



NORTHERN IRELAND WAITING TIME STATISTICS: INPATIENT WAITING TIMES QE DECEMBER 2010

This publication presents information on waiting times for inpatient treatment in Northern Ireland at 31st December 2010. It details information on the number of patients waiting, and length of time waiting, for Ordinary and Day Case admissions at HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland. Data are presented by HSC Trust, specialty and time band. The number of completed inpatient waits is also presented in this release by HSC Trust.

Issue No: 1

Date of Publication:

3 March 2011

Theme:

Inpatient Waiting Time Statistics in Northern Ireland

Issued by

Hospital Information Branch
Information & Analysis Directorate
Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

Statistician

Kerri Burgess
(028) 90 523264

Email

kerri.burgess@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Internet

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

Contents

	Page
Technical Notes	5
Waiting Times for Inpatient Services	6
Tables	11
Appendices	16

Background

The data contained in this publication were previously published as part of the Northern Ireland Waiting List Bulletin which was published each quarter until the QE September 2010.

Key Points

- The total number of patients waiting to be admitted to hospitals in Northern Ireland at 31st December 2010 stood at 50,769, up 5,851 (+13.0%) on the 44,918 waiting to be admitted at the end of the previous quarter, and up 13,961 (+37.9%) on the number (36,808) waiting to be admitted at 31st December 2009 (Figure 1 & Table 1).
- Over a quarter (29.8%, 15,113) of the people waiting for admission to hospital at the end of December 2010 were waiting for ordinary admission, with the other 70.2% (35,656) waiting for day case admission (Figure 1 & Table 1).
- Compared to 31st December 2009, the number of people waiting for ordinary admission increased by 3,302 (+28.0%) and the number waiting for day case admission increased by 10,659 (+42.6%) (Figure 1 & Table 1).
- At the end of December 2010, 17,156 (33.8% of total number waiting) patients were waiting more than 13 weeks for inpatient treatment. This was down 236 on the comparable number in the previous quarter (17,392). 2,265 patients were waiting longer than 36 weeks (Figure 4 & Tables 2, 3 & 4).
- In total, the number of HSC patients admitted for inpatient treatment, in both the HSC and the Independent Sector was 44,901, up 3,657 (+8.9%) on the previous quarter (Figure 9 & Table 7).

Reader Information

Purpose	Report on the number of patients waiting, and length of time waiting for inpatient treatment at HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland.
Authors	Kerri Burgess, Rodney Redmond, Laura Smyth.
Publication Date	Thursday 3rd March 2011
Reporting Period	1 st October 2010 – 31 st December 2010
Publication Issue	1
Statistical Quality	Information contained in this release that has been sourced from HSC Trusts has been validated by the Department prior to release. Data in the release that have been sourced from the HSC Board are not National Statistics and have not been validated by the Department.
Target audience	DHSSPS, Chief Executives of the HSC Board and Trusts in Northern Ireland, health care professionals, academics, and Health & Social care stakeholders.
Further copies from	statistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk
Internet address	http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/waiting_times_main.htm
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.

About the Hospital Information Branch (HIB)

Hospital Information Branch is responsible for the collection, quality assurance, analysis and publication of timely and accurate information derived from a wide range of statistical information returns supplied by the HSC Trusts and the HSC Board. Statistical information is collected routinely from a variety of electronic patient level administrative systems and pre-defined EXCEL survey return templates. The Head of the Branch is the Principal Statistician, Mrs. Laura Smyth.

The Branch aims to present information in a meaningful way and provide advice on its uses to customers in the Health and Social Care Committee, Professional Advisory Groups, policy branches within the DHSSPS and the general public. The statistical information collected is used to contribute to major exercises such as reporting on corporate monitoring, Health & Personal Social Services (HPSS) performance tables, other comparative performance exercises, target setting, management frameworks and policy development / evaluation. In addition, the information is used in response to a significantly high volume of Parliamentary / Assembly questions and ad-hoc queries each year.

