



Assessment by Occupational Therapists in Northern Ireland - 31 December 2005

This statistical bulletin presents information on assessments by Occupational Therapists in Northern Ireland for the quarter ending 31 December 2005. It monitors information on referrals for assessment, waiting times for assessment, and assessments commenced during the quarter. Information is collected using the quarterly CP4 return.

Main Findings

Persons Waiting for Assessment

- At 31 December 2005, 8,801 people were waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 668 (7%) from the number waiting at the end of the previous quarter, and 1,693 (16%) less than the number waiting at the end of the corresponding quarter last year.
- Of those waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists at 31 December 2005, 2,551 (29%) were priority cases and 6,250 (71%) were other cases.
- Since 30 September 2005, the number of priority cases waiting for assessment decreased by 155 (6%), and the number of other (non-priority) cases decreased by 513 (8%).
- Over the last year from 31 December 2004, the number of priority cases waiting assessment increased by 104 (4%), and the number of other cases decreased by 1,589 (20%).

- One fifth (34%) of priority cases and 41% of other cases had been waiting for assessment for 6 months or more at 31 December 2005.
- Since 30 September 2005, the proportion of priority and other cases waiting 6 months or more for assessment increased by 4 and 1 percentage points respectively.
- Since 31 March 1997, the number of people waiting for assessment has increased by 26%, from 8,122 at 31 March 1997 to 10,231 at 31 March 2005.

Referrals for Assessment

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2005, there were 11,237 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 685 (6%) from the previous quarter, and 144 (1%) less than the corresponding figure at 31 December 2004.

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2005, over half (51%) of all referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were from the HPSS other than GP's, 14% from GP's, 7% from NIHE, and 27% from other sources.
- Between 31 March 1997 and 31 December 2005, the average number of referrals for assessment increased by 9%, from 10,906 in 31 March 1997 to 11,859 31 December 2005.

Assessments Commenced

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2005, 8,982 assessments were commenced by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 6% (481) on the number commenced during the previous quarter, and 6% (552) less than the number commenced during the same quarter last year.

- Almost 6 in 10 (57%) assessments in respect of priority cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 2 weeks of the referral, 18% in 2 weeks to 1 month, and 25% in 1 month or more. 62% of assessments in respect of other cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 3 months of the referral, 25% in 6 months or more, and 13% in 3 to 6 months.
- During the quarter ending 31 December 2005, Homefirst (1,073) had the highest number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases, whilst Foyle (188) had the lowest.
- Between 31 March 1997 and 31 December 2005, the average number of assessments commenced has increased by 31%, from 7,364 to 9,641 respectively.

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Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

Number of Persons Waiting for Assessment

Table A.1 provides an analysis of the number of persons waiting for assessment by community

occupational therapists, according to whether these were priority cases or other cases.

Table A.1: Persons Waiting for Assessment

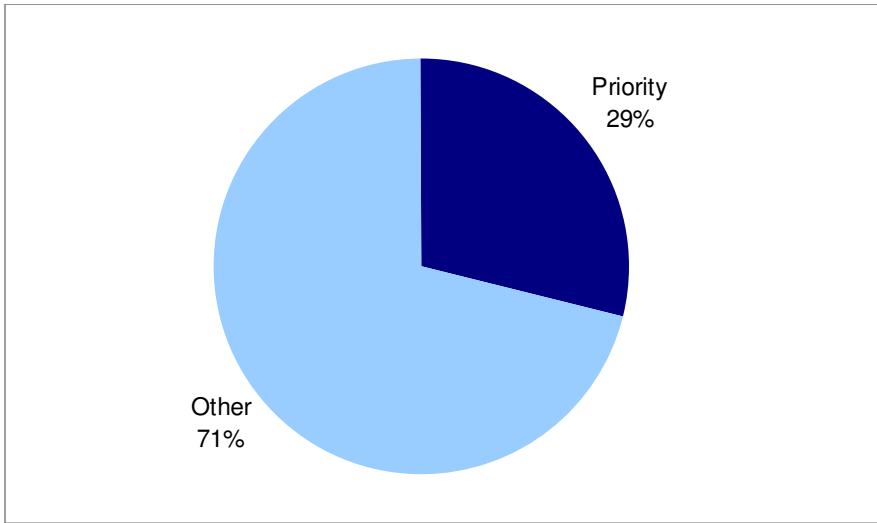
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 December 2005	30 September 2005	31 December 2004		
Priority Cases	2,551	2,706	2,655	-155	-104
Other Cases	6,250	6,763	7,839	-513	-1,589
All Persons Waiting	8,801	9,469	10,494	-668	-1,693

Source: CP4

- At 31 December 2005, 8,801 people were waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 668 (7%) from the number waiting at the end of the previous quarter, and 1,693 (16%) less than the number waiting at the end of the corresponding quarter last year.
- Of those waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists at 31 December 2005, 2,551 (29%) were priority cases and 6,250 (71%) were other cases.
- Since 30 September 2005, the number of priority cases waiting for assessment decreased by 155 (6%), and the number of other (non-priority) cases decreased by 513 (8%).
- Over the last year from 31 December 2004, the number of priority cases waiting assessment increased by -104 (4%), and the number of other cases decreased by 1,589 (20%).

Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

Figure A.1: Persons Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists, according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 31 December 2005)



Source: CP4

Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

Persons Waiting for Assessment by Length of Time Waiting

Table A.2 shows the number of persons waiting for assessment, by length of time waiting, for the current quarter, previous quarter and

corresponding quarter last year. This is shown for priority cases, other cases and all cases.

Table A.2 (a): Priority Cases Waiting for Assessment by Time Waiting and Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 December 2005	30 September 2005	31 December 2004		
Under 1 month	515	679	605	-164	-90
1 month - under 3 months	644	726	961	-82	-317
3 months - under 6 months	533	550	652	-17	-119
6 months and over	859	751	437	108	422
All Priority Cases	2,551	2,706	2,655	-155	-104

Source: CP4

Table A.2 (b): Other Cases Waiting for Assessment by Time Waiting and Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 December 2005	30 September 2005	31 December 2004		
Under 1 month	779	1,102	920	-323	-141
1 month - under 3 months	1,494	1,403	1,745	91	-251
3 months - under 6 months	1,391	1,760	1,809	-369	-418
6 months and over	2,586	2,498	3,365	88	-779
All Other Cases	6,250	6,763	7,839	-513	-1,589

