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MÄNNYSTRIE O
Poustie, Resydènter Heisin an Fowk Siccar

02 September 2010

Northern Ireland Waiting Lists – June 2010

This statistics release gives details of the number of people waiting for a first outpatient assessment, a diagnostic service or inpatient treatment at hospitals in Northern Ireland at the end of June 2010, the most recent quarter for which figures are available.

Outpatients

Headline Totals[1]

The number of patients waiting for a first outpatient appointment at the end of June 2010 stood at 110,220, which is 23,719 (27.4%) more than at the end of March 2010 (86,501) and 36,233 (49.0%) more than at the end of June 2009 (73,987) (Table 1).

Table 1 Quarterly Outpatient Waiting Lists – 30th June 2010[1]

	Quarter Ending June 2010	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter - previous year
Total Waiting	**110,220**	**+23,719**	**+36,233**

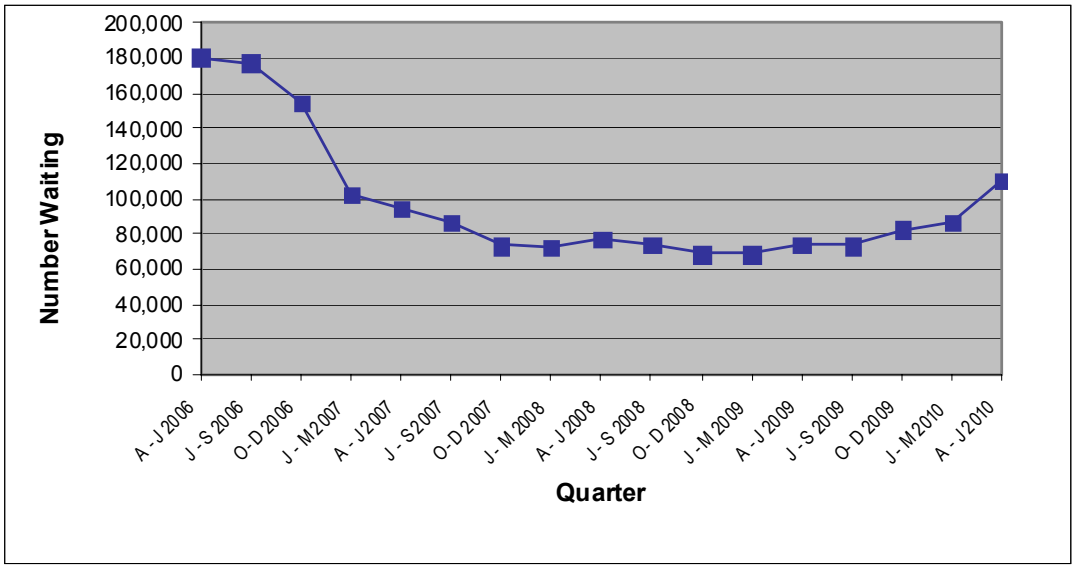
Source: Departmental Return CH3 parts 1 & 2.
[1] Refer to Technical Notes - points 1 - 3.

Detailed notes and definitions are provided in the Technical Notes.

Total Outpatients Waiting – Trends

The total number of people waiting for a first outpatient appointment was on a downward trend from June 2006 until March 2008. The outpatient waiting lists total remained fairly constant over the next eight quarters from June 2008 to March 2010, but has been increasing over the past three quarters, with a sharp increase this quarter (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Outpatients Waiting for a First Appointment: Quarterly Trends June 2006 – June 2010



Source: Departmental Return CH3 parts 1 & 2.

Outpatients Waiting More than 9 Weeks

The 2010/11 Priority for Action Target relating to Waiting Times for a first outpatient appointment states that by March 2011, no patient should wait longer than 9 weeks for a first outpatient appointment.

At the end of June 2010, the number of patients waiting more than 9 weeks for a first outpatient appointment was 29,149 (26.4%). This was 20,568 more than at the end of March 2010 (8,581 waiting more than 9 weeks) and 28,035 more than at the same time last year (1,114 waiting more than 9 weeks). Of the 29,149 patients waiting more than 9 weeks, 15,246 were waiting more than 13 weeks (Tables 2 & 3).

Table 2 Patients Waiting More than 9 Weeks[2] - 30th June 2010

	Quarter Ending June 2010	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter - previous year
Total Waiting	**29,149**	**+20,568**	**+28,035**

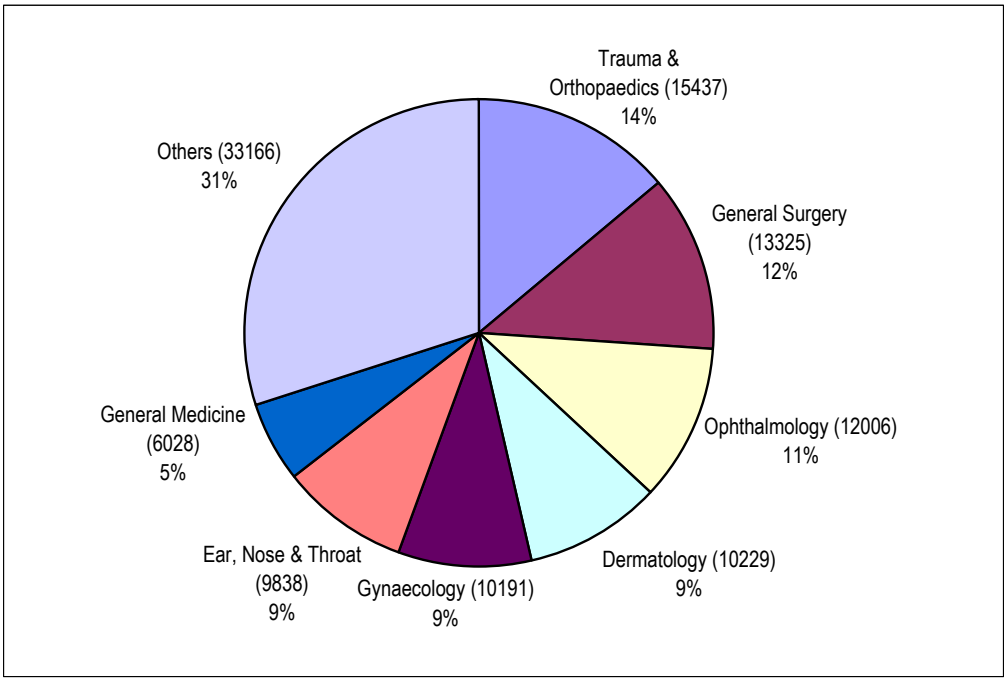
Source: Departmental Return CH3 parts 1 & 2.

[2] Refer to Technical Notes – points 4 & 5.

Outpatients Waiting by Specialty

Almost 70% of the 110,220 patients waiting for a first outpatient appointment were within seven specialties: Trauma & Orthopaedics; General Surgery; Ophthalmology; Dermatology; Gynaecology (Gynae); Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT) and General Medicine (Figure 2a).

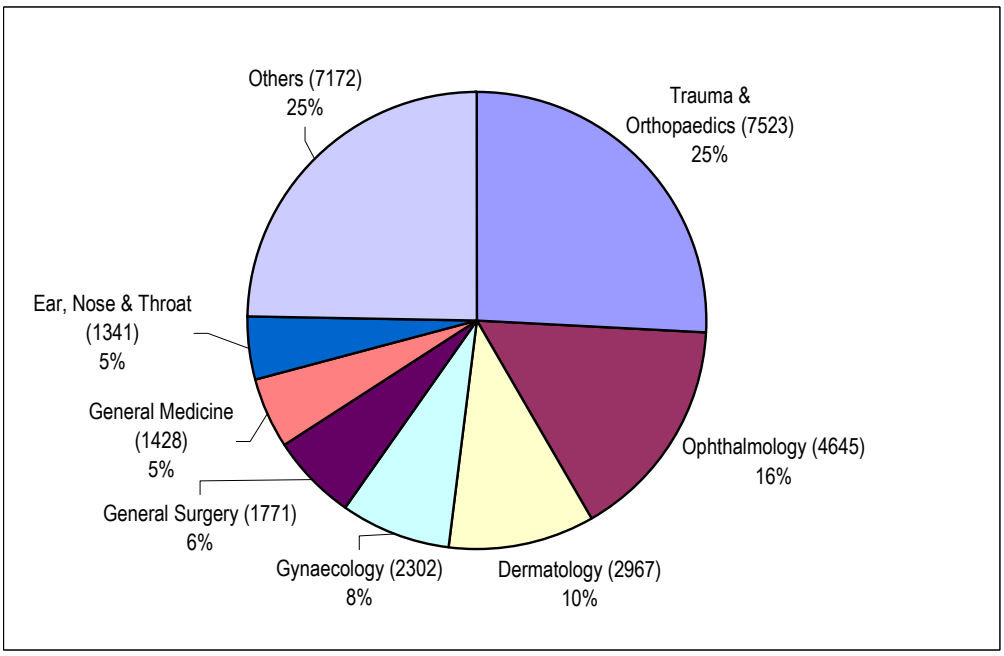
Figure 2a Outpatients – Total Waiters by Specialty at 30th June 2010



Source: Departmental Return CH3 parts 1 & 2.

