

INFORMATION
ANALYSIS
DIRECTORATE



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



Department of
Health
An Roinn Sláinte
Máinnystrie O Poustie
www.health-ni.gov.uk

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 2016/17 Ministerial waiting time target which states that:

“By March 2017, 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 December 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 December 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-december-2016>

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.

Price: Free

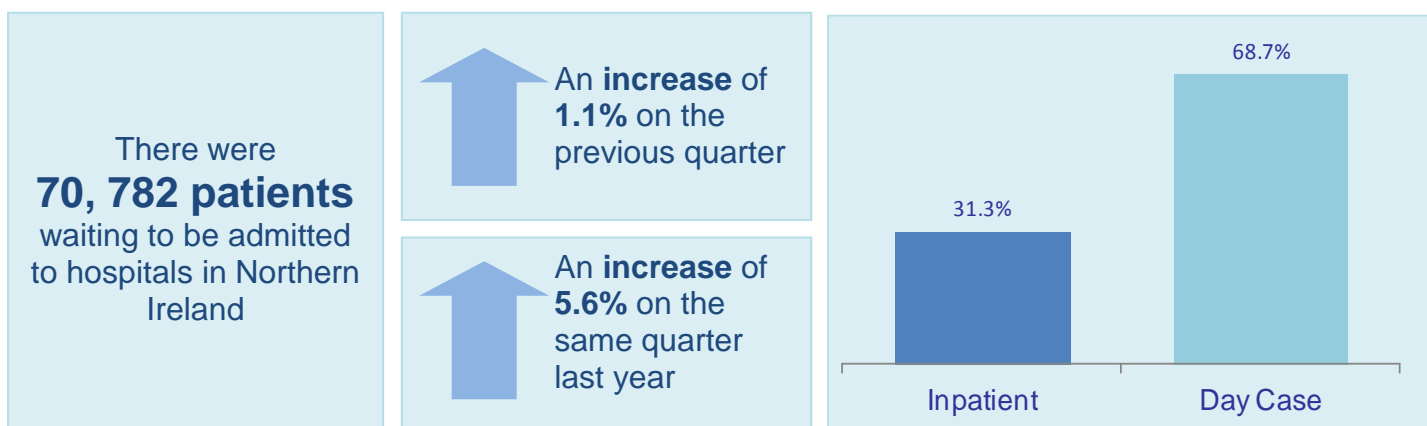
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By March 2017, 55% of patients should wait no longer than 13 weeks for inpatient/day case treatment, with no patient waiting longer than 52 weeks.

Total number of patients waiting at 31st December 2016



Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

At 31st December 2016, a total of 70,782 patients were waiting to be admitted to hospitals, 1.1% (747) more than at 30th September 2016 (70,035), and 5.6% (3,756) more than at 31st December 2015 (67,026) (Table 1).

Almost one third (31.3%, 22,148) of those waiting for admission at 31st December 2016 were waiting for an inpatient admission, with the remaining 68.7% (48,634) waiting for a day case admission (Table 1).



Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

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 treating the patient, users should be cautious in how they use these data (see explanatory note 11).

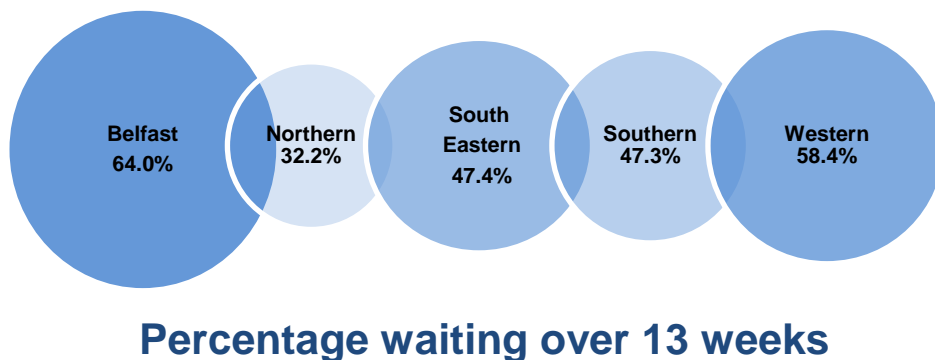
Over two fifths (42.0%) were waiting to be admitted in the Belfast HSC Trust, with a further 21.6% waiting in the Western HSC Trust, 14.3% in the Southern HSC Trust, 12.4% in the South Eastern HSC Trust and 9.7% in the Northern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

Over three quarters (78.0%, 55,200) of the 70,782 patients were waiting for admission in one of the following specialties: General Surgery (13,484); Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) Surgery (13,297); Urology (6,694); Ear, Nose and Throat (6,257); Ophthalmology (6,165); Gynaecology (5,116) and Gastroenterology (4,187) (Table 3a).

