

Questions:

Please provide me with the following information:

1. A copy of the Mental Health Outcomes Framework that has been developed, as stated by Health Minister Mike Nesbitt during the Assembly debate on the Accessing Mental Health Data motion on Monday 16th February 2026. The Minister is quoted in the Official Report as follows: "...as is envisaged under the mental health strategy, a mental health outcomes framework not only has been developed but is being embedded in Encompass."
2. A copy of all other documentation relevant to the Mental Health Outcomes Framework, including plans for its rollout.
3. To detail how the Mental Health Outcomes Framework is currently being employed to capture data on outcomes.
4. To detail work plans and a timeframe for the Mental Health Outcomes Framework to be embedded in the Encompass system.
5. To detail how mental health data is currently being captured and reported.
6. A breakdown of the monthly mental health waiting-time data from each trust that has been extracted using Epic Systems/Encompass reports, as stated by the Health Minister on 16th February during the motion debate. The Minister is quoted in the Official Report as follows: "Epic Systems/Encompass reports are now being used to extract monthly mental health waiting-time data in line with system oversight measures (SOMs), with each trust validating its figures against regionally agreed definitions and deadlines".
7. To detail the specific system oversight measures (SOM) used by each trust, including all regionally agreed definitions and deadlines as referenced by the Health Minister in the quote above.

Responses:

1. The Mental Health Regional Outcomes Framework can be accessed at the following link [Mental Health Regional Outcomes framework Report | Department of Health](#)
2. I refer you to Figure 14 (page 27) and the appendices section within the Mental Health Regional Outcomes Framework Report which details the implementation timeline.
3. The Mental Health Outcomes Lead did not take up post to August 2025. The current focus of the Mental Health Outcomes Lead is on engaging staff and service users in encouraging the routine use of outcome measures in clinical practice and identifying the most appropriate measures for each speciality and ensuring standardised approach. Therefore, at present the focus is on populating the clinical data however interim conversations have begun with Encompass team regards reporting requirements and a synopsis reporting structure has been developed.
4. The initial build for all of the measures outlined has been completed with the exception of one clinical outcome measure which was delayed due to awaiting licensing. This has since been received and will be built onto the Encompass system in the coming weeks.

5. Data is captured on Encompass by HSC Trusts. Mental health waiting times are extracted from Encompass using a regionally agreed report each month. Reports are run on the 6th working day for the previous month end position.
6. I refer you to the attached document, see appendix 1.
7. I refer you to the response at point 5 for reporting deadlines.

Waiting times are monitored through the System Oversight Measures (SOMs) for Mental Health Services, including Adult Mental Health, CAMHS, Psychological Therapies and Dementia.

From April 2025, no patient waits longer than 9 weeks to access child and adolescent mental health services; 9 weeks to access adult mental health services; 9 weeks to access dementia services; and 13 weeks to access psychological therapies (any age).

Date response issued: 21st April 2026
Reference Number: DOH 2026-0045

6. Monthly Mental Health Waiting Times data from each Trust that has been extracted using Epic Systems/encompass reports

Please note the following:

1. As part of the encompass roll-out, all Health and Social Care Trusts have now gone live with a new electronic patient record system. As the Trusts continue to transition to completely digitised records, their data is undergoing extensive validation. Until this process is complete, there may be gaps in the data they are able to submit for reporting purposes. In addition, the information requested in this FOI may be affected by data quality issues. As a result, some of the figures provided could be inaccurate. Please be assured that the Trusts are actively working to address data quality issues to improve the overall accuracy of the data. The figures below have been extracted from encompass and the supporting caveats and confidence levels for the waiting list position as at 31st January 2026, as reported by Trusts can be found on the Notes tab. It is essential that these notes and caveats are taken into consideration when interpreting the data.
The data presented is operational management information and is not intended for publication.

2. Dementia Waiting Times reports are still being finalised and have therefore been excluded from the information presented below.

3. The data presented is for active waits at a snapshot point in time (month end).

4. Southern and Western Trusts provided manual validated returns for April 2025 prior to their encompass Go-Live date.

5. CAMHS: Belfast Trust is currently responsible for the provision of the CAMHS waiting lists for South Eastern and Belfast Trust residents.

6. CAMHS: Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are for young people up to 18 years, however there may be some who are over 18 years who are in the process of transitioning to Adult Services.

Adult Mental Health												
Month End	Belfast		Northern		South Eastern		Southern		Western		NI Region	
	Total Waiting	Total Breaches (>9 weeks)	Total Waiting	Total Breaches (>9 weeks)	Total Waiting	Total Breaches (>9 weeks)	Total Waiting	Total Breaches (>9 weeks)	Total Waiting	Total Breaches (>9 weeks)	Total Waiting	Total Breaches (>9 weeks)
Apr-25	2,235	1,238	1,754	430	2,744	1,574	1,756	666	543	130	9,032	4,038
May-25	1,868	1,010	1,801	460	2,421	1,400	1,037	507	642	216	7,769	3,593
Jun-25	1,929	849	1,778	449	2,322	1,159	950	425	774	204	7,753	3,086
Jul-25	2,402	816	1,806	485	2,292	1,056	827	282	841	280	8,168	2,919
Aug-25	2,421	939	1,707	525	2,237	1,116	859	269	868	334	8,092	3,183
Sep-25	2,640	863	970	63	2,215	1,055	871	235	777	239	7,473	2,455
Oct-25	2,479	791	988	36	2,134	1,050	852	203	767	249	7,220	2,329
Nov-25	2,467	878	875	50	2,095	1,014	907	268	863	258	7,207	2,468
Dec-25	2,449	954	754	43	1,913	966	910	369	876	297	6,902	2,629
Jan-26	2,511	949	802	36	1,836	799	954	416	859	291	6,962	2,491