75% of the 29,149 patients waiting more than 9 weeks were within seven specialties as shown in Figure 2b below.

Figure 2b Outpatients – Patients Waiting More than 9 Weeks by Specialty at 30th June 2010



Source: Departmental Return CH3 parts 1 & 2.

Outpatient Waiting Time by Specialty

Waiting times for outpatients by specialty are shown in Table 3. Overall 73.6% of those waiting for treatment were waiting less than 9 weeks (Table 3).

Table 3 Number of Patients Waiting for a First Appointment by Weeks Waiting and Specialty – 30th June 2010[2]

Specialty	Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Weeks Waiting					Total Number of Patients Waiting
	0-6	>6-9	>9-13	>13-26	>26	
Trauma & Orthopaedics	5,803	2,111	1983	4399	1141	15,437
General Surgery	8,872	2,682	1314	457	0	13,325
Ophthalmology	5,386	1,975	2057	2586	2	12,006
Dermatology	5,545	1,717	1512	1455	0	10,229
Gynaecology	5,820	2,069	1310	983	9	10,191
Ear, Nose & Throat	6,240	2,257	1071	269	1	9,838
General Medicine	3,553	1,047	781	623	24	6,028
Other:-	19,821	6,173	3,875	3,179	118	33,166
Paediatrics	2,397	760	310	289	58	3,814
Cardiology	2,437	736	356	256	0	3,785
Urology	1,700	518	545	466	0	3,229
Neurology	1,697	688	414	248	0	3,047
Rheumatology	1,513	661	481	208	17	2,880
Oral Surgery	1,581	539	397	241	0	2,758
Pain Management	978	307	331	238	4	1,858
Plastic Surgery	807	284	280	312	1	1,684
Gastroenterology	1,134	268	26	14	0	1,442
Thoracic Medicine	731	283	126	72	0	1,212
Restorative Dentistry	619	210	54	27	0	910
Clinical Genetics	310	108	132	350	7	907
Dental Medicine Specialities	331	164	167	175	0	837
Other	3,586	647	256	283	31	4,803
All Specialties	**61,040**	**20,031**	**13,903**	**13,951**	**1,295**	**110,220**

Source: Departmental Return CH3 parts 1 & 2.

[2] Refer to Technical Notes – points 4 & 5.

Outpatient Waiting Times by Provider Trust

Waiting times for outpatients by HSC Trust are shown in Table 4.

Around 41% (45,725) of patients waiting for a first appointment were waiting in the Belfast HSC Trust. 17% (18,673) of those waiting were waiting in the South Eastern HSC Trust, 15% (16,436) in the Western HSC Trust, 13% (14,733) in the Northern HSC Trust and 13% (14,653) in the Southern HSC Trust (Table 4).

Table 4 Number of Patients Waiting for a First Appointment by Provider Trust and Weeks Waiting – 30th June 2010[2]

Provider Trust	Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Weeks Waiting					Total Number of Patients Waiting
	0-6	>6-9	>9-13	>13-26	>26	
Belfast	23,183	7,687	5,131	8,444	1,280	45,725
Northern	8,327	2,881	2,508	1,015	2	14,733
South Eastern	11,024	3,317	2,567	1,764	1	18,673
Southern	9,173	3,288	1,427	764	1	14,653
Western	9,333	2,858	2,270	1,964	11	16,436
Total	**61,040**	**20,031**	**13,903**	**13,951**	**1,295**	**110,220**

Source: Departmental Return CH3 parts 1 & 2.
[2]Refer to Technical Notes – points 4 & 5.

Of the 29,149 patients waiting more than 9 weeks for a first outpatient appointment, 51% (14,855) were waiting in the Belfast HSC Trust, with 15% (4,332), 15% (4,245), 12% (3,525) and 8% (2,192) waiting at the South Eastern, Western, Northern and Southern HSC Trusts respectively (Table 4).

Completed Outpatient Waits

The number of completed outpatient waits, for patients treated within Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland, is shown in Table 5.

Table 5 Completed Outpatient Waits for First Appointment – QE June 2010[3]

Quarter	Total Number of Completed Outpatient Waits
A - J 2007	117,021
J - S 2007	112,569
O- D 2007	121,090
J - D 2007	**471,068**
J - M 2008	114,002
A - J 2008	122,401
J - S 2008	113,478
O- D 2008	122,883
J - D 2008	**472,764**
J - M 2009	122,149
A - J 2009	122,564
J - S 2009	120,580
O- D 2009	122,138
J - D 2009	**487,431**
J - M 2010	122,362
A - J 2010[P]	118,449

Source: Departmental Return QOAR.
[3]Refer to Technical Note – point 6.
P - Provisional

118,449 patients attended a first outpatient appointment in a Health Service hospital during the quarter ending 30th June 2010, compared with 122,362 in the quarter ending 31st March 2010 (a decrease of 3.2%) and 122,564 in the quarter ending 30th June 2009 (down 3.4%). The number of completed outpatients waits has significantly fallen this quarter compared with the number of completed outpatient waits in each quarter of the past year (Table 5).

Completed Outpatient Waits including Independent Sector Activity

During the June 2010 quarter, a number of patients attended a first outpatient appointment, commissioned by the Health Service, within the Independent Sector. The number of such patients attending a first outpatient appointment within the Independent Sector has been provided by the Health and Social Care Board, split by commissioning Trust.

Table 6a Completed Outpatient Waits by Trust including Independent Sector Activity – QE June 2010[4]

Provider Trust	Number of Completed Outpatient Waits within Health Service Hospitals[P]	Number of Completed Outpatient Waits in Independent Sector	Total Number of Completed Outpatient Waits Commissioned by Health Service
Belfast	48,007	331	48,338
Northern	14,676	499	15,175
South Eastern	19,376	2	19,378
Southern	17,627	0	17,627
Western	18,763	5	18,768
Total Treated	**118,449**	**837**	**119,286**

Source: Departmental Returns QOAR and IS1 part1.
[4]Refer to Technical Notes – points 6 & 7.
P - Provisional

837 Health Service patients attended a first outpatient appointment, within the Independent Sector, during the quarter ending June 2010. When this number is combined with that for outpatients attending a first appointment in Health Service hospitals during the same period (118,449), it is estimated that approximately 119,286 (118,449 + 837) outpatients attended a first appointment in Northern Ireland for an assessment commissioned by the Health Service (Table 6a).

Approximately 41% (48,338) of completed waits for the quarter ending 30th June 2010 occurred in the Belfast HSC Trust with, 16% (19,378), 16% (18,768), 15% (17,627) and 13% (15,175) occurring in the South Eastern, Western, Southern and Northern Trusts respectively (Table 6a).

Completed Outpatient Waits including Independent Sector Activity – Trends

Table 6b has been included to reflect the total completed outpatient waits in the Health Service for the past five quarters.

Table 6b Completed Outpatient Waits by Trust Including Independent Sector Activity[4], QE June 2009 – QE June 2010

Provider Trust	Total Number of Completed Outpatient Waits Commissioned by Health Service				
	QE June 2009	QE September 2009	QE December 2009	QE March 2010	QE June 2010[P]
Belfast	51,800	52,363	46,852	49,418	48,338
Northern	19,109	18,551	16,708	19,251	15,175
South Eastern	25,086	22,754	18,881	23,651	19,378
Southern	18,815	19,358	19,870	18,195	17,627
Western	21,000	20,353	22,029	23,088	18,768
Total	**135,810**	**133,379**	**124,340**	**133,603**	**119,286**

Source: Departmental Returns QOAR and IS1 part 1.
[4] Refer to Technical Notes – points 6 & 7.
P - Provisional

There has been a 10.7% (14,317) decrease in the total number of completed outpatient waits between March 2010 (133,603) and June 2010 (119,286) and a decrease of 12.2% (-16,524) from June 2009 (135,810) to June 2010 (119,286) (Table 6b).

Between the quarters ending June 2009 and March 2010, the number of completed outpatient waits in Health Service hospitals had remained fairly constant, meaning that fluctuations in the total number of completed outpatient waits was due to the disparate amount of Independent Sector activity taking place each quarter over this period. The 14,317 (-10.7%) fall in completed waits reported between the quarter ending March and June 2010, is however, attributed, not only to the fall in Independent Sector activity (which decreased by 10,404 over the quarter), but also the decrease in the amount of waits completed in-house (which fell by 3,913) (Tables 5 & 6b).