Source: CP4

Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

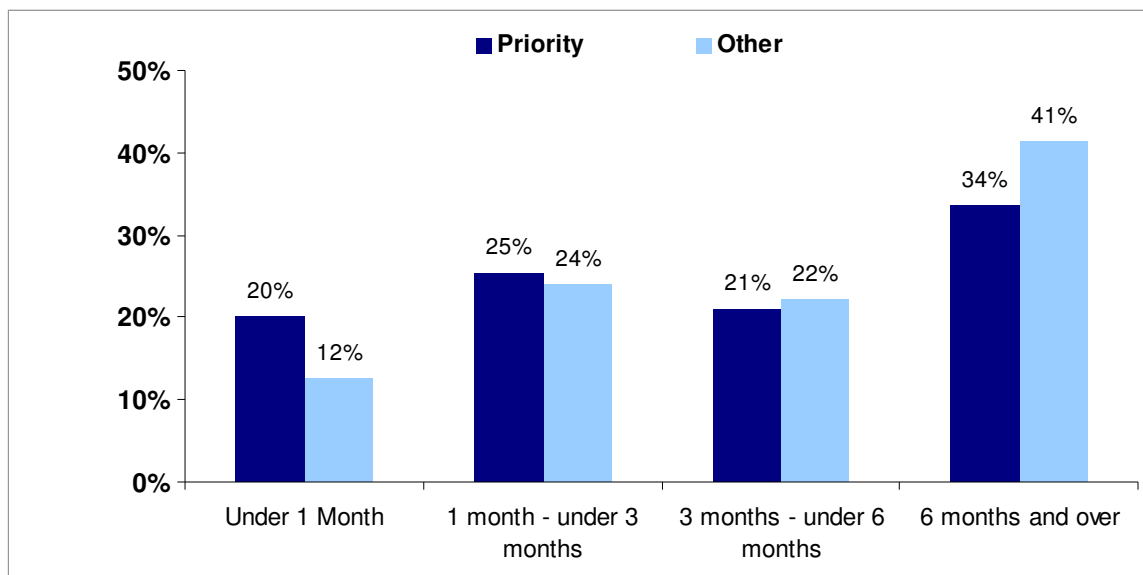
Table A.2 (c): All Cases Waiting for Assessment by Time Waiting and Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 December 2005	30 September 2005	31 December 2004		
Under 1 month	1,294	1,781	1,525	-487	-231
1 month - under 3 months	2,138	2,129	2,706	9	-568
3 months - under 6 months	1,924	2,310	2,461	-386	-537
6 months and over	3,445	3,249	3,802	196	-357
All Cases	8,801	9,469	10,494	-668	-1,693

Source: CP4

- At 31 December 2005, over one third (39%) of all people waiting for assessment had been waiting for 6 months or more, similar to the previous quarter (34%) and the corresponding figure at 31 December 2004 (36%).
- Since the end of the previous quarter, the number of people waiting for assessment decreased by 668, with the most significant decrease in those waiting between 1 and 3 months for assessment (9).

Figure A.2: Persons Waiting for Assessment by Length of Time and according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 31 December 2005)



Source: CP4

- One fifth (20%) of priority cases and 12% of other cases had been waiting for assessment for under 1 month at 31 December 2005.
- Since 30 September 2005, the proportion of priority and other cases waiting 6 months or more for assessment increased by 4 and 1 percentage points respectively.

Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

Persons Waiting for Assessment by Trust

Table A.3 shows, for each Trust, the number of persons waiting according to priority and other cases, and the

number and percentage waiting for six months or more.

Table A.3: Persons Waiting for Assessment by Trust at 31 December 2005

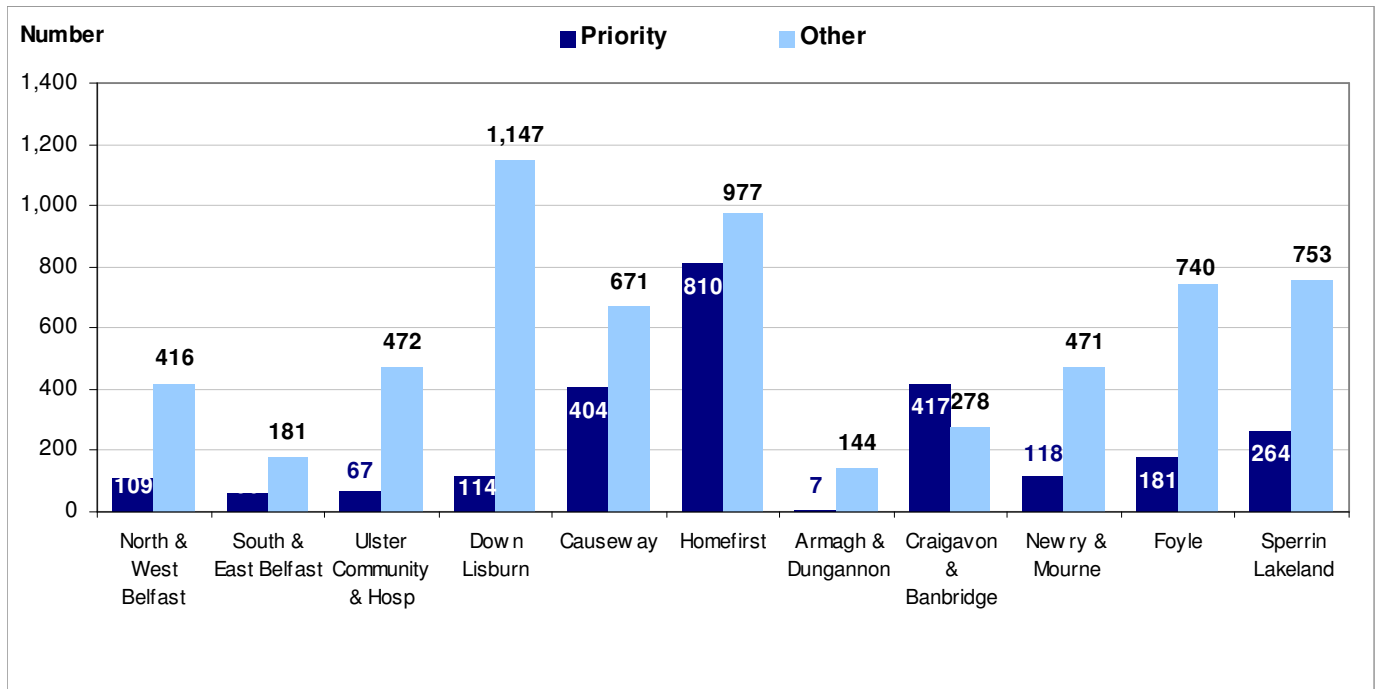
Trust	Priority Cases			Other Cases		
	Total Waiting	Number Waiting 6 Months or More	Percentage Waiting 6 Months or More	Total Waiting	Number Waiting 6 Months or More	Percentage Waiting 6 Months or More
North & West Belfast	109	0	0%	416	13	3%
South & East Belfast	60	0	0%	181	7	4%
Ulster Community & Hos	67	0	0%	472	0	0%
Down Lisburn	114	27	24%	1,147	623	54%
Causeway	404	169	42%	671	494	74%
Homefirst	810	332	41%	977	340	35%
Armagh & Dungannon	7	0	0%	144	1	1%
Craigavon & Banbridge	417	196	47%	278	131	47%
Newry & Mourne	118	42	36%	471	229	49%
Foyle	181	36	20%	740	238	32%
Sperrin Lakeland	264	57	22%	753	510	68%
Northern Ireland	2,551	859	34%	6,250	2,586	41%

Source: CP4

- Across Trusts, Homefirst had the highest number of people waiting for assessment designated priority (810) and other cases (977), whilst Armagh & Dungannon had the lowest (7) and (144) respectively.
- At 31 December 2005, Craigavon & Banbridge had the highest proportion of priority cases (49%) waiting 6 months or more for assessment, and Causeway had the highest proportion of other cases (72%) waiting 6 months or more for assessment.

Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

Figure A.3: Persons Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists by Trust and according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 31 December 2005)



Source: CP4

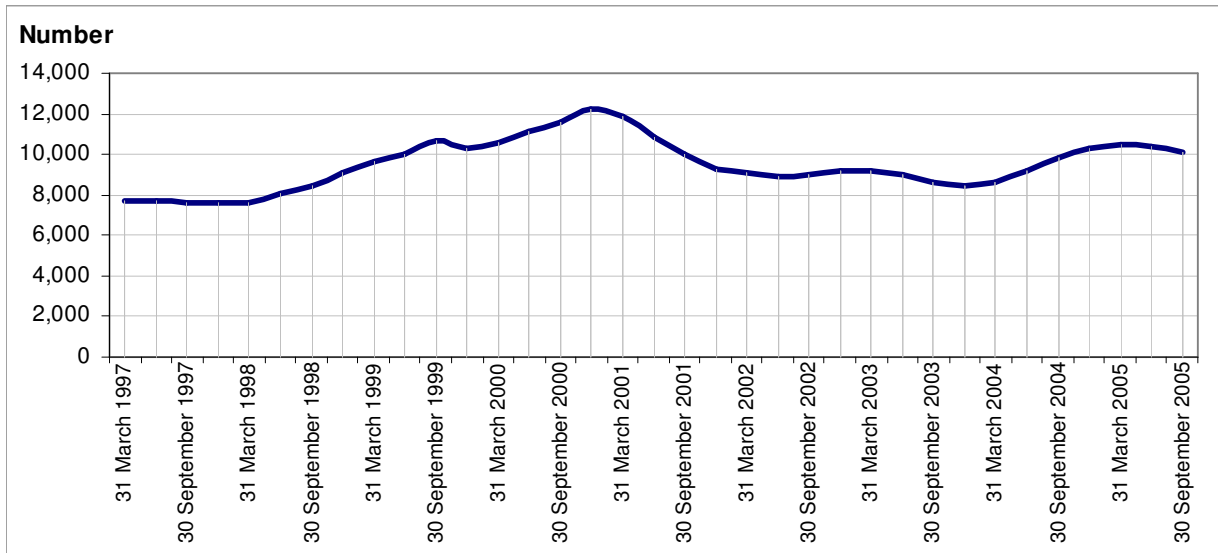
Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

Persons Waiting for Assessment Since 31 March 1997

The trends described in this section are based on the averages of figures for four quarters. For example, the figure for 31 December 2005 is based

on the average of the figures for the four quarters ending 31 December 2005.

Figure A.4: All Persons Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists (31 March 1997 – 31 December 2005)

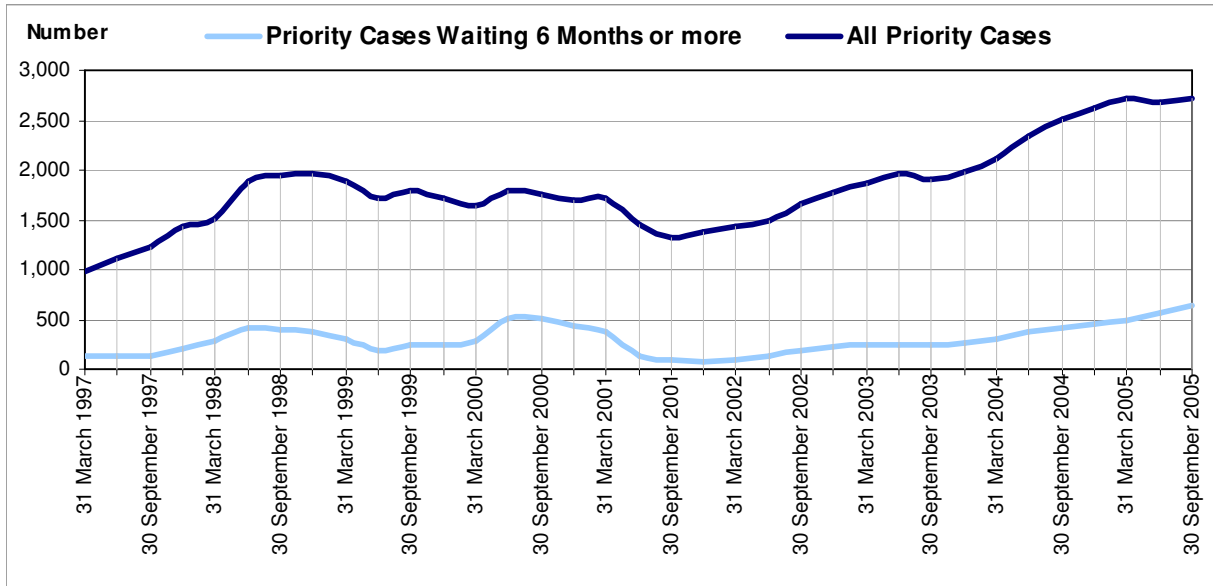


Source: CP4

- Since 31 March 1997, the number of people waiting for assessment has increased by 26%, from 8,122 at 31 March 1997 to 10,231 at 31 March 2005.
- Between 31 March 1997 and 31 March 2005, the highest average number of people waiting for assessment was 12,232 at 31 December 2000, whilst the lowest average number of people waiting for assessment was 7,073 at 30 September 1997.

Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

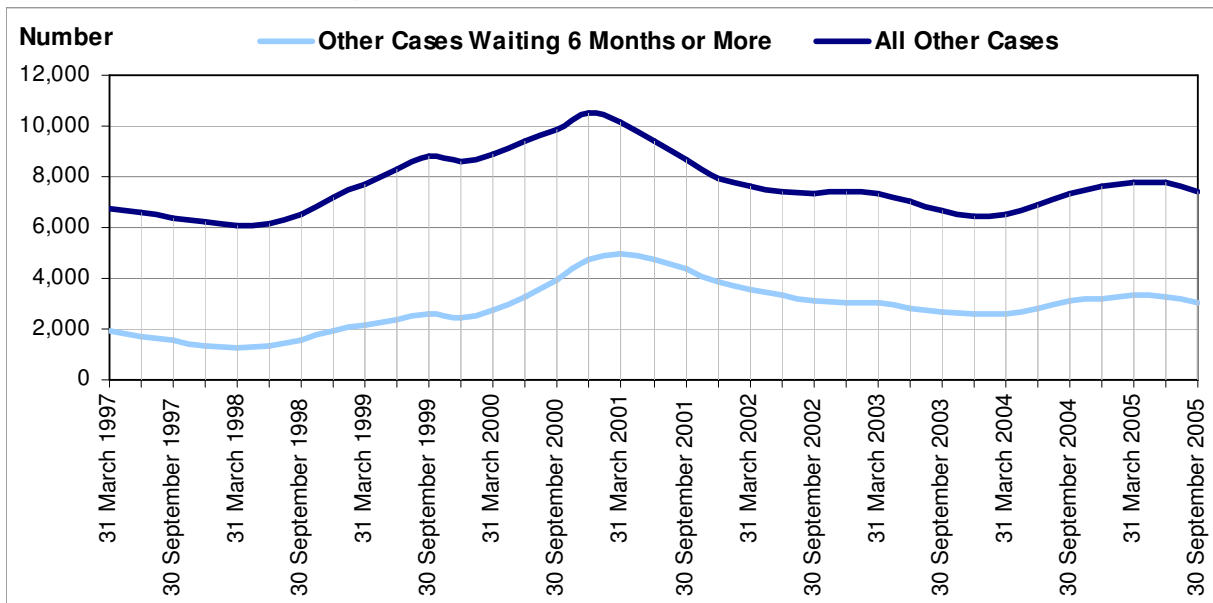
Figure A.5: Priority Cases Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists (31 March 1997 – 31 December 2005)



