

Question:

Number of patients who have waited 24 hours or more in major Emergency Departments in Northern Ireland for every month from October 2023 to date, for Northern Ireland and broken down by HSC Trust

Response:

Information on the number of new and unplanned review attendances which resulted in a wait of 24 hours or more at a Type 1 Emergency Department (ED), in each Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust for each month from October 2023 to December 2023 is presented in Table 1 overleaf^{1,2}. It is important to note that this refers to the number of attendances, as a patient may attend emergency care departments more than once during each year.

A new attendance refers to the first unplanned attendance by a patient for a new clinical condition at an ED / Minor Injuries Unit (MIU).

An unplanned review attendance relates to any patient who returns to an ED / Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) without written instruction, for the same or related clinical condition within 30 days of the first (initial) attendance.

The length of time a patient waits refers to the time between entering the ED and being logged in at reception, until leaving the ED via discharge or admission to hospital.

Please note that emergency care data for clinical care episodes completed on or after 9th November 2023 in South Eastern HSC Trust is not yet available due to the Trust's transition to completely digitised health records following the launch of the Encompass programme.

Table 1: Number of New and Unplanned Review Attendances Resulting in a Wait of 24 Hours or More in Type 1 EDs, by HSC Trust (October 2023 – December 2023)²

Year	Month	Belfast	Northern	South Eastern	Southern	Western	Total
2023	October	995	1,073	881	1,037	724	4,710
	November	980	958	239	802	851	3,830
	December	959	977	-	1,019	903	3,858

¹ Consideration should be given to changes to ED service provision and designation when making comparisons over time, including changes during the COVID 19 pandemic and the provision of urgent and emergency care services. Further details of these changes are detailed in Appendix 3 (page 81) of the 'Northern Ireland Hospital Statistics: Emergency Care 2022/23' publication, at the link below: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/hs-emergency-care-22-23.pdf>

² Please note that emergency care data for clinical care episodes completed on or after 9th November 2023 in South Eastern HSC Trust is not yet available due to the Trust's transition to completely digitised health records following the launch of the Encompass programme. Consequently, figures for South Eastern HSC Trust for November 2023 only include clinical care episodes completed up to and including 8th November 2023.

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