Information is disseminated through a number of key statistical publications, including: Inpatient Activity, Outpatient Activity, Emergency Care, Mental Health & Learning Disability and Waiting Time Statistics (Inpatient, Outpatient, Diagnostics and Cancer). A detailed list of these publications is available from:

Website: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-activity_stats-2.htm

List of Figures

Figure 1: Total number of patients waiting for inpatient admission to hospital in Northern Ireland (31st December 2007 to 31st December 2010).....	7
Figure 2: Total number of patients waiting for inpatient admission by Specialty (31 st December 2010).....	7
Figure 3: Total number of patients waiting for inpatient admission by HSC Trust (31st December 2010).....	8
Figure 4: Number of patients waiting longer than 13 weeks for inpatient admission (31st December 2007 to 31st December 2010)	8
Figure 5: Total number of patients waiting longer than 13 weeks for inpatient admission by Specialty (31st December 2010).....	9
Figure 6: Total number of patients waiting longer than 13 weeks for inpatient admission by HSC Trust (31 st December 2010).....	9
Figure 7: Proportion of patients waiting longer than 13 weeks: Quarterly trends 31st December 2009 to 31st December 2010.....	9
Figure 8: Total number of Completed Waits by Quarter (QE December 2009 to QE December 2010).....	10
Figure 9: Total number of Completed Waits by HSC Trust during QE December 2010.....	11

List of Tables

Table 1: Quarterly Inpatient Waiting Lists – 31 st December 2010.....	12
Table 2: Number of Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting and Specialty – 31 st December 2010.....	13
Table 3: Number of Patients Waiting for Admission by HSC Trust and by Weeks Waiting – 31 st December 2010..	14
Table 4: Patients Waiting Longer Than 13 Weeks – 31 st December 2010.....	14
Table 5: Completed Inpatient Waits – QE June 2008 to QE December 2010.....	15
Table 6: Completed Inpatient Waits by HSC Trust – QE December 2010.....	15
Table 7: Completed Inpatient Waits by HSC Trust – QE December 2009 to QE December 2010.....	16

Technical Notes

This statistics release is the first of a quarterly data series presenting information on waiting times for inpatient treatment at HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland. Historically, this information on the number of patients waiting for Ordinary and Day Case admissions, and the length of time they were waiting at the end of each quarter, as well as information on completed inpatient waits during the quarter, was included within the NI Waiting List publication. This publication has now been discontinued.

Data Collection

The information presented in this bulletin derives from the DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset, the Hospital Inpatient System and the Departmental IS1 Part 2 statistical return provided by the HSC Board.

Rounding

Percentages have been rounded to whole numbers and as a consequence some percentages may not sum to 100.

Data Quality

All waiting time information presented in this bulletin has been validated and quality assured by HSC Trusts and Hospitals prior to publication. HSC Trusts and Hospitals are given a set period of time to submit the information to HIB. Following submission, HIB perform a series of checks to verify that information is consistent both within and across returns. Trend analyses are used to monitor annual variations and emerging trends. Queries arising from validation checks are presented to HSC Trusts for clarification and if required, returns may be amended and/or re-submitted.

Finally, prior to the publication of this information, the data is presented to HSC Trusts and Hospitals for final sign-off.

Main Uses of Data

The main uses of these data are to monitor the waiting times for inpatient admission to help assess Trust performance, for corporate monitoring, to inform and monitor related policy, and to respond to parliamentary / assembly questions and ad hoc queries from the public.

Waiting Time Information Elsewhere in the United Kingdom

While it is our intention to direct users to waiting time information elsewhere in the UK, users should be aware that hospital waiting times in other administrations are not always measured in a comparable manner to those in Northern Ireland. Details of the hospital waiting times published elsewhere in the UK can be found as detailed below.