Source: CP4

- The number of priority cases waiting 6 months or more, have increased steadily since 30 September 2001.

Figure A.6: Other Cases Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists (31 March 1997 - 31 December 2005)



Source: CP4

- The number of non-priority cases had fallen between 31 March 2001 and 31 March 2004, but have increased slightly since then.

Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

Number of Referrals for Assessment

An analysis of the number of referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, according to whether these were in respect of

priority cases or other cases, for the quarter ending 31 December 2005, is shown in Table B.1.

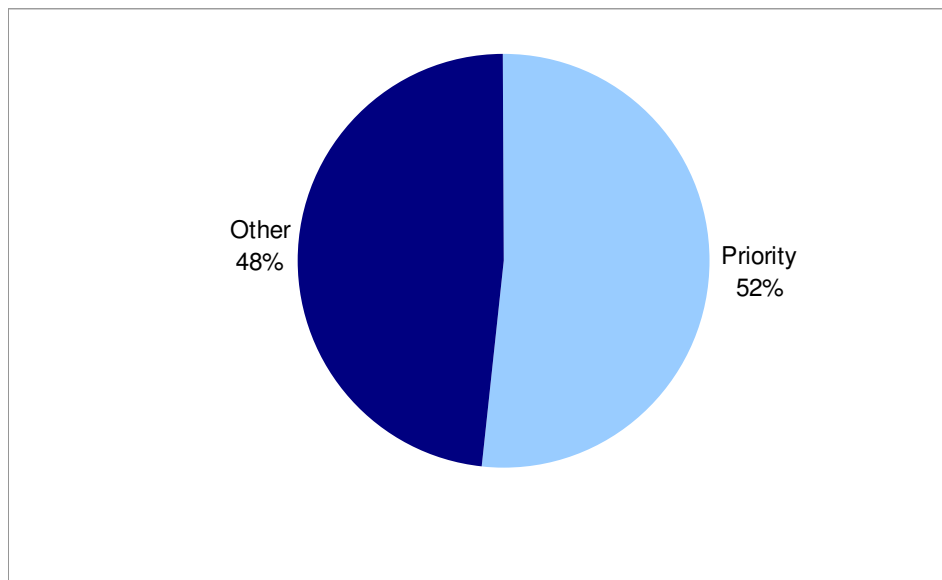
Table B.1: Number of Referrals Received for Assessment by Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 December 2005	30 September 2005	31 December 2004		
Priority Cases	5,808	5,945	6,180	-137	-372
Other Cases	5,429	5,977	5,201	-548	228
All Referrals	11,237	11,922	11,381	-685	-144

Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2005, there were 11,237 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 685 (6%) from the previous quarter, and 144 (1%) less than the corresponding figure at 31 December 2004.

Figure B.1: Referrals according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 31 December 2005)



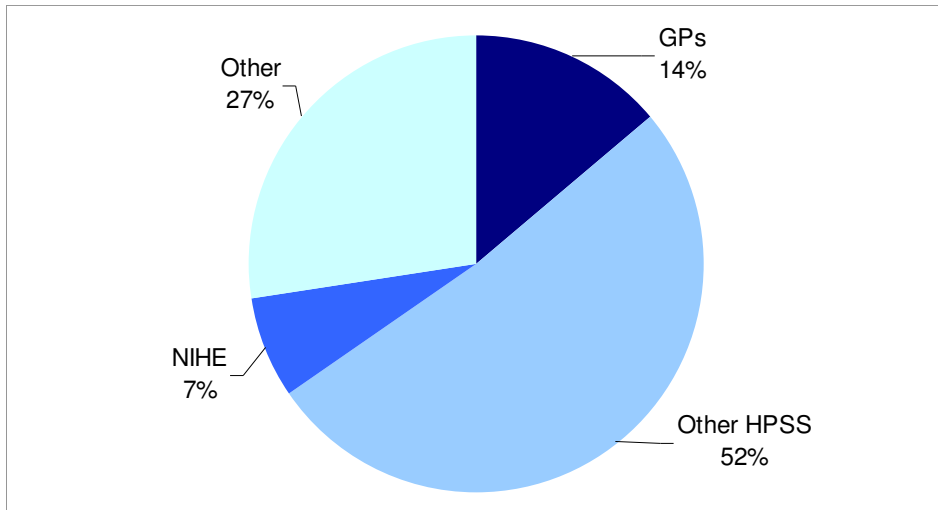
Source: CP4

- A slightly higher proportion of referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were in respect of priority cases (52%) than those designated other cases (48%).