Patients waiting more than 13 weeks at 31st December 2016

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

55.3%
of patients
were waiting longer
than 13 weeks



Percentage waiting over 13 weeks

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

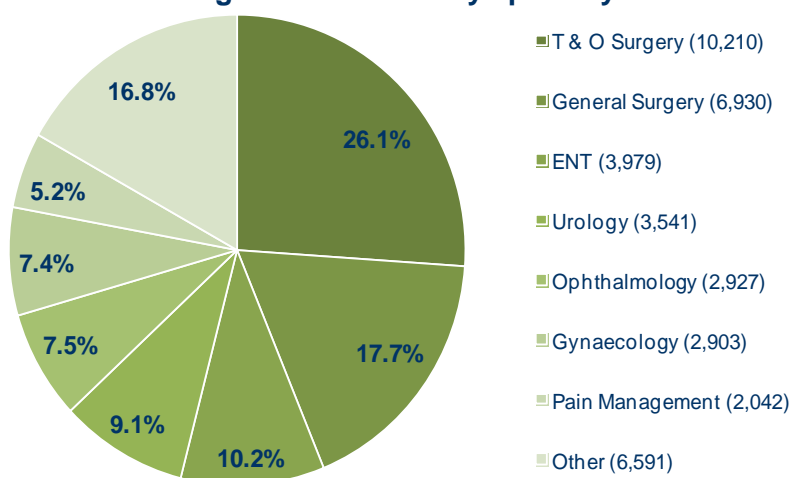
Achievement of the 13 week target requires that less than 45% of patients should be waiting over 13 weeks for inpatient or day case admission.

At 31st December 2016, 55.3% (39,123) of patients were waiting more than 13 weeks to be admitted for treatment, compared with 56.8% (39,772) at 30th September 2016 and 52.4% (35,113) at 31st December 2015 (Table 1).

At 30th December 2016, the 13 week element of the target was not achieved by Northern Ireland as a whole (Table 2a). The Northern HSC Trust did meet this element of the target, however, data users should be aware that many inpatient and day case services are not provided at every HSC Trust (see explanatory note 11).

Over two thirds (70.4%, 15,590) of those patients waiting for an inpatient admission, were waiting over 13 weeks. This is compared with 48.4% (23,533) waiting over 13 weeks for a day case admission (Table 1).

Patients waiting over 13 weeks by speciality



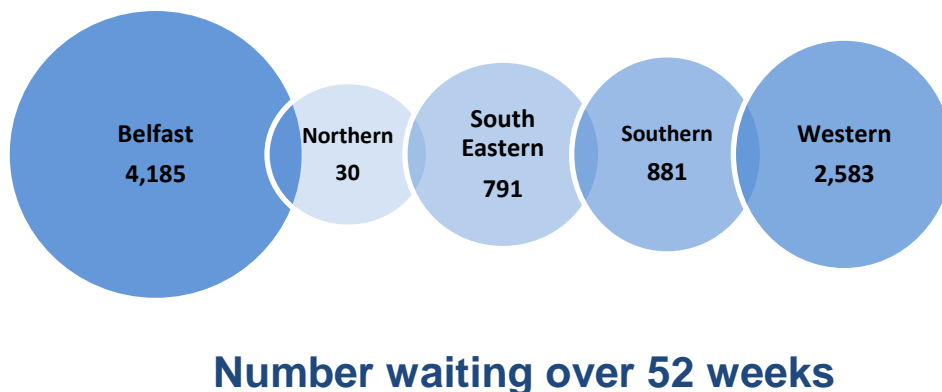
Just over four fifths (83.2%, 32,532) of the 39,123 patients waiting more than 13 weeks at 31st December 2016 were in one of the following specialties: Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) Surgery; General Surgery; Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); Urology; Ophthalmology; Gynaecology; and Pain Management (Table 3a).