England

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performanceandstatistics/ReferraltoTreatmentstatistics/index.htm>

Scotland

<http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/5616.html>

Wales

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health2011/1102101/?lang=en>

Data on the length of time waited for a selection of inpatient procedures, that are comparable across the UK, are available at the link below (see Table 6.6).

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/ukhs4/ukhs4-2010.pdf

A National Statistics Publication

National Statistics are produced to a high professional standard set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs. They are produced free from any political interference. As we want to engage with users of our statistics, we invite you to feedback your comments on this publication to:

Kerri Burgess

Email: kerri.burgess@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Tel: (028) 90 523264

Waiting Times for Inpatient Treatment

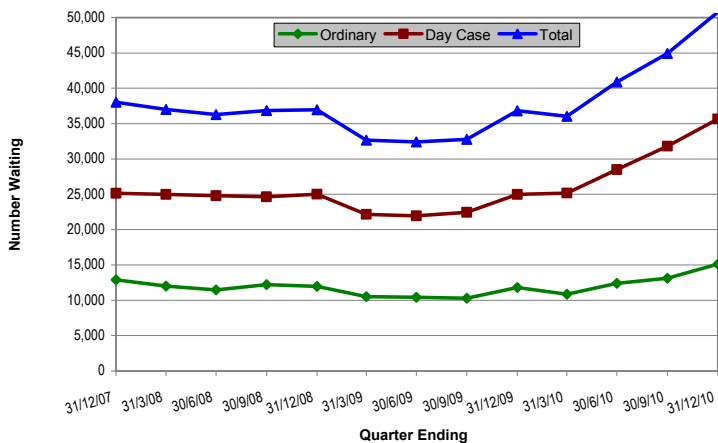
Inpatient treatment

Data contained in this publication relate to waiting times for inpatient treatment at HSC Trusts in Northern Ireland at 31st December 2010. The patients may be admitted for treatment to hospitals in Northern Ireland as either Ordinary or Day Case admissions.

Total patients waiting¹

At 31st December 2010, a total of 50,769 people were waiting for admission to hospital as day cases or as ordinary admissions in Northern Ireland. This was an increase of 5,851 (+13.0%) on the 44,918 waiting at the end of the previous quarter and was up 13,961 (+37.9%) on the number waiting at 31st December 2009 (Figure 1 & Table 1).

Figure 1: Total number of patients waiting for inpatient admission to hospital in Northern Ireland (31st December 2007 to 31st December 2010)



Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

Some 29.8% (15,113) of people on the inpatient waiting list in Northern Ireland at 31st December were waiting for admission to hospital as ordinary admissions, with the other 70.2% (35,656) waiting for day case admission (Figure 1 & Table 1).

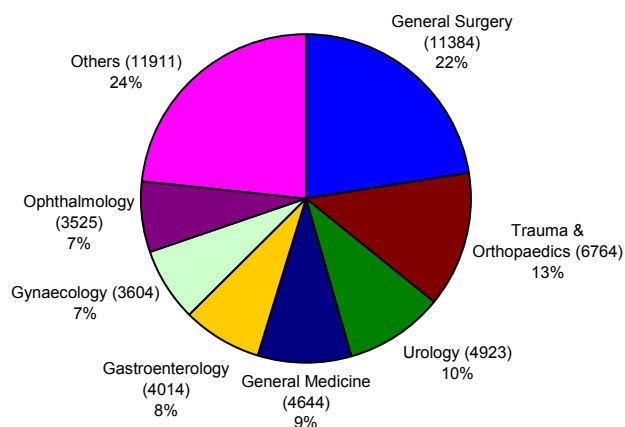
Compared to 30th September 2010, the number waiting for ordinary admission increased by 1,991 (+15.2%) and the number waiting for day case admission increased by 3,860 (+12.1%). Compared to 31st December 2009,

the number waiting for ordinary admission increased by 3,302 (+28.0%) and the number waiting for day case admission increased by 10,659 (+42.6%) (Figure 1 & Table 1).