Section B: Referrals for Assessment

Source of Referrals for Assessment

Figure B.2: Source of Referrals for Assessment (Quarter Ending 31 December



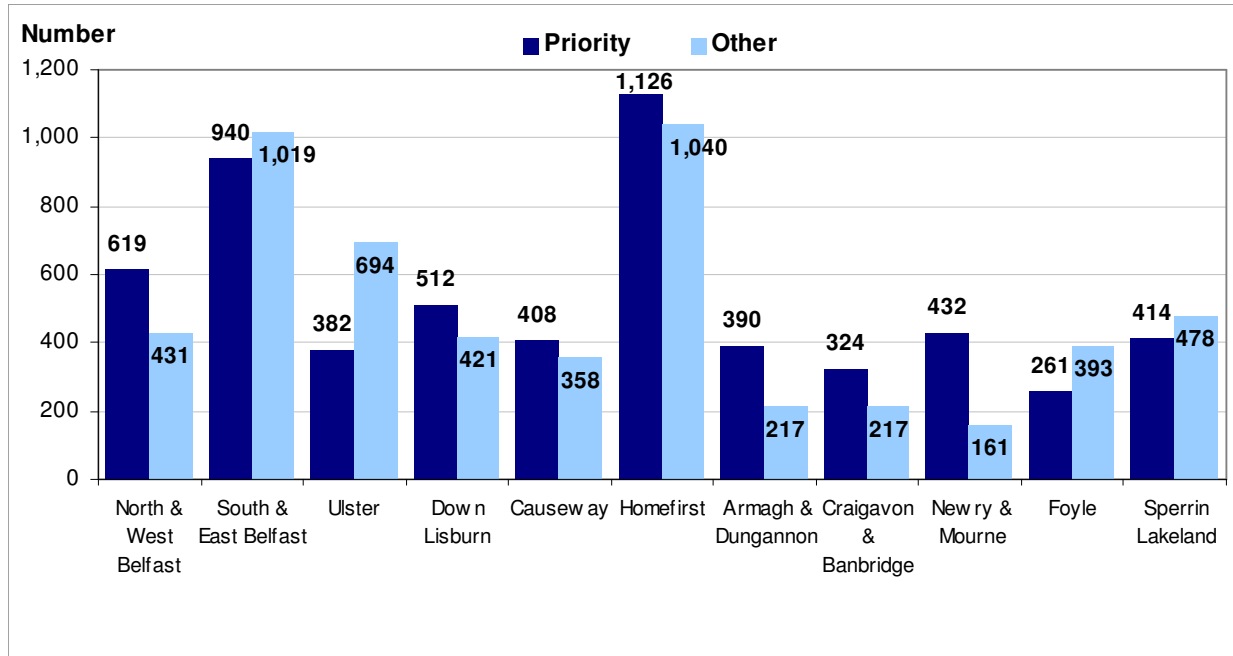
2005)

Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2005, over half (51%) of all referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were from the HPSS other than GP's, 14% from GP's, 7% from NIHE, and 27% from other sources.

Section B: Referrals for Assessment

Figure B.3: Referrals for Assessment according to Priority and Other Cases by Trust (Quarter Ending 31 December 2005)



Source: CP4

- Homefirst (1,126) had the highest number of priority case referrals for assessment by occupational therapists, whilst Foyle (261) had the lowest. In terms of other case referrals for assessment, Homefirst (1,040) had the highest and Newry & Mourne (161) the lowest.

Section B: Referrals for Assessment

Number of Referrals for Assessment during Year

Table B.2 provides an analysis of the total number of referrals, and referrals in respect of priority and other cases.

Table B.2: Number of Referrals Received for Assessment by Quarter

	Year Ending			Change	
	31 December 2005	31 December 2004	31 December 2003	2004 - 2005	2003 - 2005
Priority Cases	24,021	24,655	23,878	-634	143
Other Cases	23,281	23,138	21,194	143	2,087
All Referrals	47,302	47,793	45,072	-491	2,230

Source: CP4

- During the year ending 31 December 2005, there were 47,302 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, 2,230 (5%) more than during the year ending 31 December 2003, and -491 (-1%) more than during year ending 31 December 2004.
- Since 31 December 2003, the number of referrals for assessment designated as priority cases increased by 143 (1%).

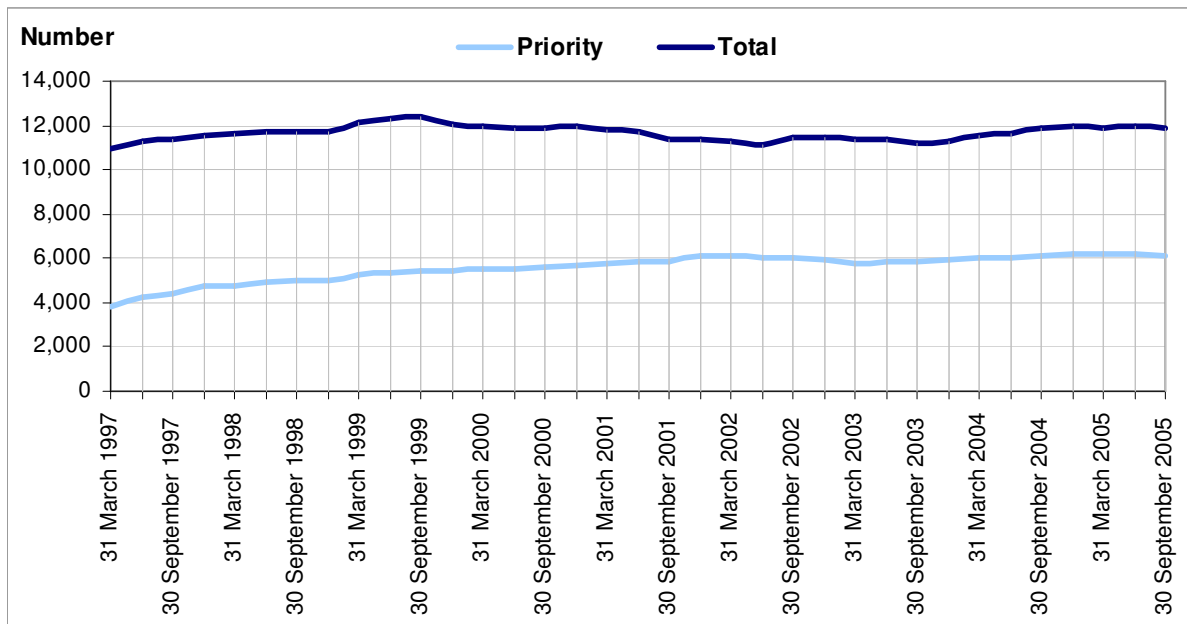
Section B: Referrals for Assessment

Referrals for Assessment Since 31 March 1997

The trends reported in this section are based on the average number of referrals for assessment for four quarters, i.e. data for 31 March 2005 is based on the average number of

referrals for the four quarters ending 31 March 2005 (31 March 2004, 30 June 2004, 30 September 2004, and 31 December 2004).

Figure B.4: Referrals for Assessment according to Priority and Other Cases (31 March 1997 - 31 December 2005)



Source: CP4

- Between 31 March 1997 and 31 December 2005, the average number of referrals for assessment increased by 9%, from 10,906 in 31 March 1997 to 11,859 31 December 2005.
- During this period, the average number of referrals for assessment designated as priority cases increased by 62%, from 3,823 in 31 March 1997 to 6,205 in 31 December 2005.

Section C: Assessments Commenced

Number of Assessments Commenced

Table C.1 provides an analysis of the number of assessments commenced by community occupational therapists,

according to whether these were in respect of priority cases or other cases.