Waiting Times for a Tier 2 Integrated Clinical Assessment and Treatment Service Appointment[5]

During the June 2010 quarter, a number of patients were waiting for a Tier 2 appointment within Integrated Clinical Assessment and Treatment Services (ICATS). ICATS is the term used for a range of services for patients, which are provided by integrated multi-disciplinary teams of health service professionals, including GPs with special interest, specialist nurses and allied health professionals. They are provided in a variety of primary, community and secondary care settings and include assessment, treatment, diagnostic and advisory services.

The 2010/11 Priority for Action target for waiting times for a first Tier 2 appointment at ICATS states that by 31st March 2011, no patient should wait longer than 9 weeks for a first Tier 2 appointment at ICATS.

Waiting times for a first Tier 2 ICATS appointment by specialty are shown in Table 7a. Overall, 91.3% of those waiting for an appointment were waiting less than 9 weeks.

Table 7a Number of Patients Waiting for a First ICATS Tier 2 Appointment by Weeks Waiting and Specialty – 30th June 2010[5]

Specialty	Patients Waiting for an Appointment					Total Number
	0-6	>6-9	>9-13	>13-26	>26	
Urology	94	73	90	192	0	449
Trauma & Orthopaedics	3,543	549	29	0	1	4,122
Ear, Nose & Throat	621	158	94	3	0	876
Ophthalmology	156	27	24	1	0	208
Dermatology	486	85	9	109	0	689
All Specialties	**4,900**	**892**	**246**	**305**	**1**	**6,344**

Source: ICATS Waiting Times Dataset.
[5] Refer to Technical Notes – points 8 & 9.

ICATS Waiting Times by Provider Trust

Waiting times for an ICATS Tier 2 appointment by Provider Trust are shown in Table 7b.

Table 7b Number of Patients Waiting for a First ICATS Tier 2 Appointment by Provider Trust and Weeks Waiting – 30th June 2010[5]

Provider Trust	Patients Waiting for an Appointment					Total Number
	0-6	>6-9	>9-13	>13-26	>26	
Belfast	711	81	50	1	0	843
Northern	1,350	266	103	3	0	1,722
South Eastern	901	76	1	109	1	1,088
Southern	883	307	90	192	0	1,472
Western	1,055	162	2	0	0	1,219
Total	**4,900**	**892**	**246**	**305**	**1**	**6,344**

Source: ICATS Waiting Times Dataset

[5] Refer to Technical Notes – points 8 & 9.

27.1% (1,722) of patients waiting for a first Tier 2 ICATS appointment were waiting in the Northern HSC Trust. 23.2% (1,472) of those waiting were waiting in the Southern HSC Trust, 19.2% (1,219) in the Western HSC Trust, 17.2% (1,088) in the South Eastern HSC Trust and 13.3% (843) in the Belfast HSC Trust (Table 7b).

Of the 552 patients waiting more than nine weeks for a first Tier 2 ICATS outpatient appointment, 51.1% (282) were waiting in the Southern HSC Trust. A further 20.1% (111) and 19.2% (106) were waiting in the South Eastern and Northern HSC Trusts respectively, with an additional 9.2% (51) waiting in the Belfast HSC Trust. Only 0.4 % (2) of patients were waiting more than nine weeks for a first ICATS outpatient appointment at the Western HSC Trust at 30th June 2010 (Table 7b).

Diagnostic Services

Tables 8 -11 provide details of the number of people waiting for diagnostic services, carried out at hospitals in Northern Ireland, and covered by the maximum waiting time Ministerial target for 2010/11[6]. The 2010/11 waiting time target for diagnostic services states that by 31st March 2011, no patient should wait longer than nine weeks for a diagnostic service (the majority of patients waiting for a day case endoscopy should wait no longer than 13 weeks, with no patient waiting more than 36 weeks).

For this quarter (QE June 2010) and the previous quarter (QE March 2010), the number of patients reported as waiting for diagnostic services relates to patients waiting for all diagnostic services, whereas data reported for previous quarters related solely to patients waiting for one of the selected 16 diagnostic services. Consequently, care should be taken when comparing diagnostic waiting times for the quarter ending June 2010 with those published for quarters prior to March 2010.

Headline Totals

The total number of patients waiting for diagnostic services at hospitals in Northern Ireland at the end of June 2010 stood at 59,575 (Table 8). This represented an increase of 11,204 (23.2%) on the number waiting at the end of March 2010 (48,371).

Table 8 Quarterly Diagnostic Services Waiting List – 30th June 2010[6]

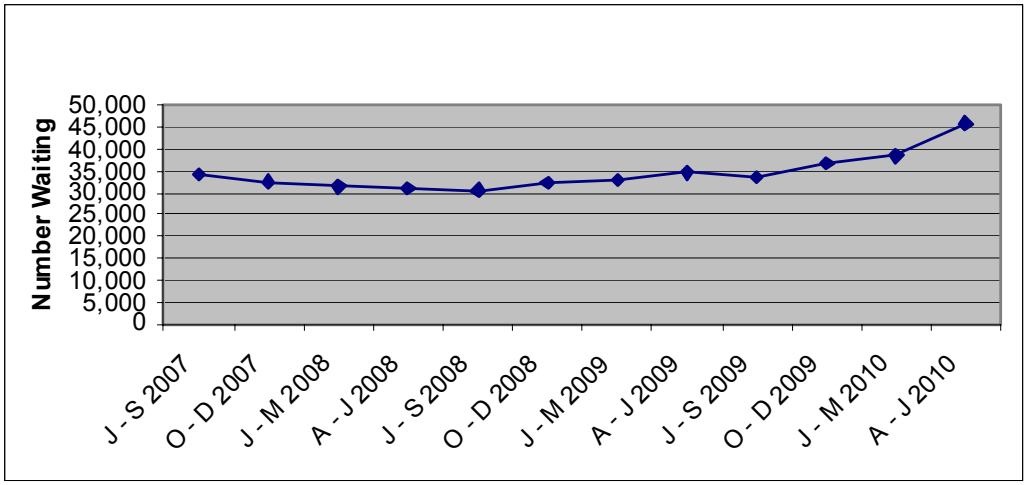
Diagnostic Service Category	Number of Patients Waiting for one of the 16 selected tests - Quarter Ending June 2010	Number of Patients Waiting for one of the other diagnostic tests - Quarter Ending June 2010	Total number of Patients Waiting for a diagnostic test - Quarter Ending June 2010
Nine week target:			
Imaging (excluding Interventional Imaging)	25,750	6,165	31,915
Physiological Measurement	8,035	5,000	13,035
Endoscopy (Other)	-	304	304
13 week target:			
Endoscopy (Day Case)	12,075	2,246	14,321
Total waiting for diagnostic tests	**45,860**	**13,715**	**59,575**

Source: Departmental Return SDR1 parts 1 & 2.
[6]Refer to Technical Notes – points 1, 2 & 10 - 18.

Total waiting for one of the 16 selected Diagnostic Services – Trends

Figure 3 shows the trends in the total number of people waiting for one of the 16 selected diagnostic services. Between September 2007 and September 2008, the total number of people waiting for one of the 16 selected diagnostic services was on a downward trend and then for the following three quarters the total was increasing. The number waiting fell slightly at the end of the September 2009 quarter, but there was a sharp increase in the total number waiting at the end of December 2009, a further increase at 31st March 2010 and another sharp increase this quarter (Figure 3).

Figure 3 Patients waiting for one of the 16 selected Diagnostic Services, Quarterly Trends September 2007 – June 2010[6]



[6]Refer to Technical Notes – points 1, 2 & 10 - 18.

Diagnostic Services Waiting over 9/13 Weeks[6]

The 2010/11 waiting time target for diagnostic services states that by March 2011, patients should wait no longer than nine weeks for a diagnostic services (the majority of patients waiting for a day case endoscopy should wait no longer than 13 weeks, with no patient waiting more than 36 weeks).

There were 5,921 (13%) patients waiting over the target for the 16 selected diagnostic services. That is 5,138 more than at the end of March 2010 (783 waiting) and 5,686 more than at the same time last year (235 waiting). Taking all diagnostic services into consideration, 13.5% (8,037 out of 59,575) of patients were waiting more than the maximum waiting time outlined in the target (Table 9). This was an increase of 6,350 on the previous quarter (1,687).