Inpatients Waiting by Specialty¹

Over three-quarters (76.5%, 38,858) of the 50,769 patients waiting for inpatient treatment were within seven specialties: General Surgery; Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (T&O); Urology; General Medicine; Gastroenterology; Gynaecology and Ophthalmology (Figure 2 & Table 2).

Figure 2: Total number of patients waiting for inpatient admission by Specialty (31st December 2010)



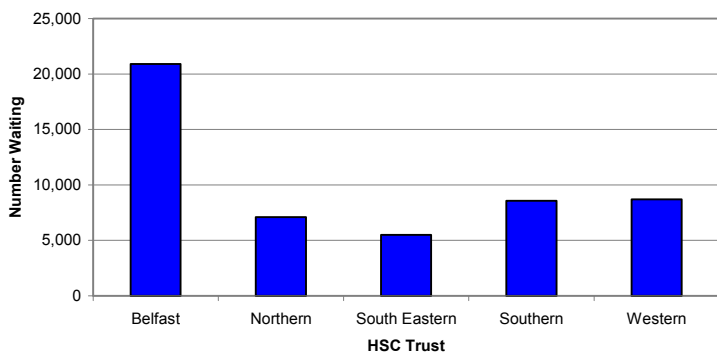
Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

Total patients waiting by HSC Trust¹

Over two-fifths (41.2%, 20,912) of patients waiting for admission were waiting in the Belfast HSC Trust. 17.1% (8,695) of those waiting were waiting in the Western HSC Trust, 16.9% (8,560) in the Southern HSC Trust, 14.0% (7,100) in the Northern HSC Trust and 10.8% (5,502) in the South Eastern HSC Trust (Figure 3 & Table 3).

¹ Refer to Explanatory Notes 1-9

Figure 3: Total number of patients waiting for inpatient admission by HSC Trust (31st December 2010)



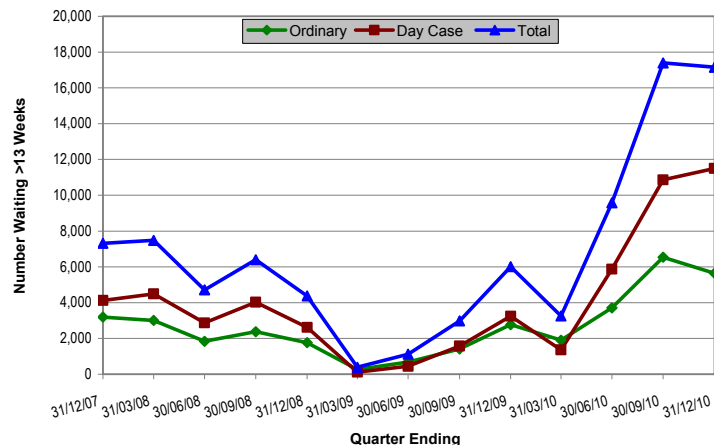
Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

Patients waiting longer than 2010/11 maximum waiting time target¹

The 2010/11 maximum waiting time 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 31st December 2010, there were 17,156 (33.8%) patients waiting more than 13 weeks for inpatient treatment, of which 2,265 were waiting more than 36 weeks. Of the 17,156 patients waiting more than 13 weeks, 5,649 (32.9%) were awaiting ordinary admission and 11,507 (67.1%) were awaiting day case procedures (Figure 4 & Table 4).