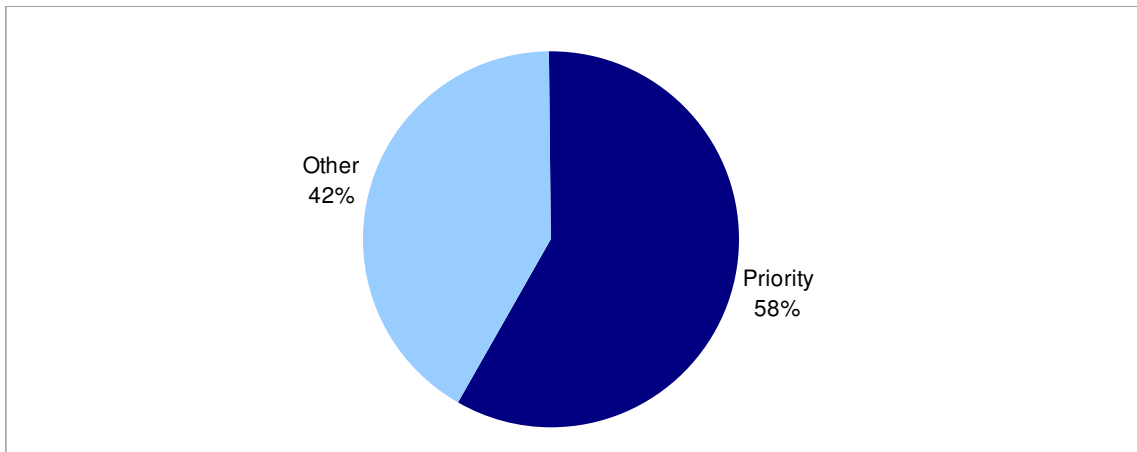
Table C.1: Number of Assessments Commenced by Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 December 2005	30 September 2005	31 December 2004		
Priority Cases	5,216	4,834	5,799	382	-583
Other Cases	3,766	3,667	3,735	99	31
All Assessments Commenced	8,982	8,501	9,534	481	-552

Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2005, 8,982 assessments were commenced by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 6% (481) on the number commenced during the previous quarter, and 6% (552) less than the number commenced during the same quarter last year.
- During the quarter ending 31 December 2005, a higher proportion of assessments commenced were designated priority cases (58%) than other cases (42%).
- Between the quarters ending 30 September 2005 and 31 December 2005, the number of priority case assessments commenced decreased by 382 (8%), from 4,834 in 30 September 2005 to 5,216 in 31 December 2005, and the number of other case assessments commenced decreased by 99 (3%), from 3,667 in 30 September 2005 to 3,766 in 31 December 2005.

Figure C.1: Assessments Commenced according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 31 December 2005)



Source: CP4

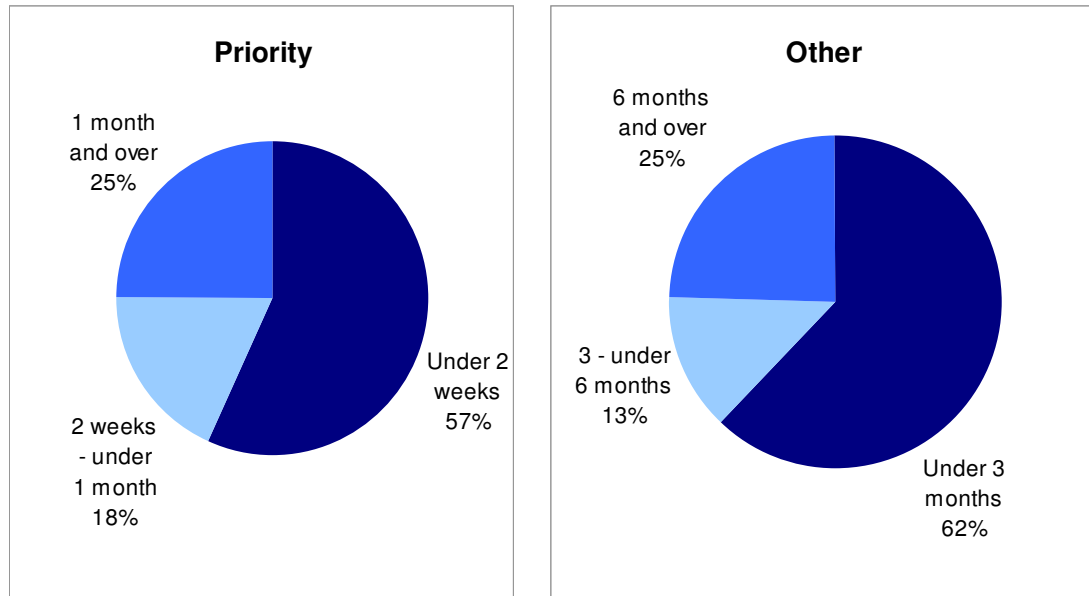
Section C: Assessments Commenced

Number of Assessments Commenced by Time from Referral (31 December 2005)

Figure C.2 provides an analysis of assessments commenced, according to length of time between referral and

start of assessment, for priority and other cases.

Figure C.2: Number of Assessments Commenced by Designation and Time from Referral (Quarter Ending 31 December 2005)



Source: CP4

- Almost 6 in 10 (57%) assessments in respect of priority cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 2 weeks of the referral, 18% in 2 weeks to 1 month, and 25% in 1 month or more. 62% of assessments in respect of other cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 3 months of the referral, 25% in 6 months or more, and 13% in 3 to 6 months.

Section C: Assessments Commenced

Tables C.2 (a and b) show the number of assessments commenced, by length

of time from referral, for priority cases and other cases.

Table C.2 (a): Number of Assessments in Respect of Priority Cases Commenced by Quarter and Time from Referral

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 December 2005	30 September 2005	31 December 2004		
Under 2 weeks	2,958	2,489	3,561	469	-603
2 weeks - under 1 month	948	910	1,136	38	-188
1 month and over	1,310	1,435	1,102	-125	208
All Priority Cases	5,216	4,834	5,799	382	-583

Source: CP4

Table C.2 (b): Number of Assessments in Respect of Other (Non-Priority) Cases Commenced by Quarter and Time from Referral

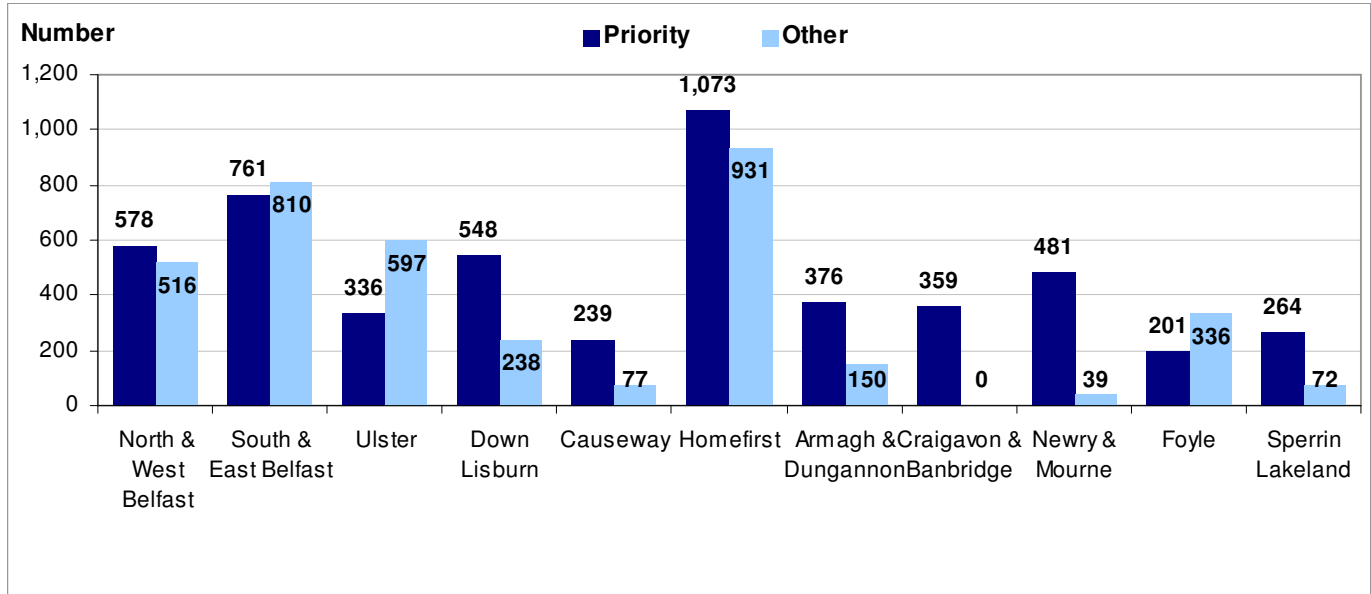
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 December 2005	30 September 2005	31 December 2004		
Under 3 months	2,334	2,254	2,214	80	120
3 months - under 6 months	505	392	439	113	66
6 months and over	927	1,021	1,082	-94	-155
All Other Cases	3,766	3,667	3,735	99	31

