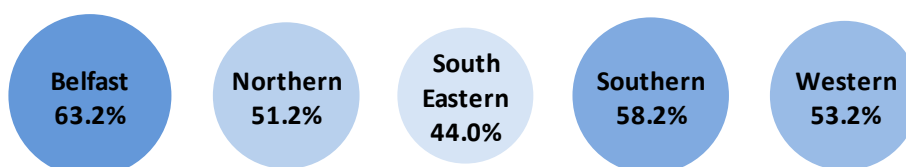
Over four fifths (83.6%, 83,607) of the 100,041 patients waiting more than 13 weeks at the end of March 2022 were in one of the following specialties: T & O Surgery (23,007); General Surgery (22,667); ENT (12,469); Urology (7,557); Gynaecology (6,608); General Medicine (5,943) and Ophthalmology (5,356) (Table 3a).

Patients waiting more than 52 weeks at 31st March 2022

By March 2022, no patient should wait longer than 52 weeks for inpatient/day case treatment

This element was **not achieved** by any HSC Trust

69,831
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.

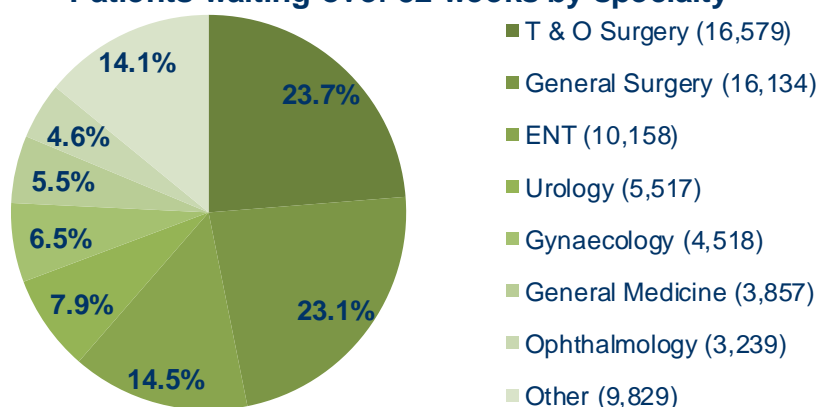
At 31st March 2022, 56.9% (69,831) of patients were waiting more than 52 weeks for either an inpatient or day case admission, compared with 57.8% (69,373) at 31st December 2021, and 61.4% (68,309) at 31st March 2021 (Table 1).

At 31st March 2022, the 52 week element of the target was not achieved by Northern Ireland as a whole nor by any individual HSC Trust (Table 2a). Data users should be aware that not all inpatient and day case services are provided at every HSC Trust (see explanatory note 12).

Around two thirds (63.2%, 30,608) of patients in the Belfast HSC Trust were waiting longer than 52 weeks at 31st March 2022, around three fifths (58.2%, 13,403) in the Southern HSC Trust, more than half in the Western (53.2%, 12,690) and Northern (51.2%, 7,226) HSC Trusts and over two fifths (44.0%, 5,904) in the South Eastern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

Of those waiting more than 52 weeks, 27,461 were waiting for an inpatient admission and 42,370 were waiting for a day case admission (Table 1).

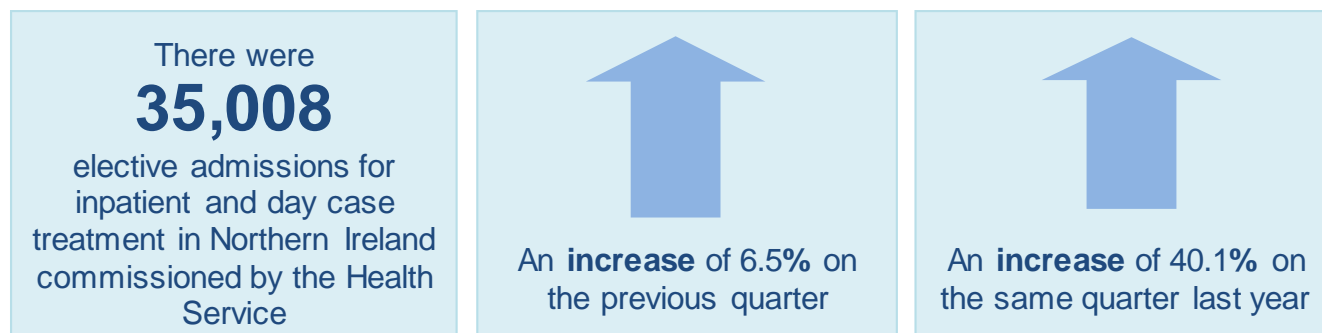
Patients waiting over 52 weeks by specialty



Over four fifths (85.9%, 60,002) of the 69,831 patients waiting more than 52 weeks on the 31st March 2022 were in one of the following specialties: T & O Surgery; General Surgery; ENT; Urology; Gynaecology; General Medicine and Ophthalmology (Table 3a).