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

Patients waiting more than 52 weeks at 31st December 2016

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

8,470
patients
were waiting longer
than 52 weeks



Number waiting over 52 weeks

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

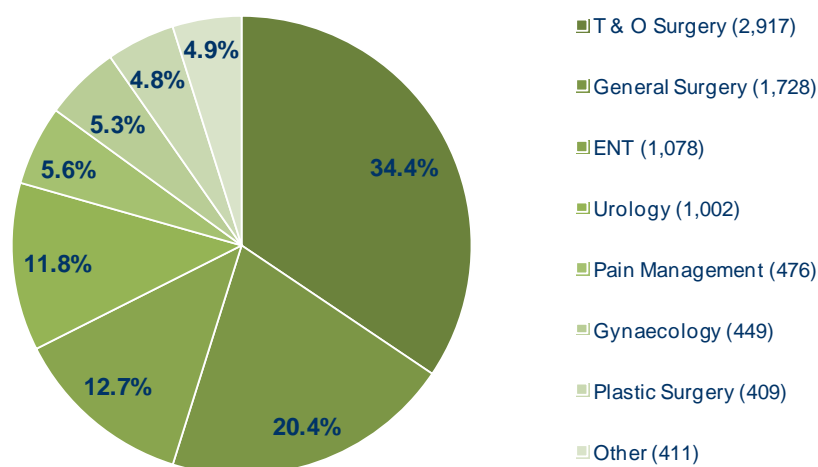
At 31st December 2016, 12.0% (8,470) of patients were waiting more than 52 weeks for either an inpatient or day case admission, compared with 11.0% (7,710) at 30th September 2016, and 10.3% (6,919) at 31st December 2015 (Table 1).

At 31st December 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). Data users should be aware that many inpatient and day case services are not provided at every HSC Trust (see explanatory note 11).

One in six patients (16.9%, 2,583) in the Western HSC Trust were waiting longer than 52 weeks at 31st December 2016, 14.1% (4,185) in the Belfast HSC Trust, 8.7% (881) in the Southern HSC Trust, 9.0% (791) in the South Eastern HSC Trust and 0.4% (30) in the Northern HSC Trust (Table 2a).

Of those waiting more than 52 weeks, 4,496 were waiting for an inpatient admission and 3,974 were waiting for a day case admission (Table 1).

Patients waiting over 52 weeks by specialty



A total of 95.1% (8,059) of the 8,470 patients waiting more than 52 weeks to be admitted were in one of the following specialties: Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) Surgery; General Surgery; Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); Urology; Pain Management; Gynaecology and Plastic Surgery (Table 3a).

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

Completed waits for inpatient and day case activity during quarter ending 31st December 2016