Table 9 Patients Waiting More than 9/13 weeks - 30th June 2010[6]

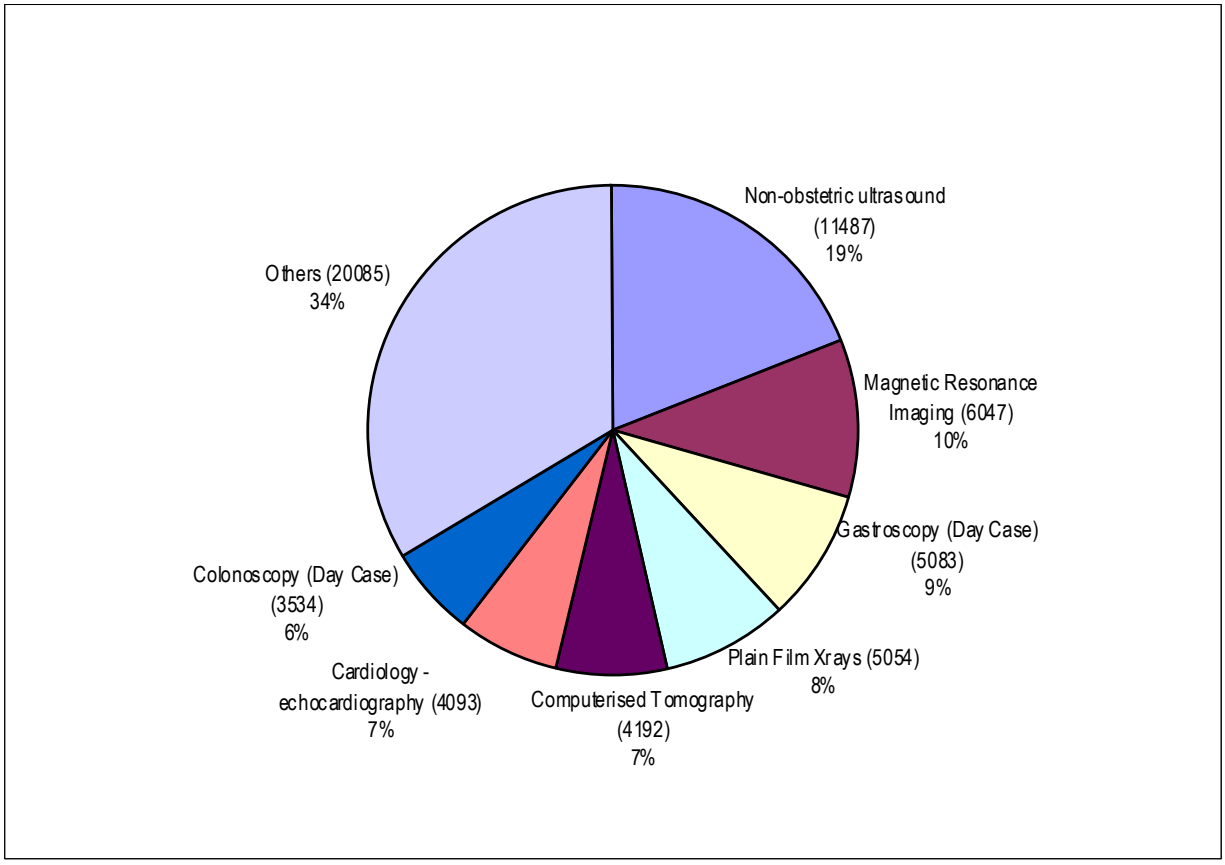
Waiting more than 9/13 weeks:	Number of Patients Waiting Quarter Ending June 2010	Change compared with the end of the previous quarter	Change compared with the same quarter previous year
16 Selected Services	5,921	+5,138	+5,686
Other Services	2,116	+1,212	N/A
Total	8,037	+6,350	N/A

Source: Departmental Return SDR1 parts 1 & 2.
[6]Refer to Technical Notes – points 1, 2 & 10-18.

Patients Waiting by Diagnostic Service

Some 66% of the 59,575 patients waiting for a diagnostic service were waiting for one of the following seven diagnostic services: Non-obstetric Ultrasound; Magnetic Resonance Imaging; Gastroscopy (Day Case); Plain Film X-rays; Computerised Tomography; Echocardiography and Colonoscopy (Day Case) (Figure 4a). Figures represent the total number waiting for a diagnostic service at the end of the June 2010 quarter.

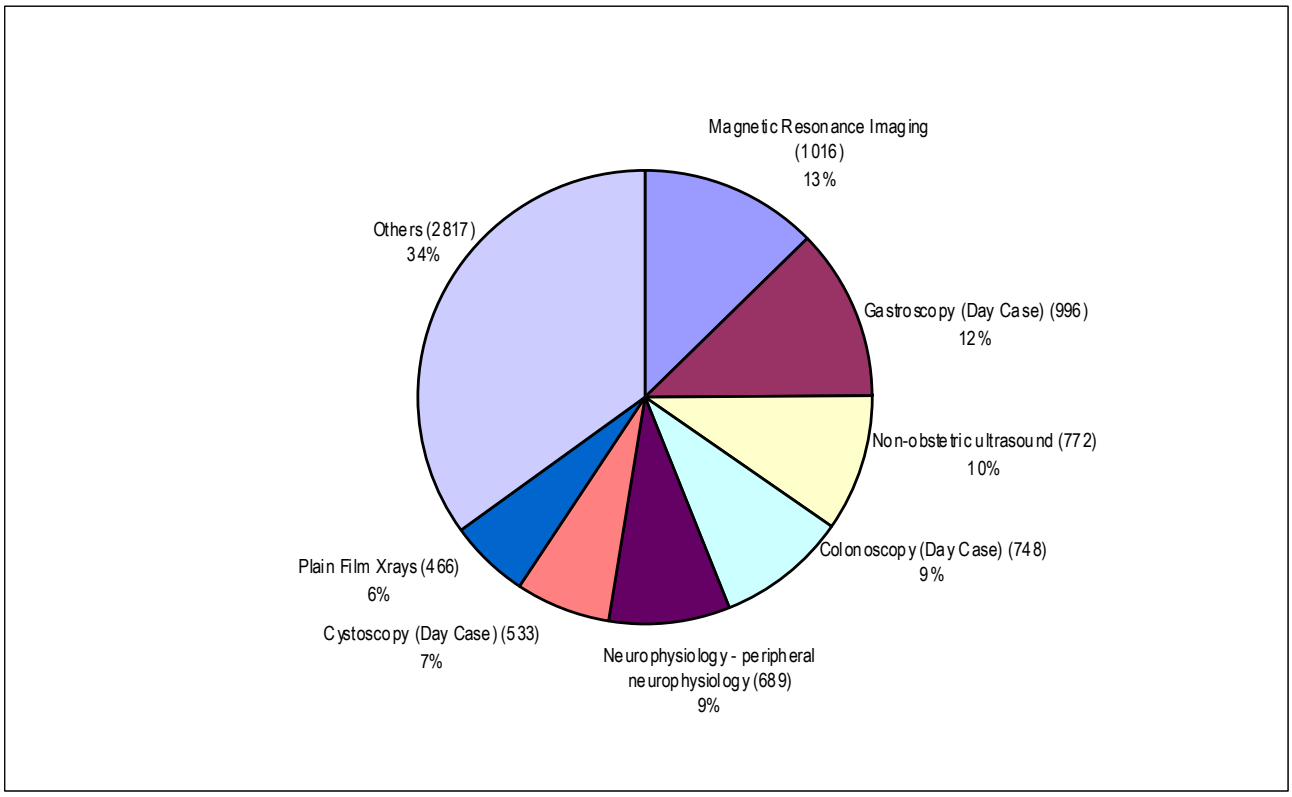
Figure 4a Diagnostics – Total Waiters by Diagnostic Test at 30th June 2010



Source: Departmental Return SDR1 parts 1 & 2.

A total of 65% of the 8,037 patients waiting more than the 9/13 week target were waiting for one of the seven diagnostic services shown in Figure 4b below: Magnetic Resonance Imaging; Gastroscopy (Day Case); Non-obstetric ultrasound; Colonoscopy (Day Case); Neurophysiology – peripheral neurophysiology; Cystoscopy (Day Case) and Plain Film Xrays.

Figure 4b Diagnostics – Patients waiting over 9/13 weeks at 30th June 2010



Source: Departmental Return SDR1 parts 1 & 2.