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

Completed waits for inpatient and day case activity during quarter ending 31st March 2022



Source: Hospital Inpatient System & IS1 Part 2 Return (provisional)

There were a total of 29,413 elective admissions to Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland during the quarter ending 31st March 2022, 4.6% (1,292) more than during the quarter ending 31st December 2021 (28,121) and 43.7% (8,941) more than during the quarter ending 31st March 2021 (20,472) (Table 4). Users should exercise caution when using these provisional data given that hospital records may not be fully updated at this time.

During the quarter ending 31st March 2022, 5,595 patients received inpatient or day case treatment commissioned by the Health Service within the Independent Sector, 17.6% (836) more than the number seen during the quarter ending 31st December 2021 (4,759), and an increase (23.7%, 1,073) on the number seen during quarter ending March 2021 (4,522).

When the number of completed inpatient and day case waits within the Independent Sector during the quarter ending 31st March 2022 (5,595) is combined with those treated in Health Service hospitals during the same period (29,413), provisional figures indicate that 35,008 inpatients and day cases received treatment in Northern Ireland commissioned by the Health Service. This was a 6.5% (2,128) increase in the number of completed waits commissioned by the Health Service compared to the quarter ending December 2021 (32,880) and an increase of 40.1% (10,014) compared to the quarter ending March 2021 (24,994) (Table 4).

Patients waiting at a Day Case Procedure Centre (DPC) at 31st March 2022

There were
2,892

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

There were
917

Patients waiting to be
admitted to a Varicose
Veins DPC

There were
1,975

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 31st March 2022, 1,975 patients were waiting to be admitted to a Cataracts DPC, with a further 917 patients waiting to be admitted to a Varicose Veins DPC (Table 5).

Appendix 1: Tables

Table 1: Quarterly inpatient and day case waiting lists – 31st March 2022¹

Type of Admission		Current Quarter (Mar 22)	Previous Quarter (Dec 21)	Same Quarter Last Year (Mar 21)
Inpatient	Total Patients Waiting	41,827	40,675	36,661
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	36,969	35,692	33,114
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	<i>88.4%</i>	<i>87.7%</i>	<i>90.3%</i>
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	27,461	27,458	26,560
Day Case	Total Patients Waiting	80,993	79,422	74,548
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	63,072	62,158	59,576
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	<i>77.9%</i>	<i>78.3%</i>	<i>79.9%</i>
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	42,370	41,915	41,749
All Admissions	Total Patients Waiting	122,820	120,097	111,209
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	100,041	97,850	92,690
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	<i>81.5%</i>	<i>81.5%</i>	<i>83.3%</i>
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	69,831	69,373	68,309

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–14

Table 2a: Number of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 31st March 2022¹

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	4,115	3,175	2,774	1,753	5,987	30,608	48,412
Northern	2,188	1,287	922	477	2,020	7,226	14,120
South Eastern	2,141	1,184	1,031	631	2,532	5,904	13,423
Southern	2,200	1,657	1,484	915	3,351	13,403	23,010
Western	2,888	1,944	1,781	919	3,633	12,690	23,855
Total	13,532	9,247	7,992	4,695	17,523	69,831	122,820

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–14

Table 2b: Percentage of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 31st March 2022¹

HSC Trust	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting					
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52
Belfast	8.5%	6.6%	5.7%	3.6%	12.4%	63.2%
Northern	15.5%	9.1%	6.5%	3.4%	14.3%	51.2%
South Eastern	16.0%	8.8%	7.7%	4.7%	18.9%	44.0%
Southern	9.6%	7.2%	6.4%	4.0%	14.6%	58.2%
Western	12.1%	8.1%	7.5%	3.9%	15.2%	53.2%
Total	11.0%	7.5%	6.5%	3.8%	14.3%	56.9%

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–14

Table 3a: Number of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by weeks waiting and specialty – 31st March 2022¹

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	2,639	1,762	1,486	961	4,086	16,134	27,068
T & O Surgery	1,303	1,432	1,749	1,070	3,609	16,579	25,742
ENT	560	611	604	381	1,326	10,158	13,640
Urology	1,668	921	650	318	1,072	5,517	10,146
General Medicine	1,409	627	500	280	1,306	3,857	7,979
Gynaecology	664	517	480	304	1,306	4,518	7,789
Gastroenterology	1,865	875	505	255	1,008	3,111	7,619
Ophthalmology	944	697	599	311	1,207	3,239	6,997
Plastic Surgery	321	164	145	96	273	1,976	2,975
Cardiology	532	450	339	162	521	893	2,897
Pain Management	163	153	125	76	305	1,086	1,908
Oral Surgery	163	229	155	102	337	432	1,418
GP Other	220	162	157	96	361	269	1,265
Dermatology	409	216	125	64	174	188	1,176
Paediatric Surgery	96	102	103	51	179	473	1,004
Paediatrics	42	41	46	33	114	302	578
Rheumatology	93	51	31	20	31	186	412
Thoracic Surgery	42	24	15	6	39	274	400
Cardiac Surgery	77	75	73	52	69	24	370
Neurosurgery	51	16	22	12	55	165	321
Neurology	42	15	9	3	26	131	226
Paediatric Dentistry	28	51	38	21	52	28	218
Endocrinology	6	4	11	3	6	140	170
Nephrology	47	31	13	7	34	28	160
Clinical Neuro-Physiology	12	6	2	5	17	36	78
Thoracic Medicine	33	4	0	1	0	32	70
Radiology	12	6	2	1	4	33	58
Restorative Dentistry	34	0	0	0	1	21	56
Clinical Oncology	32	0	1	0	0	0	33
Paediatric Neurology	4	5	7	4	3	0	23
Haematology (Clinical)	15	0	0	0	0	1	16
Geriatric Medicine	2	0	0	0	2	0	4
Other	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Anaesthetics	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
All Specialties	13,532	9,247	7,992	4,695	17,523	69,831	122,820