There were
48,325

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



An **increase** of 2.7% on the previous quarter

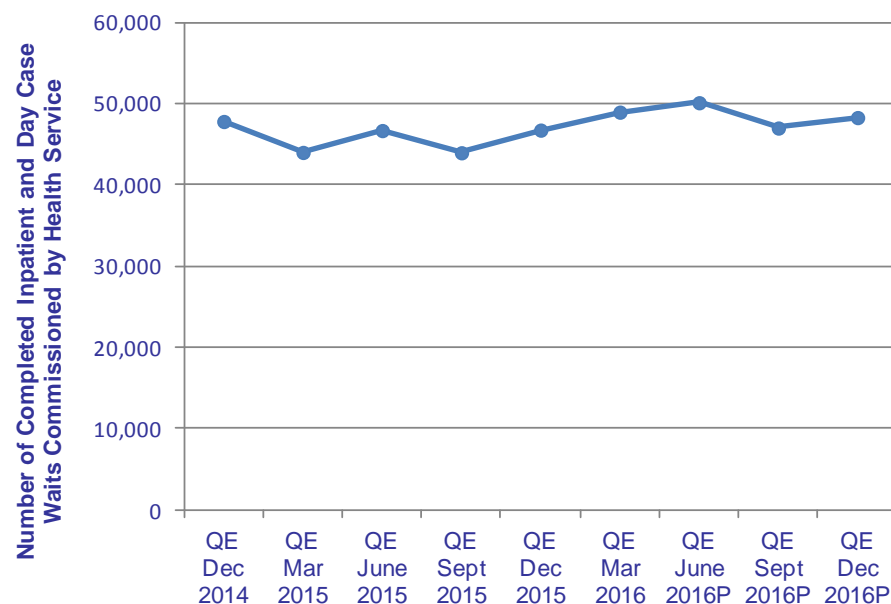


An **increase** of 3.3% on the same quarter last year

Source: Hospital Inpatient System & IS1 Part 2 Return

Although the number of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admission increased between the 30th September 2016 and 31st December 2016, a total of 45,749 patients were admitted to Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland during the quarter ending December 2016, 6.4% (2,768) more than during the quarter ending September 2016 (42,981) and 0.1% (49) more than during the quarter ending December 2015 (45,700) (Table 4).

During the quarter ending December 2016, 2,576 patients received inpatient or day case treatment commissioned by the Health Service, within the Independent Sector, 36.5% (1,481) less than the quarter ending September 2016 (4,057), but more than double (1,495) than the same quarter in the previous year (1,081) (Table 4).



Source: Hospital Inpatient System & IS1 Part 2 Return
P Data is provisional

When the number of completed inpatient and day case waits within the Independent Sector during the quarter ending December 2016 (2,576) is combined with those treated in Health Service hospitals during the same period (45,749), provisional figures indicate that 48,325 inpatients and day cases received treatment in Northern Ireland commissioned by the Health Service.

This was a 2.7% (1,287) increase in the number of completed waits commissioned by the Health Service between the quarter ending September 2016 (47,038) and the quarter ending December 2016 (48,325) and an increase of 3.3% (1,544) compared to quarter ending December 2015 (46,781) (Table 4).

Appendix 1: Tables

Table 1: Quarterly inpatient and day case waiting lists – 31st December 2016¹

Type of Admission		Current Quarter (31 st Dec 2016)	Previous Quarter (30 th Sept 2016)	Same Quarter Last Year (31 st Dec 2015)
Inpatient	Total Patients Waiting	22,148	20,925	22,010
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	15,590	14,685	14,899
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	70.4%	70.2%	67.7%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	4,496	3,779	3,322
Day Case	Total Patients Waiting	48,634	49,110	45,016
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	23,533	25,087	20,214
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	48.4%	51.1%	44.9%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	3,974	3,931	3,597
All Admissions	Total Patients Waiting	70,782	70,035	67,026
	Number waiting over 13 weeks	39,123	39,772	35,113
	<i>Percentage waiting over 13 weeks</i>	55.3%	56.8%	52.4%
	Number waiting over 52 weeks	8,470	7,710	6,919

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–13

Table 2a: Number of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 31st December 2016¹

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	4,858	5,846	4,889	2,037	7,940	4,185	29,755
Northern	2,587	2,080	1,021	365	804	30	6,887
South Eastern	2,594	2,001	1,333	506	1,519	791	8,744
Southern	2,872	2,472	1,277	577	2,061	881	10,140
Western	3,445	2,904	2,021	852	3,451	2,583	15,256
Total	16,356	15,303	10,541	4,337	15,775	8,470	70,782

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–13

Table 2b: Percentage of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by HSC Trust and weeks waiting – 31st December 2016¹

HSC Trust	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting					
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52
Belfast	16.3%	19.6%	16.4%	6.8%	26.7%	14.1%
Northern	37.6%	30.2%	14.8%	5.3%	11.7%	0.4%
South Eastern	29.7%	22.9%	15.2%	5.8%	17.4%	9.0%
Southern	28.3%	24.4%	12.6%	5.7%	20.3%	8.7%
Western	22.6%	19.0%	13.2%	5.6%	22.6%	16.9%
Total	23.1%	21.6%	14.9%	6.1%	22.3%	12.0%

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–13

Table 3a: Number of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by weeks waiting and specialty – 31st December 2016¹