Table 10 Diagnostic Services Waiting Times by Diagnostic Test and Weeks Waiting – 30th June 2010[6]

Diagnostic Test	Patients Waiting for a Diagnostic Test by Weeks Waiting						Total Number of Patients Waiting
	0 - 6	>6 - 9	>9 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	> 26	
9 week target							
Non-obstetric ultrasound	8,843	1,872	772	0	0	0	**11,487**
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	3,806	1,225	838	178	0	0	**6,047**
Computerised Tomography	3,268	818	106	0	0	0	**4,192**
Cardiology - echocardiography	3,067	978	48	0	0	0	**4,093**
DEXA Scan	1,190	421	223	0	0	0	**1,834**
Neurophysiology - peripheral neurophysiology	746	313	591	98	0	0	**1,748**
Barium Studies	916	156	71	0	0	0	**1,143**
Radio-Nuclide Imaging	749	122	176	0	0	0	**1,047**
Audiology - pure tone audiometry	623	76	0	0	0	0	**699**
Cardiology - perfusion studies	333	142	135	75	0	0	**685**
Urodynamics - pressures and flows	343	118	77	11	0	0	**549**
Respiratory physiology - sleep studies	229	32	0	0	0	0	**261**
Other	8,397	1,539	1,260	213	35	25	**11,469**
	32,510	**7,812**	**4,297**	**575**	**35**	**25**	**45,254**
13 week target							
Gastroscopy (Day Case)	2,423	859	805	845	129	22	**5,083**
Colonoscopy (Day Case)	1,560	593	633	617	116	15	**3,534**
Cystoscopy (Day Case)	775	338	251	366	125	42	**1,897**
Flexi sigmoidoscopy (Day Case)	793	262	261	201	41	3	**1,561**
Other (Day Case)	909	379	375	383	95	105	**2,246**
	6,460	**2,431**	**2,325**	**2,412**	**506**	**187**	**14,321**
Total waiting for diagnostic tests	**38,970**	**10,243**	**6,622**	**2,987**	**541**	**212**	**59,575**

Source: Departmental Return SDR1 parts 1 & 2.
[6]Refer to Technical Notes – points 1, 2 & 10 - 18.

With 4,932 patients waiting longer than the nine week target for a diagnostic test and 3,105 patients waiting longer than 13 weeks for a day case endoscopy, there were a total of 8,037 patients waiting more than the target for a diagnostic service (Table 10).

Diagnostic Waiting Times by Provider Trust

Waiting times for diagnostic services by HSC Trust are shown in Tables 10a, 10b and 10c.

Table 11a Number of patients waiting for a Diagnostic Service by Provider Trust for all Diagnostic Tests – 30th June 2010[6]

Provider Trust	All Patients Waiting for a Diagnostic Test by Weeks Waiting						Total Number of Patients Waiting
	0 - 6	>6 - 9	>9 - 13	>13 - 21	> 21 - 26	>26	
Belfast	11,139	3,779	2,496	1,112	178	51	**18,755**
Northern	6,991	1,315	583	692	152	42	**9,775**
South Eastern	5,444	946	305	191	10	1	**6,897**
Southern	8,376	2,616	1,583	755	170	40	**13,540**
Western	7,020	1,587	1,655	237	31	78	**10,608**
Total	**38,970**	**10,243**	**6,622**	**2,987**	**541**	**212**	**59,575**

Source: Departmental Return SDR1 parts 1 & 2.
[6]Refer to Technical Notes – points 1, 2 & 10 - 18.

31% (18,755) of patients waiting for a diagnostic service were waiting in the Belfast HSC Trust, with 23% (13,540) waiting in the Southern HSC Trust, 18% (10,608) waiting in the Western HSC Trust, 16% (9,775) waiting in the Northern HSC Trust and 12% (6,897) waiting in the South Eastern HSC Trust (Table 11a).

Table 11b Number of patients waiting for a Diagnostic Service by Provider Trust for a Diagnostic Service (9 week target) – 30th June 2010[6]

Provider Trust	Patients Waiting for a Diagnostic Test (9 week target) by Weeks Waiting						Total Number of Patients Waiting
	0 - 6	>6 - 9	>9 - 13	>13 - 21	> 21 - 26	>26	
Belfast	9,123	2,949	1,705	365	33	25	**14,200**
Northern	5,688	838	68	0	0	0	**6,594**
South Eastern	4,373	696	98	42	0	0	**5,209**
Southern	7,517	2,322	1,194	109	0	0	**11,142**
Western	5,809	1,007	1,232	59	2	0	**8,109**
Total	**32,510**	**7,812**	**4,297**	**575**	**35**	**25**	**45,254**
Total waiting more than nine weeks:			**4,932**				

Source: Departmental Return SDR1 parts 1 & 2.
[6]Refer to Technical Notes – points 1, 2 & 10 - 18.

There were 4,932 patients waiting longer than nine weeks for a diagnostic service (excluding day case endoscopies). The majority of these patients, 43% (2,128) were waiting in the Belfast HSC Trust, with 26% (1,303) waiting in the Southern HSC Trust, 26% (1,293) waiting in the Western HSC Trust, 3% (140) waiting in the South Eastern HSC Trust and 1% (68) waiting in the Northern HSC Trust. In Northern Ireland as a whole, there were 635 patients waiting longer than 13 weeks for one of these diagnostic tests (Table 11b).

Table 11c Number of patients waiting for a Diagnostic Service by Provider Trust for Day Case Endoscopies (13 week target) – 30th June 2010[6]

Provider Trust	Patients Waiting for a Diagnostic Test (13 week target) by Weeks Waiting						Total Number of Patients Waiting
	0 - 6	>6 - 9	>9 - 13	>13 - 21	> 21 - 26	>26	
Belfast	2,016	830	791	747	145	26	**4,555**
Northern	1,303	477	515	692	152	42	**3,181**
South Eastern	1,071	250	207	149	10	1	**1,688**
Southern	859	294	389	646	170	40	**2,398**
Western	1,211	580	423	178	29	78	**2,499**
Total	**6,460**	**2,431**	**2,325**	**2,412**	**506**	**187**	**14,321**
Total waiting more than 13 weeks:				**3,105**			

Source: Departmental Return SDR1 parts 1 & 2.
[6]Refer to Technical Notes – points 1, 2 & 10 - 18.

There were 3,105 patients waiting longer than 13 weeks for a day case endoscopy. The majority of these patients, 30% (918), were waiting in the Belfast HSC Trust, with 29% (886) of these patients waiting in the Northern HSC Trust, 28% (856) in the Southern HSC Trust, 9% (285) in the Western HSC Trust and 5% (160) in the South Eastern HSC Trust. In Northern Ireland as a whole, there were 693 patients waiting longer than 21 weeks for one of these diagnostic tests (Table 11c).

Inpatients

Headline Totals[7]

The total number of patients waiting to be admitted to hospitals in Northern Ireland at 30th June 2010 stood at 40,875 (Table 12).

Comparing the end of June 2010 (40,875) with the end of March 2010 (36,041), the total number waiting has increased by 4,834 (13.4%). Comparing the end of June 2010 with the end of June 2009 (32,390), the total number waiting has increased by 8,485 (26.2%) (Table 12).

Table 12 Quarterly Inpatient Waiting Lists – 30th June 2010

Waiting for:	Quarter Ending June 2010	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter – previous year
Ordinary Admissions	12,388	+1,529	+1,955
Day case Admissions	28,487	+3,305	+6,530
Total Waiting	**40,875**	**+4,834**	**+8,485**

Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset.
[7] Refer to technical notes – points 1, 2 & 19 - 26.

Numbers Waiting for Ordinary Admission and Day Case Treatment

People on the inpatient waiting list in Northern Ireland can be waiting for admission to hospital as day cases or as ordinary admissions.

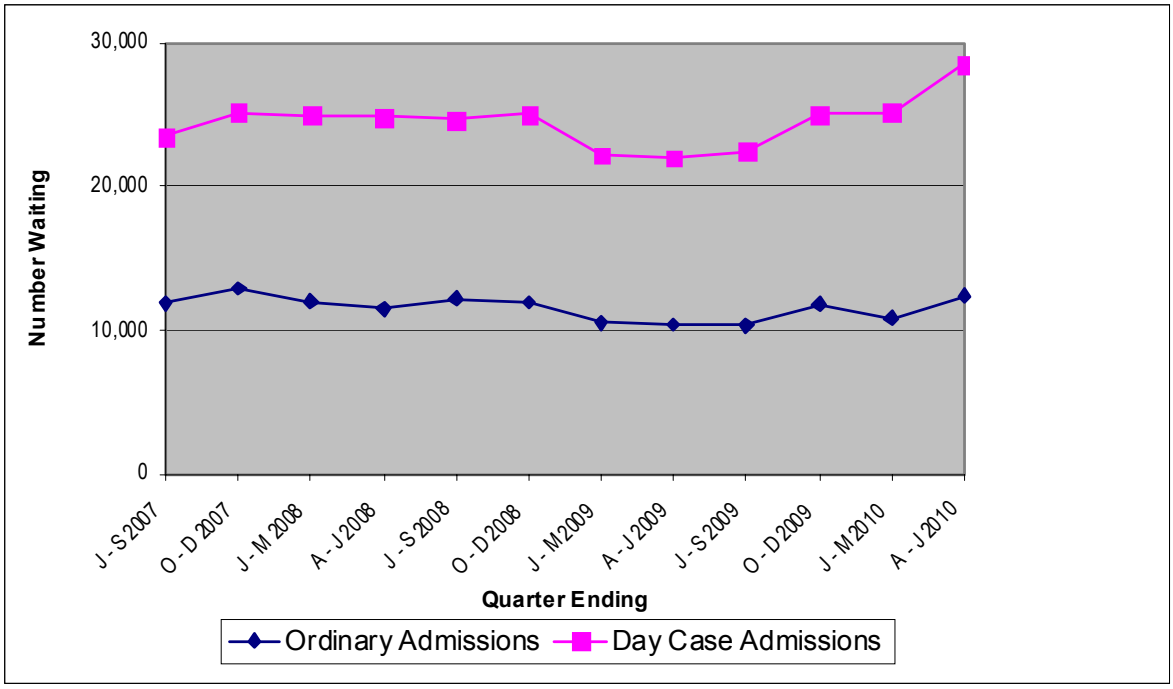
Of the 40,875 people waiting for admission to hospital at the end of June 2010, 12,388 (30.3%) were waiting for ordinary admission and 28,487 (69.7%) were waiting for day case admission (Table 12).