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)										
Month End	Belfast and South Eastern		Northern		Southern		Western		NI Region	
	Total Waiting	Total Breaches (>9 weeks)	Total Waiting	Total Breaches (>9 weeks)	Total Waiting	Total Breaches (>9 weeks)	Total Waiting	Total Breaches (>9 weeks)	Total Waiting	Total Breaches (>9 weeks)
Apr-25	755	321	277	75	257	0	480	341	1,769	737
May-25	1,517	383	732	211	299	0	1,402	1,079	3,950	1,673
Jun-25	737	359	248	70	264	0	63	23	1,312	452
Jul-25	653	345	210	37	212	≤5	46	34	1,121	417
Aug-25	610	354	163	23	183	0	37	27	993	404
Sep-25	707	339	162	10	233	≤5	395	249	1,497	599
Oct-25	630	238	198	6	264	0	377	193	1,469	437
Nov-25	636	249	209	18	271	0	339	155	1,455	422
Dec-25	643	283	243	47	253	0	284	120	1,423	450
Jan-26	699	328	259	50	279	≤5	260	74	1,497	453

Psychological Therapies												
Month End	Belfast		Northern		South Eastern		Southern		Western		NI Region	
	Total Waiting	Total Breaches (>13 weeks)	Total Waiting	Total Breaches (>13 weeks)	Total Waiting	Total Breaches (>13 weeks)	Total Waiting	Total Breaches (>13 weeks)	Total Waiting	Total Breaches (>13 weeks)	Total Waiting	Total Breaches (>13 weeks)
Sep-25	3,282	2,391	1,434	840	4,969	4,283	879	327	1,818	1,321	12,382	9,162
Oct-25	3,258	2,392	1,068	612	4,935	4,283	880	313	1,575	1,233	11,716	8,833
Nov-25	3,222	2,385	971	569	4,797	4,151	895	300	1,591	1,250	11,476	8,655
Dec-25	3,210	2,446	914	565	2,356	1,947	853	299	1,630	1,316	8,963	6,573
Jan-26	3,114	2,364	908	566	2,417	1,904	896	292	1,636	1,366	8,971	6,492

Supporting Confidence levels and caveats submitted by HSC Trusts in relation to Mental Health waiting times as reported in SOMs.

The detail in the tables below relate to the January 2026 position.

Adult Mental Health

Trust	Confidence Level	Caveats
Belfast	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reporting currently includes both primary and secondary waits; logic is being refined to exclude secondary waits. - Several long waits (>365 days) are secondary waits where appointments were offered but not attended. - Some departments appear incorrectly due to workflow issues; these are being corrected. - Additional workflow training is planned to improve data quality.
Northern	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dashboard uses 'creation department,' causing some transfers to appear under the wrong area; no system fix available. - Further training with team leads and admin staff planned to improve data quality and review work queues.
South Eastern	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing work to ensure all waits have a Waiting List Reason to differentiate primary vs secondary waits; backlog significantly reduced but still in progress. - 'No Value' waits excluded due to mapping issues; requires Cogito update.
Southern	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workflow issues being validated with the service (Duplicates, Moving to Wrong Services) - Returns from May now submitted with manual adjustments.
Western	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing validation and testing. - Mapping and data quality issues persist (incorrect service selection, 'no value' waits). - Continued engagement with services to address workflow accuracy.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Trust	Confidence Level	Caveats
Belfast/SET	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - issues in relation to workflow. An action plan has been agreed to address the issues and will be completed by the end of February
Northern	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Step 2 Family Support waits are still being incorrectly included in overall CAMHS waits (approx. 35% of total NT waits in Jan 2026). - Around 25 of the 50 recorded breaches relate to this stream and should be excluded.
Southern	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Now set as standard monthly reporting process and validation with service
Western	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Validating and testing ongoing - data continues to be shared with service for validation. - Issue identified re: blanks - service linked with epic re: resolution - it was confirmed that a referral defaults to team that staff member registered to - needs to be manually adjusted). - Service happy with Total waits and Breaches.

Psychological Therapies

Trust	Confidence Level	Caveats
Belfast	Low	<p>Validation of the Psychological Therapies waiting list is complete; however, Psychosexual and Regional Trauma services are currently appearing on the dashboard and should be reported under Adult Mental Health waits.</p> <p>Further workflow validation is required.</p>
Northern	Medium	<p>Validation ongoing. Issues remain with dashboard logic using 'creation department,' resulting in some transfers appearing under incorrect services.</p> <p>Issue raised at sprint level and known to SPPG; no technical solution currently available from Encompass.</p>
South Eastern	Low	<p>Differences in service model (MDT model for chronic pain) impact reporting; amended report logic implemented in December, with MDT accounting for approximately 25% of Psychological Therapy waits. First full validation completed in January; multiple issues identified relating to DNA management and clock resets for cancellations.</p> <p>Workflow errors continue to affect wait accuracy. Validation and Data quality improvement to continue in weeks ahead.</p> <p>Ongoing clarification required on the recording of consultations, interventions, and 'Enhanced Triage' contacts and whether these constitute a first appointment; discussions ongoing via sprint and internal meetings.</p>
Southern	Medium	<p>Workflow issues being validated with the service (Duplicates, Moving to Wrong Services) - Returns from May now submitted.</p>
Western	Low	<p>Validating and testing ongoing. Mapping issues - teams under incorrect service areas and 'no values' coming out - staff selecting incorrect department name (DQ issue). This continues to be raised with service areas.</p> <p>Of the Psychological Therapy services : Medium x 4 (Adult Mental Health, Adult LD, Childrens LD and Paediatric Psychology) & Low x 3 (Elderly Psychology, Regional Trauma & Health Psychology)</p>