Figure 4: Number of patients waiting longer than 13 weeks for inpatient admission (31st December 2007 to 31st December 2010)



Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

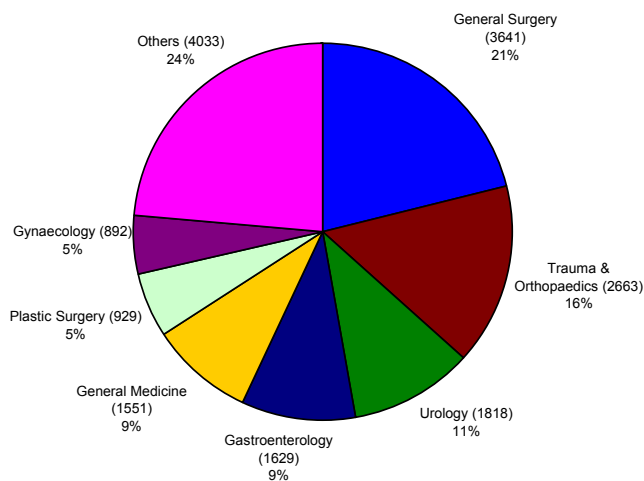
At the end of December 2010, the number of patients waiting more than 13 weeks was 236 less than at the end of September 2010 (17,392 waiting more than 13 weeks) and 11,146 more than at the same time last year (6,010 waiting more than 13 weeks) (Figure 4 & Table 4).

Patients waiting longer than 2010/11 maximum waiting time target by Specialty¹

Over three-quarters (76.5%, 13,123) of the 17,156 patients waiting more than 13 weeks were within seven specialties: General Surgery; Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (T&O); Urology; Gastroenterology; General Medicine; Plastic Surgery and Gynaecology (Figure 5 & Table 2).

¹ Refer to Explanatory Notes 1-9

Figure 5: Total number of patients waiting longer than 13 weeks for inpatient admission by Specialty (31st December 2010)

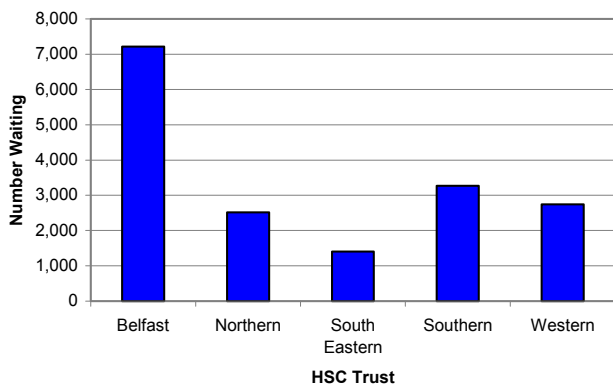


Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

Patients waiting longer than 2010/11 maximum waiting time target by HSC Trust¹

Of the 17,156 patients waiting more than 13 weeks for inpatient admission, 42.1% (7,219) were waiting for admission in the Belfast HSC Trust, 19.1% (3,269) in the Southern HSC Trust, 16.0% (2,742) in the Western HSC Trust, 14.7% (2,520) in the Northern HSC Trust and 8.2% (1,406) in the South Eastern HSC Trust (Figure 6 & Table 3).

Figure 6: Total number of patients waiting longer than 13 weeks for inpatient admission by HSC Trust (31st December 2010)



Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

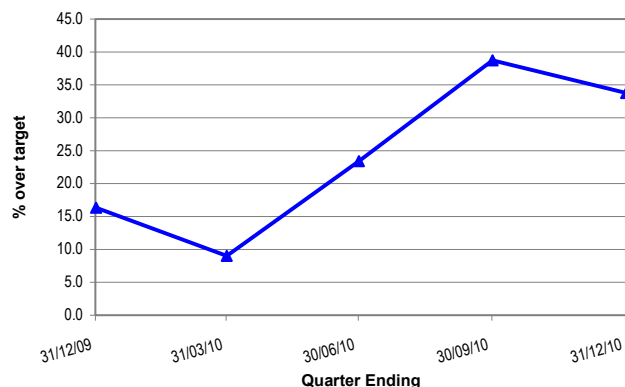
Proportion of patients waiting over the maximum waiting time target¹

At 31st December 2010, 17,156 people were waiting more than 13 weeks for inpatient admission out of a total of 50,769 – this is 33.8% of the total.