Since the end of March 2010, the number of cases waiting for ordinary admission has increased by 1,529 (14.1%) and the number waiting for day case admission has increased by 3,305 (13.1%). Compared with the end of June 2009, the number waiting for ordinary admission increased by 1,955 (18.7%), while the number waiting for day case admission increased by 6,530 (29.7%) (Table 12).

Total waiting for Inpatient Admission – Trends

The total number of patients waiting for both ordinary and day case admission increased between the quarters ending September and December 2007. It remained fairly constant thereafter, until the quarter ending December 2008 before decreasing in the quarter ending March 2009. It remained fairly constant until quarter ending September 2009 and has been increasing since then, with a sharp increase observed in the number of patients waiting for both ordinary and day case admission in the quarter ending June 2010 (Figure 5).

Figure 5 Number of patients waiting for (i) Ordinary Admissions and (ii) Day case Admissions, Quarterly Trends September 2007 – June 2010



Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset.

Ordinary Admission and Day Cases Waiting More Than 13 Weeks[7]

The 2010/11 Priority for Action target relating to waiting times for inpatient treatment, states that by 31st March 2011, the majority of patients should wait no longer than 13 weeks for inpatient or day case treatment, with no patient waiting longer than 36 weeks.

At the end of June 2010, there were 9,579 (23.4%) patients waiting more than 13 weeks for inpatient treatment, of which 142 were waiting more than 36 weeks. Of the 9,579 patients waiting more than 13 weeks, 3,705 (38.7%) were awaiting ordinary admission and 5,874 (61.3%) were awaiting day case procedures (Table 13).

Table 13 Patients Waiting More Than 13 Weeks[7] – 30th June 2010

Waiting for:	Quarter Ending June 2010	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter - previous year
Ordinary Admissions	3,705	+1,806	+3,028
Day Case Admissions	5,874	+4,521	+5,434
Total Waiting	**9,579**	**+6,327**	**+8,462**

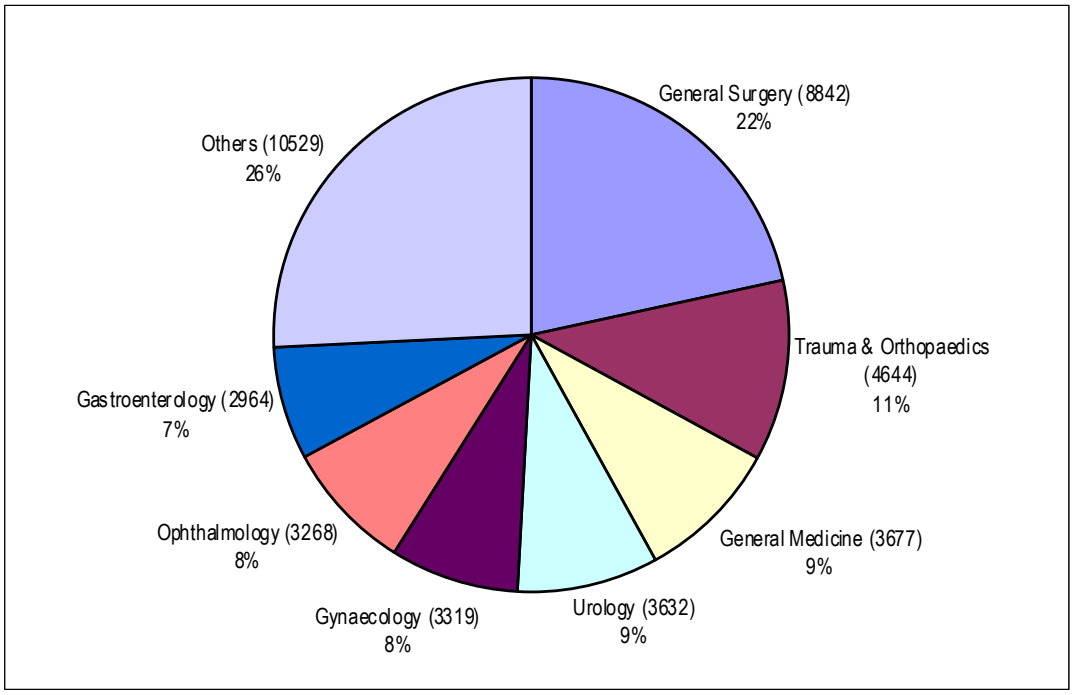
Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset.
[7] Refer to Technical Notes – points 1 & 2 and 19 - 26.

At the end of June 2010, the number of patients waiting more than 13 weeks was 6,327 more than at the end of March 2010 (3,252 waiting more than 13 weeks) and 8,462 more than at the same time last year (1,117 waiting more than 13 weeks) (Table 13).

Inpatients Waiting by Specialty

A total of 74% of the 40,875 patients waiting for inpatient treatment were within seven specialties: General Surgery; Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (T&O); General Medicine; Urology; Gynaecology (Gynae); Ophthalmology and Gastroenterology (Figure 6a).

Figure 6a Inpatients - Total Waiters by Specialty at 30th June 2010[7]

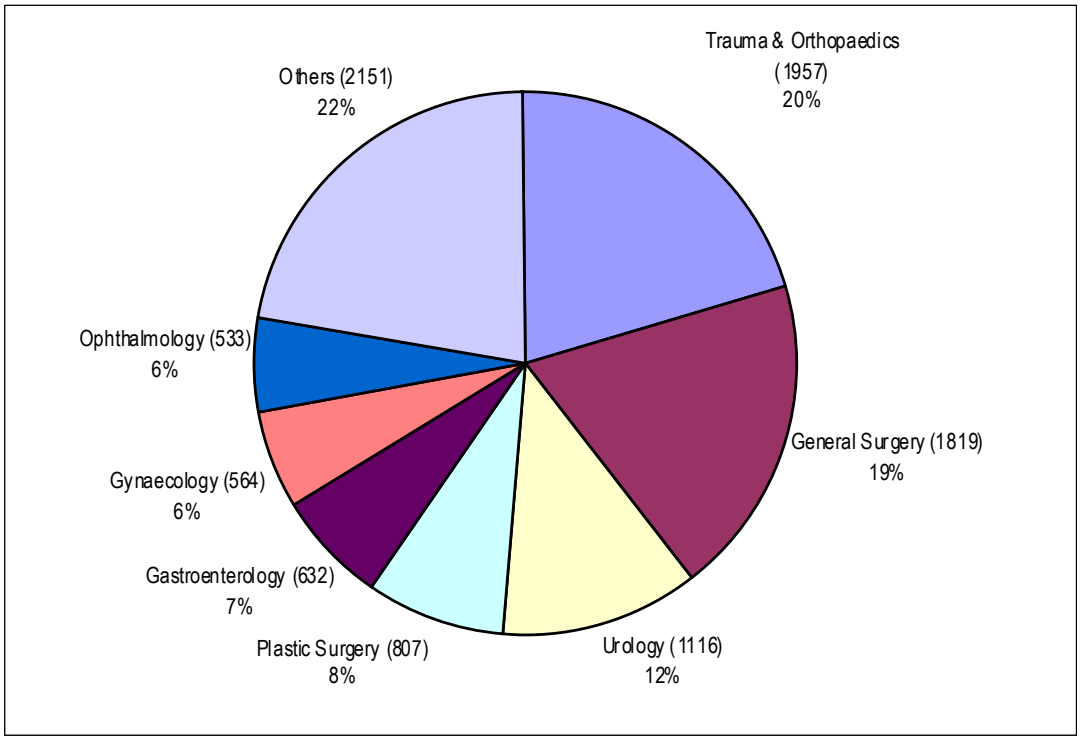


Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset.