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	3,769	2,785	1,825	837	2,540	1,728	13,484
T & O Surgery	878	2,209	1,886	963	4,444	2,917	13,297
Urology	1,913	1,240	828	302	1,409	1,002	6,694
ENT	1,173	1,105	866	403	1,632	1,078	6,257
Ophthalmology	1,416	1,822	1,343	475	1,020	89	6,165
Gynaecology	1,195	1,018	895	305	1,254	449	5,116
Gastroenterology	1,618	1,173	608	172	550	66	4,187
Pain Management	327	447	445	223	898	476	2,816
General Medicine	1,302	742	258	88	157	42	2,589
Cardiology	601	708	416	230	530	15	2,500
Plastic Surgery	288	354	250	88	498	409	1,887
Oral Surgery	283	338	175	49	218	54	1,117
Dermatology	379	345	155	26	70	54	1,029
Paediatric Surgery	123	167	161	60	266	69	846
GP Other	306	259	161	12	13	0	751
Rheumatology	152	133	11	4	15	8	323
Neurology	84	73	52	19	63	0	291
Cardiac Surgery	92	79	31	8	7	0	217
Paediatrics	45	47	58	23	15	0	188
Other	412	259	117	50	176	14	1,028
All Specialties	16,356	15,303	10,541	4,337	15,775	8,470	70,782

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–13

Table 3b: Percentage of patients waiting for inpatient and day case admissions by weeks waiting and specialty – 31st December 2016¹

Specialty	Percentage of Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting					
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26-52	>52
General Surgery	28.0%	20.7%	13.5%	6.2%	18.8%	12.8%
T & O Surgery	6.6%	16.6%	14.2%	7.2%	33.4%	21.9%
Urology	28.6%	18.5%	12.4%	4.5%	21.0%	15.0%
ENT	18.7%	17.7%	13.8%	6.4%	26.1%	17.2%
Ophthalmology	23.0%	29.6%	21.8%	7.7%	16.5%	1.4%
Gynaecology	23.4%	19.9%	17.5%	6.0%	24.5%	8.8%
Gastroenterology	38.6%	28.0%	14.5%	4.1%	13.1%	1.6%
General Medicine	11.6%	15.9%	15.8%	7.9%	31.9%	16.9%
Pain Management	50.3%	28.7%	10.0%	3.4%	6.1%	1.6%
Cardiology	24.0%	28.3%	16.6%	9.2%	21.2%	0.6%
Plastic Surgery	15.3%	18.8%	13.2%	4.7%	26.4%	21.7%
Oral Surgery	25.3%	30.3%	15.7%	4.4%	19.5%	4.8%
Dermatology	36.8%	33.5%	15.1%	2.5%	6.8%	5.2%
Paediatric Surgery	14.5%	19.7%	19.0%	7.1%	31.4%	8.2%
GP Other	40.7%	34.5%	21.4%	1.6%	1.7%	0.0%
Neurology	47.1%	41.2%	3.4%	1.2%	4.6%	2.5%
Rheumatology	28.9%	25.1%	17.9%	6.5%	21.6%	0.0%
Cardiac Surgery	42.4%	36.4%	14.3%	3.7%	3.2%	0.0%
Paediatrics	23.9%	25.0%	30.9%	12.2%	8.0%	0.0%
Other	40.1%	25.2%	11.4%	4.9%	17.1%	1.4%
All Specialties	23.1%	21.6%	14.9%	6.1%	22.3%	12.0%

Source: DoH Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–13

Table 4: Number of completed inpatient and day case waits commissioned by the Health Service: QE December 2014 - QE December 2016²

Quarter Ending	Number of Completed Inpatient and Day Case Waits		
	Within Health Service Hospitals	Independent Sector*	Total Commissioned by Health Service
QE Dec 2014	45,018	2,826	47,844
QE Mar 2015	42,796	1,240	44,036
QE June 2015	43,606	3,121	46,727
QE Sept 2015	42,864	1,130	43,994
QE Dec 2015	45,700	1,081	46,781
QE Mar 2016	44,109	4,883	48,992
QE June 2016 ^P	45,786	4,366	50,152
QE Sept 2016 ^P	42,981	4,057	47,038
QE Dec 2016 ^P	45,749	2,576	48,325

Source: Hospital Inpatient System & IS1 Part 2 Return

^PData are currently provisional

* Not National Statistics

²Refer to Explanatory Notes 1, 4 & 14-16

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, 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-december-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 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). 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. 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.

12. 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.

13. Patients waiting for day case endoscopies are included within both inpatient and diagnostic waiting times; as such, figures should not be added together.

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 patients
- 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 31st March 2017 will be released on Thursday 25th May 2017.

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

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✉ Email: statistics@health-ni.gov.uk

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