At 30th September 2010, 17,392 people were waiting more than 13 weeks for inpatient admission out of a total of 44,918 people waiting for inpatient admission – this is 38.7% of the total. This equates to a decrease of 4.9 percentage points in the proportion of people waiting more than 13 weeks between September 2010 and December 2010.

At December 2009, 6,010 people were waiting more than 13 weeks for inpatient admission out of a total number of 36,808 people waiting – this is 16.3% of the total. This equates to an increase of 17.5 percentage points in the proportion of people waiting more than 13 weeks between December 2009 and December 2010 (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Proportion of patients waiting longer than 13 weeks: Quarterly trends 31st December 2009 – 31st December 2010



Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹ Refer to Explanatory Notes 1-9

Completed Inpatient Waits

During the quarter, patients on the waiting list will have been admitted to hospital for treatment, thus ending their wait. Patients can be admitted to Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland for their treatment or their treatment can be carried out within the Independent sector, commissioned by the Health Service.

Completed Inpatient Waits within the HSC

A total of 43,559 patients were admitted to Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland during the quarter ending 31st December 2010, compared with 40,529 in the quarter ending 30th September 2010 (up 7.5%) and 44,440 in the quarter ending 31st December 2009, a fall of 2.0% (Table 5).

Completed Inpatient Waits within the Independent Sector

During the quarter ending 31st December 2010, a number of patients received inpatient treatment commissioned by the Health Service, within the Independent Sector. The number of such patients has been provided by the Health and Social Care Board, split by commissioning Trust (Table 5).

During the December 2010 quarter, 1,342 patients received inpatient treatment commissioned by the Health Service, within the Independent Sector, compared with 715 in the quarter ending 30th September 2010 (up 8.8%) and 2,925 in the quarter ending 31st December 2009 (fall of 5.4%) (Table 5).

Total Completed Inpatient Waits²

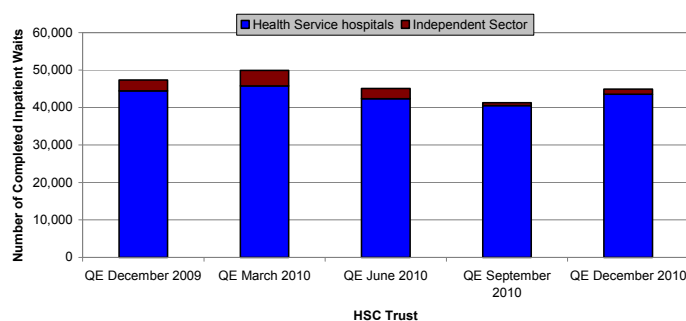
When the number of completed inpatient waits within the Independent Sector (1,342) is combined with that for inpatients treated in Health Service hospitals during the same period (43,559), it is estimated that approximately 44,901 (43,559 + 1,342) inpatients received treatment in Northern Ireland commissioned by the Health Service during the quarter ending 31st December 2010 (Table 6).

There has been an 8.9% (3,657) increase in the number of completed inpatient waits commissioned by the Health Service between QE September 2010

(41,244) and QE December 2010 (44,901) and a decrease of 5.2% (2,464) between QE December 2009 (47,365) and QE December 2010 (44,901) (Figure 8 & Table 7).

82.9% (3,030) of the increase over the last quarter was due to increased activity in Health Service hospitals, with 17.1% (627) due to increased Independent Sector activity (Figure 8 & Table 5).