[7] Refer to Technical Notes – points 1 & 2 and 19 - 26.

Almost 78% of the 9,579 patients waiting more than 13 weeks were within seven specialties as shown in Figure 6b below: Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (T&O); General Surgery; Urology; Plastic Surgery; Gastroenterology; Gynaecology (Gynae) and Ophthalmology.

Figure 6b Inpatients – Patients waiting more than 13 weeks by Specialty at 30th June 2010[7]



Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset.
[7] Refer to Technical Notes – points 1 & 2 and 19-26.

Inpatient Waiting Time by Specialty

Waiting times for inpatients by specialty are shown in Table 14. Overall 76.6% of those waiting for admission were waiting 13 weeks or less.

Table 14 Number of Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting and Specialty – 30th June 2010[7]

Specialty	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting						Total Number of Patients Awaiting Admission
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26 - 36	> 36	
General Surgery	4,182	2,841	1,424	287	103	5	8,842
Trauma & Orthopaedics	1,365	1,322	1,148	337	419	53	4,644
General Medicine	1,763	1,409	430	47	28	0	3,677
Urology	1,520	996	725	241	125	25	3,632
Gynaecology	1,528	1,227	474	72	17	1	3,319
Ophthalmology	1,350	1,385	505	23	3	2	3,268
Gastroenterology	1,393	939	534	94	4	0	2,964
Other:-	4,623	3,453	1,915	299	183	56	10,529
Ear, Nose & Throat	1,335	1,225	281	34	12	0	2,887
Plastic Surgery	423	278	525	105	128	49	1,508
Cardiology	733	547	187	14	6	1	1,488
Pain Management	405	408	312	71	18	0	1,214
Rheumatology	182	242	234	2	0	0	660
Oral Surgery	325	165	103	7	3	0	603
Dermatology	176	146	40	2	0	0	364
General Practice (Other)	296	59	0	0	0	0	355
Paediatric Surgery	192	113	33	2	0	0	340
Cardiac Surgery	130	100	84	13	4	1	332
Neurosurgery	88	60	30	18	4	4	204
Neurology	61	37	47	22	7	0	174
Thoracic Surgery	40	25	14	4	0	0	83
Other	237	48	25	5	1	1	317
All Specialties	**17,724**	**13,572**	**7,155**	**1,400**	**882**	**142**	**40,875**

Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset.

[7] Refer to Technical Notes – points 1 & 2 and 19-26.

Inpatient Waiting Times by Provider Trust

Waiting times for inpatients by HSC Trust are shown in Table 15.

Around 40% (16,222) of patients waiting for admission were waiting in the Belfast HSC Trust. 17.4% (7,129) of those waiting were waiting in the Western HSC Trust, 16.0% (6,544) in the Southern HSC Trust, 15.5% (6,334) in the Northern HSC Trust and 11.4% (4,646) in the South Eastern HSC Trust (Table 15).

Table 15 Number of Patients Waiting for Admission by Provider Trust and by Weeks Waiting – June 2010[7]

Provider Trust	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting						Total Number of Patients Waiting
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	>26 - 36	> 36	
Belfast	6,634	5,599	3,068	640	236	45	16,222
Northern	2,798	1,996	1,218	242	76	4	6,334
South Eastern	2,443	1,234	712	90	119	48	4,646
Southern	2,753	2,326	1,203	209	49	4	6,544
Western	3,096	2,417	954	219	402	41	7,129
Total	**17,724**	**13,572**	**7,155**	**1,400**	**882**	**142**	**40,875**

Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset.
[7] Refer to Technical Notes – points 1 & 2 and 19-26.

Of the 9,579 patients waiting more than 13 weeks for inpatient admission, 42% (3,989) were waiting for admission in the Belfast HSC Trust, with 17% (1,616) waiting in the Western HSC Trust, 16% (1,540) waiting in the Northern HSC Trust, 15% (1,465) waiting in the Southern HSC Trust and 10% (969) waiting in the South Eastern HSC Trust (Table 15).

Completed Inpatient Waits

The number of completed inpatient waits, for patients treated within Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland, is shown in Table 16.

Table 16 Completed Inpatient Waits – QE June 2010[8]

Quarter	Total Number of Completed Inpatient Waits[P]
A - J 2007	46,022
J - S 2007	43,640
O - D 2007	46,492
J - D 2007	**182,327**
J - M 2008	45,145
A - J 2008	48,566
J - S 2008	44,626
O - D 2008	47,741
J - D 2008	**186,078**
J - M 2009	47,223
A - J 2009[P]	47,182
J - S 2009[P]	44,649
O - D 2009[P]	45,612
J - D 2009	**184,666**
J - M 2010[P]	47,480
A - J 2010[P]	43,100

Source: Hospital Inpatient System.
[8] Refer to Technical Notes – point 27.
P - Provisional

43,100 patients were admitted to Health Service hospitals during the quarter ending 30th June 2010, compared with 47,480 in the quarter ending 31st March 2010 (down 9.2%) and 47,182 in the quarter ending 30thJune 2009, a fall of 8.7% (Table 16).

Completed Inpatient Waits including Independent Sector Activity

During the June 2010 quarter, a number of patients received inpatient treatment commissioned by the Health Service, within the Independent Sector. The number of such patients admitted for inpatient treatment within the Independent Sector has been provided by the Health and Social Care Board, split by commissioning Trust.

Table 17a Completed Inpatient Waits by Trust including Independent Sector Activity – QE June 2010[9]

Provider Trust	Number of Completed Inpatient Waits within Health Service Hospitals[P]	Number of Completed Inpatient Waits in Independent Sector	Total Number of Completed Inpatient Waits Commissioned by Health Service
Belfast	16,795	482	17,277
Northern	5,668	443	6,111
South Eastern	6,914	757	7,671
Southern	6,416	38	6,454
Western	7,307	797	8,104
Total Treated	**43,100**	**2,517**	**45,617**

Source: Hospital Inpatient System & Departmental Return IS1 part 2.
[9] Refer to Technical Notes – points 27 & 28.
P - Provisional

2,517 Health Service patients received inpatient treatment within the Independent Sector during the quarter ending 30th June 2010. When this number is combined with that for inpatients treated in Health Service hospitals during the same period (43,100), it is estimated that approximately 45,617 (45,617 + 2,517) inpatients received treatment in Northern Ireland commissioned by the Health Service (Table 17a).

Approximately 38% (17,277) of completed waits for the quarter ending 30th June 2010 occurred in the Belfast HSC Trust, with 18% (8,104), 17% (7,671), 14% (6,454) and 13% (6,111) occurring in the Western, South Eastern, Southern and Northern HSC Trusts respectively (Table 17a).

Completed Inpatient Waits including Independent Sector Activity – Trends

Table 16b has been included to reflect the total completed inpatient waits for Health Service patients for the past five quarters.

Table 17b Completed Inpatient Waits by Trust Including Independent Sector Activity[9], QE June 2009 – QE June 2010[P]

Provider Trust	Total Number of Completed Inpatient Waits Commissioned by Health Service				
	QE June 2009[P]	QE September 2009[P]	QE December 2009[P]	QE March 2010[P]	QE June 2010[P]
Belfast	22,510	20,962	19,646	21,553	17,277
Northern	7,308	6,917	5,987	6,975	6,111
South Eastern	8,378	8,951	7,541	7,376	7,671
Southern	7,632	7,813	7,857	7,618	6,454
Western	8,220	7,459	7,506	8,118	8,104
Total	**54,048**	**52,102**	**48,537**	**51,640**	**45,617**

Source: Hospital Inpatient System & Departmental Return IS1 part 2.
[9] Refer to Technical Notes – points 27 & 28.
P – Provisional

There has been a 11.7% (6,023) decrease in the number of completed inpatient waits commissioned by the Health Service between March 2010 (51,640) and June 2010 (45,617) and a decrease of 15.6% between QE June 2009 (54,048) to QE June 2010 (45,617). 73% (4,380) of the decrease over the last quarter was due to decreased activity in Health Service hospitals, with 27% (1,643) due to decreased Independent Sector activity (Table 17b).

Technical Notes

1. The sources for the data contained in this release are the Departmental Returns CH3, Quarterly Outpatient Activity Return (QOAR), SDR1, DHSSPS Inpatient and ICATS Waiting Time Datasets, Hospital Inpatient System Dataset and the Departmental Return IS1. These returns collect information from Health and Social Care Trusts and the Health and Social Care Board on a quarterly basis.