Source: CP4

Section C: Assessments Commenced

Number of Assessments Commenced by Trust

Figure C.3:- Number of Assessments Commenced by Designation and Trust (31 December 2005)



Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2005, Homefirst (1,073) had the highest number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases, whilst Foyle (188) had the lowest.
- For the same period, Homefirst (931) had the highest number of assessments commenced in respect of other (non-priority) cases, whilst Craigavon & Banbridge (0) had the lowest.

Section C: Assessments Commenced

Table C.4 shows, for each Trust, the number of assessments commenced according to priority and other cases, and the number and percentage commenced within the Charter

Standard of two weeks for priority cases and three months for other cases. Please note that Craigavon & Banbridge operate differently, in that all cases are treated as priority cases.

Table C.4: Number of Assessments Commenced by Trust, Designation and Time from Referral (Quarter Ending 31 December 2005)

Trust	Priority Cases			Other Cases		
	Total Commenced	Number Commenced within 2 Weeks	Percentage Commenced within 2 Weeks	Total Commenced	Number Commenced within 3 Months	Percentage Commenced within 3 Months
North & West Belfast	578	283	49%	516	118	23%
South & East Belfast	761	475	62%	810	777	96%
Ulster	336	230	68%	597	441	74%
Down Lisburn	548	230	42%	238	89	37%
Causeway	239	61	26%	77	17	22%
Homefirst	1,073	678	63%	931	668	72%
Armagh & Dungannon	376	351	93%	150	84	56%
Craigavon & Banbridge	359	208	58%	0	0	-
Newry & Mourne	481	312	65%	39	14	36%
Foyle	201	71	35%	336	90	27%
Sperrin Lakeland	264	59	22%	72	36	50%
Northern Ireland	5,216	2,958	57%	3,766	2,334	62%

Source: CP4

- Armagh & Dungannon (93%) had the highest proportion of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases within 2 weeks, whilst Newry & Mourne (65%) had the lowest.
- For non-priority (other) cases, South & East Belfast (96%) had the highest proportion of assessments commenced within 3 months, whilst North & West Belfast and Newry & Mourne each had the lowest (23%).

Section C: Assessments Commenced

Number of Assessments Completed during Year

Table C.5 provides an analysis of the total number of assessments commenced, and assessments commenced in respect of priority and

other cases, for the year ending December 2004, including a comparison with the previous year.

Table C.5: Number of Assessments Commenced by Designation and Year

	Year Ending:		
	31 December 2005	31 December 2004	31 December 2003
Priority Cases	20,274	22,582	22,843
Other Cases	16,099	15,308	15,660
All Assessments Commenced	36,373	37,890	38,503

Source: CP4

- During the year ending 31 December 2005, 36,373 assessments commenced, 1% (2,130) less than the number commenced during the year ending 31 December 2003, and 2% (1,517) less than the number commenced during year ending 31 December 2004.
- Of the 36,373 assessments commenced during this period, the majority (56%) were in respect of priority cases.

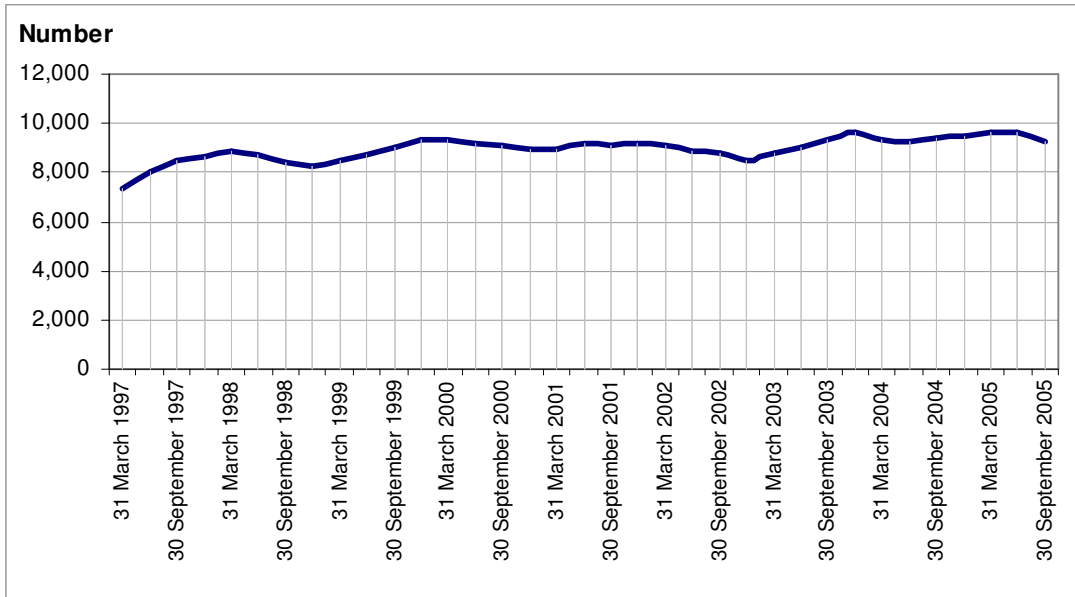
Section C: Assessments Commenced

Assessments Commenced Since 31 March 1997

The trends reported on in this section are based on the average number of referrals for assessment for the last four quarters, i.e. data for 31 December 2004 is based on the average number

of referrals for the four quarters up to and including 31 December 2004 (31 March 2004, 30 June 2004, 30 September 2004, and 31 December 2004).