Figure 8: Total number of Completed Waits by Quarter (QE December 2009 to QE December 2010)



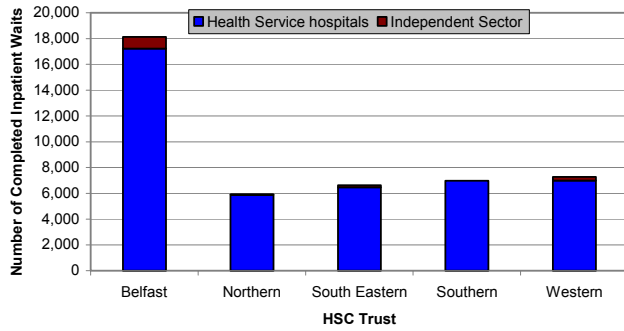
Source: Hospital Inpatient System & Departmental Return IS1 Part 2

Total number of Completed Inpatient Waits by HSC Trust²

Over two-fifths (40%, 18,129) of completed waits for the quarter ending 31st December 2010 occurred in the Belfast HSC Trust, with 16.2% (7,266), 15.5% (6,978), 14.7% (6,619) and 13.2% (5,909) occurring in the Western, Southern, South Eastern and Northern HSC Trusts respectively (Figure 9 & Table 6).

² Refer to Explanatory Notes 10 & 11

Figure 9: Total number of Completed Waits by HSC Trust during QE December 2010



Source: Hospital Inpatient System & Departmental Return IS1 Part 2

Table 1: Quarterly Inpatient Waiting Lists – 31st December 2010¹

Waiting for:	Number of patients waiting: 31st December 2010	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter – previous year
Ordinary Admissions	15,113	+1,991	+3,302
Day case Admissions	35,656	+3,860	+10,659
Total Waiting	50,769	+5,851	+13,961

Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–9

Table 2: Number of Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting and Specialty – 31st December 2010¹

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	4,277	3,466	1,611	518	951	561	11,384
Trauma & Orthopaedics	1,714	2,387	1,368	408	539	348	6,764
Urology	1,706	1,399	822	293	403	300	4,923
General Medicine	1,589	1,504	1,020	328	136	67	4,644
Gastroenterology	1,360	1,025	599	321	482	227	4,014
Gynaecology	1,357	1,355	549	154	134	55	3,604
Ophthalmology	1,347	1,567	486	80	38	7	3,525
Other:-	3,975	3,585	1,917	767	967	700	11,911
Ear, Nose & Throat	1,185	1,060	388	129	142	35	2,939
Cardiology	591	589	319	140	127	50	1,816
Plastic Surgery	280	360	179	81	220	449	1,569
Pain Management	360	437	362	163	131	52	1,505
Rheumatology	168	199	195	90	195	37	884
Oral Surgery	399	250	84	29	15	2	779
Dermatology	146	178	94	30	23	0	471
Cardiac Surgery	109	122	122	43	7	0	403
Paediatric Surgery	105	141	64	22	36	1	369
General Practice (Other)	243	31	3	5	0	0	282
Neurosurgery	68	54	36	9	16	12	195
Neurology	28	28	22	10	41	51	180
Other	293	136	49	16	14	11	519
All Specialties	17,325	16,288	8,372	2,869	3,650	2,265	50,769

Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–9

Table 3: Number of Patients Waiting for Admission by HSC Trust and by Weeks Waiting – 31st December 2010¹

HSC 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	6,431	7,262	4,100	1,314	1,309	496	20,912
Northern	2,576	2,004	901	409	724	486	7,100
South Eastern	2,377	1,719	635	147	226	398	5,502
Southern	2,774	2,517	1,322	543	947	457	8,560
Western	3,167	2,786	1,414	456	444	428	8,695
Total	17,325	16,288	8,372	2,869	3,650	2,265	50,769

Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–9

Table 4: Patients Waiting Longer Than 13 Weeks – 31st December 2010¹

Waiting for:	Number of patients waiting: 31st December 2010	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter - previous year
Ordinary Admissions	5,649	-888	+2,883
Day Case Admissions	11,507	+652	+8,263
Total Waiting	17,156	-236	+11,146

Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

¹Refer to Explanatory Notes 1–9

Table 5: Completed Inpatient Waits – QE June 2008 to QE December 2010²

Quarter	Number of Completed Inpatient Waits within Health Service Hospitals	Number of Completed Inpatient Waits in Independent Sector	Total Number of Completed Inpatient Waits Commissioned by Health Service
A - J 2008	47,685	2,543	50,228
J - S 2008	43,483	3,702	47,185
O - D 2008	46,326	5,926	52,252
J - M 2009	45,397	11,544	56,941
A - M 2008/09	182,891	23,715	206,606
A - J 2009	45,375	6,866	52,241
J - S 2009	42,835	7,453	50,288
O - D 2009	44,440	2,925	47,365
J - M 2010	45,760	4,160	49,920
A - M 2009/10	178,410	21,404	199,814
A - J 2010 ^{RP}	42,378	2,688	45,066
J - S 2010 ^{RP}	40,529	715	41,244
O - D 2010 ^P	43,559	1,342	44,901

Source: Hospital Inpatient System & Departmental Return IS1 Part 2

^R-Data have been revised

^P-Data are currently provisional

²Refer to Explanatory Notes 10 & 11

Table 6: Completed Inpatient Waits by HSC Trust – QE December 2010²

HSC 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	17,229	900	18,129
Northern	5,897	12	5,909
South Eastern	6,470	149	6,619
Southern	6,975	3	6,978
Western	6,988	278	7,266
Total Treated	43,559	1,342	44,901

Source: Hospital Inpatient System & Departmental Return IS1 Part 2

^P-Data are currently provisional

²Refer to Explanatory Notes 10 & 11

Table 7: Completed Inpatient Waits by HSC Trust – QE December 2009 to QE December 2010²

HSC Trust	Total Number of Completed Inpatient Waits Commissioned by Health Service				
	QE December 2009	QE March 2010	QE June 2010 ^{RP}	QE September 2010 ^{RP}	QE December 2010 ^P
Belfast	19,020	20,469	16,987	16,246	18,129
Northern	5,956	6,880	5,937	5,409	5,909
South Eastern	7,133	6,886	7,518	6,619	6,619
Southern	7,852	7,615	6,492	6,289	6,978
Western	7,404	8,070	8,132	6,681	7,266
Total	47,365	49,920	45,066	41,244	44,901

Source: Hospital Inpatient System & Departmental Return IS1 part 2

^R-Data have been revised

^P-Data are currently provisional

²Refer to Explanatory Notes 10 & 11

Appendix 1: Explanatory Notes

1. The sources for the data contained in this release are the DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Time Dataset, 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 (DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Time Dataset, 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. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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' includes 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.
9. For Tables 2, 3 and 4 and Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7, 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.
10. The total number of completed inpatient waits within HSC hospitals each quarter is sourced from Hospital Inpatient System.

11. The number of patients that received inpatient treatment, commissioned by the Health Service, in the Independent Sector are provided in Tables 5, 6, 7 and Figures 8 and 9. 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 inpatient waits during each quarter.
12. 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.
13. All of the data contained in the tables can be supplied by individual specialty or Provider HSC Trust if this level of detail is required (as in previous bulletins). In addition, quarterly data relating to inpatient waiting times has been published in spreadsheet format (Microsoft Excel), split by HSC Trust, Specialty, Programme of Care and Intended Management of the patient (i.e. Ordinary Admission or Day Case), in order to aid secondary analysis. These data are available at http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-activity_stats-2/waiting_times_main/waiting_times-3.htm.
14. Figures relating to inpatient waiting times for the quarter ending 31st March 2011 will be released on Thursday 2nd June 2011.

Appendix 2: Additional Information

Further information on Inpatient Waiting Time Statistics in Northern Ireland, is available from:

Ms. Kerri Burgess

Hospital Information Branch

Information & Analysis Directorate

Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety

Stormont Estate

Belfast, BT4 3SQ

☎ Tel: 028 905 23264

☎ Fax: 028 905 23288

✉ Email: kerri.burgess@dhsspsni.gov.uk

This Statistical bulletin and others published by Hospital Information Branch are available to download from the DHSSPS Internet site at:

Internet address: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-activity_stats-2.htm