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–14

Table 3b: Percentage of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by weeks waiting and specialty – 31st March 2022¹

Specialty	Percentage of Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting					
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52
General Surgery	9.7%	6.5%	5.5%	3.6%	15.1%	59.6%
T & O Surgery	5.1%	5.6%	6.8%	4.2%	14.0%	64.4%
ENT	4.1%	4.5%	4.4%	2.8%	9.7%	74.5%
Urology	16.4%	9.1%	6.4%	3.1%	10.6%	54.4%
General Medicine	17.7%	7.9%	6.3%	3.5%	16.4%	48.3%
Gynaecology	8.5%	6.6%	6.2%	3.9%	16.8%	58.0%
Gastroenterology	24.5%	11.5%	6.6%	3.3%	13.2%	40.8%
Ophthalmology	13.5%	10.0%	8.6%	4.4%	17.3%	46.3%
Plastic Surgery	10.8%	5.5%	4.9%	3.2%	9.2%	66.4%
Cardiology	18.4%	15.5%	11.7%	5.6%	18.0%	30.8%
Pain Management	8.5%	8.0%	6.6%	4.0%	16.0%	56.9%
Oral Surgery	11.5%	16.1%	10.9%	7.2%	23.8%	30.5%
GP Other	17.4%	12.8%	12.4%	7.6%	28.5%	21.3%
Dermatology	34.8%	18.4%	10.6%	5.4%	14.8%	16.0%
Paediatric Surgery	9.6%	10.2%	10.3%	5.1%	17.8%	47.1%
Paediatrics	7.3%	7.1%	8.0%	5.7%	19.7%	52.2%
Rheumatology	22.6%	12.4%	7.5%	4.9%	7.5%	45.1%
Thoracic Surgery	10.5%	6.0%	3.8%	1.5%	9.8%	68.5%
Cardiac Surgery	20.8%	20.3%	19.7%	14.1%	18.6%	6.5%
Neurosurgery	15.9%	5.0%	6.9%	3.7%	17.1%	51.4%
Neurology	18.6%	6.6%	4.0%	1.3%	11.5%	58.0%
Paediatric Dentistry	12.8%	23.4%	17.4%	9.6%	23.9%	12.8%
Endocrinology	3.5%	2.4%	6.5%	1.8%	3.5%	82.4%
Nephrology	29.4%	19.4%	8.1%	4.4%	21.3%	17.5%
Clinical Neuro-Physiology	15.4%	7.7%	2.6%	6.4%	21.8%	46.2%
Thoracic Medicine	47.1%	5.7%	0.0%	1.4%	0.0%	45.7%
Radiology	20.7%	10.3%	3.4%	1.7%	6.9%	56.9%
Restorative Dentistry	60.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	37.5%
Clinical Oncology	97.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Paediatric Neurology	17.4%	21.7%	30.4%	17.4%	13.0%	0.0%
Haematology (Clinical)	93.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.3%
Geriatric Medicine	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%
Other	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Anaesthetics	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
All Specialties	11.0%	7.5%	6.5%	3.8%	14.3%	56.9%

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–14

Table 4: Number of completed inpatient and day case waits commissioned by the Health Service: QE June 2019 - QE March 2022²

Quarter Ending	Number of Completed Inpatient and Day Case Waits		
	Within Health Service Hospitals	Independent Sector*	Total Commissioned by Health Service
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	13,275	1,086	14,361
QE September 2020	23,690	1,261	24,951
QE December 2020	24,522	1,696	26,218
QE March 2021	20,472	4,522	24,994
QE June 2021 ^{PR}	30,007	3,975	33,982
QE September 2021 ^{PR}	26,096	4,819	30,915
QE December 2021 ^{PR}	28,121	4,759	32,880
QE March 2022 ^P	29,413	5,595	35,008

Source: Hospital Inpatient System & IS1 Part 2 Return

^P Data are currently provisional

^R Data has been revised

* Not National Statistics

² Refer to Explanatory Notes 1, 4 & 15-17

Table 5: Number of patients waiting for admission to Day Case Procedure Centres (DPC), 31st March 2022

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	32	30	61	30	147	617	917
Cataracts	348	359	223	154	468	423	1,975
Total	380	389	284	184	615	1,040	2,892

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-March-2022>.

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 2022, 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 Strategic Planning and Performance Group in the Department of Health. 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 at the time of the survey, was £1,670.

19. Figures relating to inpatient and day case waiting times for the quarter ending 31st March 2022 will be released on Thursday 25th August 2022.

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 and designation was awarded in March 2013.

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>