Figure C.4: Assessments Commenced (31 March 1997 - 31 December 2005)



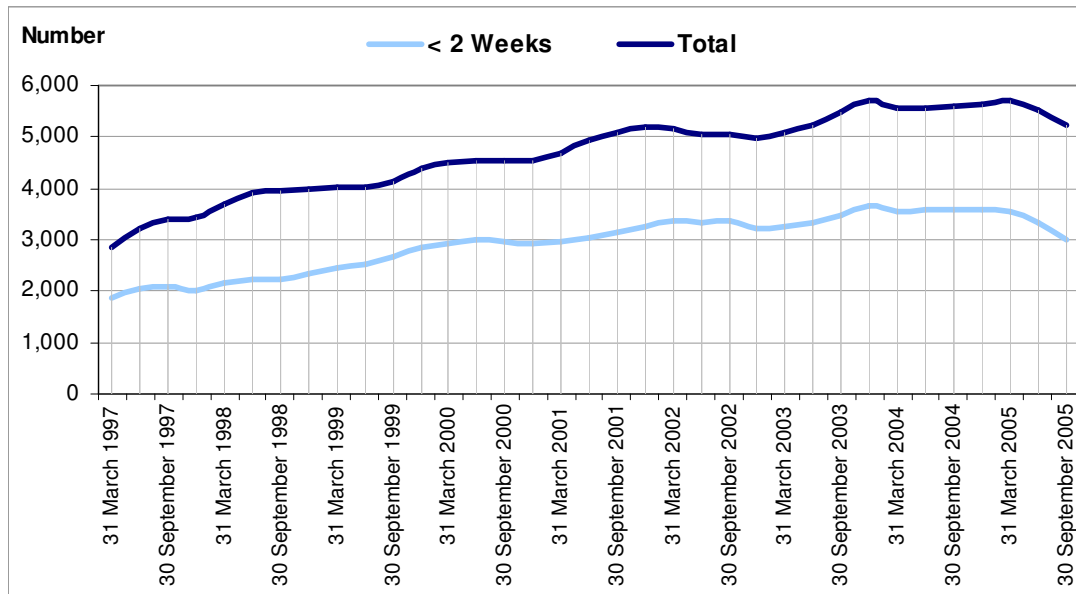
Source: CP4

- Between 31 March 1997 and 31 December 2005, the average number of assessments commenced has increased by

31%, from 7,364 to 9,641 respectively.

Section C: Assessments Commenced

Figure C.5: Assessments Commenced in Respect of Priority Cases (31 March 1997 – 31 December 2005)

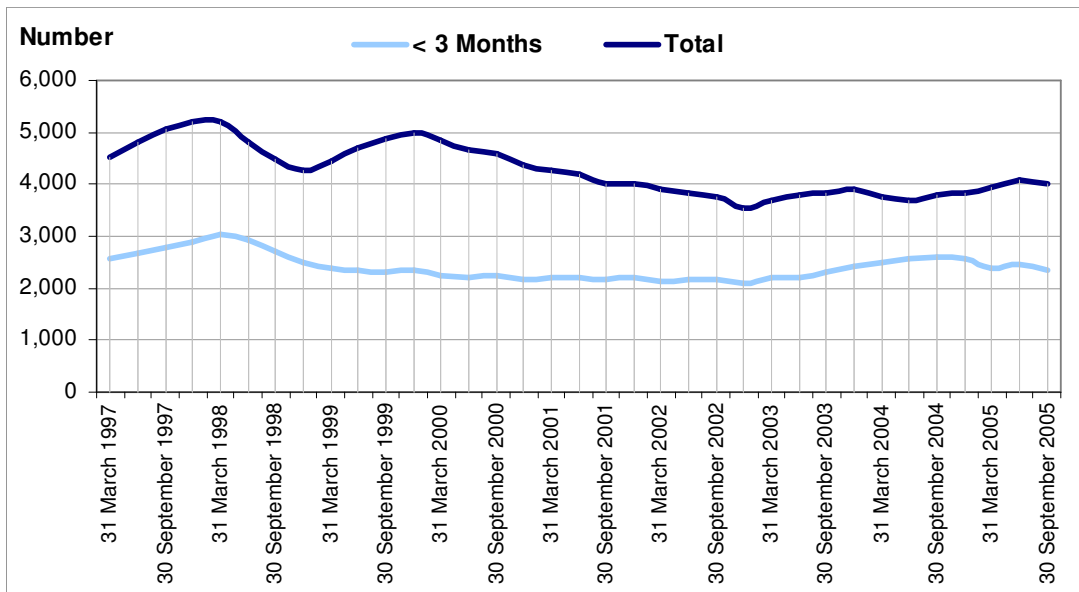


Source: CP4

- Since 31 March 1997, the average number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases, has increased by 101%, from 2,840 in 31 March 1997 to 5,706 in 31 December 2005. The average number of assessments commenced within 2 weeks increased by 91%, from 1,853 in 31 March 1997 to 3,541 in 31 December 2005.

Section C: Assessments Commenced

Figure C.6: Assessments Commenced in Respect of Other Cases (31 March 1997 – 31 December 2005)



Source: CP4

- Since 31 March 1997, the average number of assessments commenced in respect of other cases decreased by 13%, from 4,524 at 31 March 1997 to 3,935 to 31 December 2005.
- During the same period, the average number of assessments commenced within 3 months of referral decreased by 6%, from 2,551 at 31 March 1997 to 2,403 at 31 March 2005.

Technical Notes

1. Occupational therapists treat people with physical and/or psychological illness or disability in order to enable them to reach their maximum level of function and independence in all aspects of life. They assess their physical, psychological and social functions and involve them in a structured programme of treatment designed to help overcome disability.
2. Referrals mean the total number of referrals to occupational therapists for assessment from all sources during the relevant quarter. Sources of referral may be general practitioners, other Health and Personal Social Services personnel such as community nurses or social workers, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive or others such as Education and Library Boards.
3. Referrals are split into Priority and Other cases. Priority cases are defined as those being discharged from hospital and at risk, those living alone and at risk, those living with a carer who is disabled or elderly, and those who are terminally ill.
4. Assessments by community occupational therapists normally take place to determine the type of housing adaptation (which may be either a major or minor adaptation) or equipment which the service user needs to help them to reach their maximum level of function or independence. It should be noted that not all assessments result in a recommendation for a housing adaptation or item of equipment. An assessment for housing adaptation can only be designated as such when the assessment is completed.
5. Time waiting for assessment refers to the time from receipt of the referral, regardless of whether the referral is in writing or not.
6. Commencement of assessment refers to the time of the first visit to the service user's home.
7. The Charter Standard states that, for priority cases, assessment should commence within two weeks of receipt of referral and, for other cases, assessment should commence within three months of receipt of referral.
8. The information in this publication relates to persons aged 19 and over in the Elderly Care and Physical & Sensory Disability Programmes of Care. Programmes of Care are divisions of health care, into which activity and finance data are assigned, so as to provide a common management framework. They are used to plan and monitor the health service by allowing performance to be measured, targets set and services managed on a comparative basis. There are nine Programmes of Care in total.
9. The source of the information is the quarterly return CP4.
10. Figures relating to the quarter ending 30 June 2005 are expected to be released on the 11th November 2005.
11. Some of the data may be provisional and subject to revision in subsequent quarters.

Additional Information

Further information on Assessments by Occupational Therapists in Northern Ireland are available from:

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