2. Trust based information (CH3, QOAR, SDR1, DHSSPS Inpatient and ICATS Waiting Time Datasets, Hospital Inpatients System Dataset and the Departmental Return IS1) returns include all patients living outside Northern Ireland and all privately funded patients waiting for treatment in Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland.

3. Outpatient waiters are defined as patients still waiting for their first outpatient appointment at the end of the quarter, including those who have cancelled or missed a previous appointment. An outpatient appointment is to enable a patient to see a consultant, a member of their firm or locum for such a member, in respect of one referral. Waiting time for a first outpatient appointment begins on the date the HSC Trust receives a referral for a first appointment and ends on the date the patient attends a first outpatient appointment. 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.

4. For Tables 2, 3, 4 and Figure 2b, outpatient waiting time relates to the number of completed weeks a patient has been waiting for outpatient assessment. For example, a patient waiting exactly 6 weeks would be included in the 0-6 week timeband and a patient waiting exactly 6 weeks and 1 day would be included in the >6-9 (greater than 6 weeks but waiting no longer than 9 weeks) timeband.

5. The 2010/11 ministerial target for outpatient waiting times states that by 31st March 2011 no patient should wait longer than 9 weeks for a first outpatient appointment. Patients waiting 'more than 9 weeks' includes all patients in the >9-13, >13–26 and >26 week timebands. Patients waiting 'more than 13 weeks' includes all patients in the >13-26 and >26 week timebands.

6. The total number of completed outpatient waits each quarter, within HSC hospitals, is derived as the total number of attendances at a first outpatient appointment from the Departmental Quarterly Outpatient Activity Return.

7. The number of patients that received an outpatient assessment, commissioned by the Health Service, in the Independent Sector is provided in Tables 6a and 6b. These figures are provided by the HSC Board. They are published for each transferring Health and Social Care Trust (Trust responsible for the patient's waiting time). 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 outpatient waits during each quarter.

8. From 1st April 2010, a number of Integrated Clinical Assessment and Treatment Services (ICATS) were officially introduced within the HSC. ICATS is the term used for a range of outpatient type services for patients, which are provided by integrated multi-disciplinary teams of health service professionals, including GPs with a special interest, specialist nurses and allied health professionals. They are provided in a variety of primary, community and secondary care settings and they include assessment, treatment, diagnostic and advisory services. A first appointment at ICATS is known as a Tier 2 appointment. Waiting times for a first ICATS Tier

2 appointment are measured in a similar fashion to those for a first outpatient appointment (see point 13).

9. ICATS introduced from 1st April 2010 included services in the Belfast HSCT (Ophthalmology and Dermatology), the Northern HSCT (ENT, Ophthalmology and Dermatology), the South Eastern HSCT (ENT, Ophthalmology and Dermatology), the Southern HSCT (Dermatology and Urology) and the Western HSCT (ENT and Ophthalmology). ICATS in the Trauma and Orthopaedic specialty were introduced on 1st October 2007 and are provided in all five Health and Social Care Trusts.

10. A diagnostic service provides an examination, test or procedure used to identify a person's disease or condition and which allows a medical diagnosis to be made.

11. The diagnostic waiting time target relates to all tests with a diagnostic element. Included are tests that are part diagnostic and subsequently part therapeutic. A therapeutic procedure is defined as a procedure which involves actual treatment of a person's disease, condition or injury. Purely therapeutic procedures are excluded from the diagnostic waiting times target. Patients currently admitted to a hospital bed and waiting for an emergency procedure, patients waiting for a planned procedure and patients waiting for procedures as part of screening programme are also excluded from the waiting times target.

12. The waiting time for a diagnostic service commences on the date on which the referral for the service is received by the Health Care provider and stops on the date on which the test is performed. 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.

13. A number of the diagnostic services reported on the SDR 1 return are managed as either an ordinary admission or a day case. As such, they will be included in both the inpatient and diagnostic services waiting time figures. Due to the risk of multiple counting, these two sets of data should not be combined to give an estimate of the total number of patients waiting for either inpatient admission or a diagnostic service.

14. Waiting time statistics for day case endoscopies also include patients waiting for endoscopies that are managed as ordinary admissions.

15. The 2010/11 waiting time target for diagnostic services states that by 31st March 2011, patients should wait no longer than nine weeks for a diagnostic service (the majority of patients should wait no longer than 13 weeks for a day case endoscopy, with no patient waiting longer than 36 weeks).

16. The Department commenced collection of waiting times for all diagnostic services for the quarter ending March 2010. Consequently, comparisons with the same quarter in the previous year are not available, except in Figure 3 and Table 9, where trends and comparisons have been shown for the 16 selected diagnostic services only. The source for the diagnostic waiting time data for the 16 selected diagnostic services is the Departmental Return SDR1 part 1. The waiting time data for all other diagnostic services is provided by the HSC Board on the SDR1 part 2 return. The data are not National Statistics and they have had limited validation by the Department, however, they have been included to provide users with a comprehensive view of waiting times for diagnostic services subject to the 2010/11 Ministerial target.

17. The Northern, Southern, South Eastern and Western HSC Trusts have recently introduced the Northern Ireland Picture Archive and Communications System (NIPACS) as the mechanism for managing imaging services within their respective Trust areas. Due to technical limitations

with NIPACS, these HSC Trusts were unable to extract waiting time information from the system for submission to the Department. However, the HSC Board was able to provide estimates for the four HSC Trusts waiting time positions at 30th June 2010 for Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Computerised Tomography, Non Obstetric Ultrasound, Barium Studies, DEXA Scan and Radio Nuclide Imaging services. These estimates have been included in the published waiting time position for 30th June 2010. With regard to these estimates for imaging services provided by the HSC Board, only the figures for the number of patients breaching the target were validated by the HSC Board with the four HSC Trusts.

18. The Western HSC Trust also record waiting times for their Cardiology - Perfusion Studies service on NIPACS. Due to technical difficulties, the precise number of patients waiting for this service at 30th June 2010 is unavailable. The Western HSC Trust has provided an estimate of the number waiting for this service and this has been included within this publication.

19. Inpatient waiting list data comprises the number of patients waiting for ordinary admission to hospital and the number of patients waiting for day case treatment.

20. Ordinary 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 ordinary admission. Day cases are not included.

21. 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 ordinary admission.

22. The waiting list inpatient figures presented include people waiting to be admitted as inpatients either as day cases or ordinary 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;
    - Maternity (specialties 510 and 520);
    - Patients already in hospitals but included on other waiting lists;
    - Patients who are temporarily suspended from waiting lists.

23. 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.

24. The current ministerial target for inpatient waiting times states that by 31st March 2011, the majority of patients should wait no longer than 13 weeks for inpatient or day case treatment, with no patient waiting longer than 36 weeks. Patients waiting 'more than 13 weeks' include all patients in the >13 - 21, >21 – 26, >26 – 36 and > 36 week timebands. Patients waiting 'more than 36 weeks' includes all patients in the > 36 week timeband.

25. For Tables 13, 14, 15 and Figure 6b, inpatient waiting time relates to the number of completed weeks a patient has been waiting for inpatient admission. For example, a patient waiting exactly 6 weeks would be included in the 0-6 week timeband and a patient waiting exactly 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.

26. The inpatient waiting time figure for the position at 31st March 2010 has been revised (from 36,052 to 36,041) since the March bulletin due to an amendment received from the Northern HSC Trust. Consequently, there were 37 less patients breaching the target than had been reported in the bulletin for the March 2010 quarter.

27. The total number of completed inpatient waits within HSC hospitals each quarter is sourced from Hospital Inpatient System. Data relating to completed inpatient waits within Health Service hospitals, contained within Tables 16 and 17a, includes independent sector activity performed within Health Service hospitals.

28. The number of patients that received inpatient treatment, commissioned by the Health Service, in the Independent Sector are provided in Tables 17a and 17b. These figures are provided by the HSC Board. They are published for each transferring Health and Social Care Trust (Trust responsible for the patient's waiting time). 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 in patient waits during each quarter.

29. Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety policy is to publish revised figures with subsequent statistical releases unless it is decided that the magnitude of the change merits earlier notification.

30. Data contained within this bulletin are now available in a downloadable file at the following link:

    http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/waiting_times.htm

31. Figures relating to the quarter ending 30th September 2010 will be released on Thursday 2nd December 2010.

32. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Service on **020 7533 5888**
    minicom: 01633 812399
    E-mail: info@statistics.gov.uk
    Fax: 01633 652747
    Letters: room DG/18, Drummond Gate,
    LONDON SW1V 2QQ

You can also find National Statistics on the internet – Go to **www.statistics.gov.uk**.

Additional Information

Further information on waiting lists in Northern Ireland is available from:
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Hospital Information Branch
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Annexe 2
Castle Buildings
Stormont
BT4 3SQ
E-mail: statistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk
Internet address: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/waiting_times.htm