



Assessments by Community Occupational Therapists in Northern Ireland - 30 June 2006

This statistical bulletin presents information on assessments by Occupational Therapists in Northern Ireland for the quarter ending 30 June 2006. 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 30 June 2006, 8,230 people were waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 143 (2%) from the number waiting at the end of the previous quarter, and 2,017 (20%) less than the number waiting at the end of the corresponding quarter last year.
- Of those waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists at 30 June 2006, 2,353 (29%) were priority cases and 5,877 (71%) were other (non-priority) cases.
- Since 31 March 2006, the number of priority cases waiting for assessment decreased by 101 (4%), and the number of other (non-priority) cases decreased by 42 (1%).
- Over the last year from 30 June 2005, the number of priority cases waiting assessment decreased by 420 (15%), whilst the number of other (non-priority) cases decreased by 1,597 (21%).

- One fifth (29%) of priority cases and 34% of other (non-priority) cases had been waiting for assessment for 6 months or more at 30 June 2006.
- Since 31 March 2006, the proportion of priority cases waiting 6 months or more for assessment increased by 5 percentage points.
- Since 31 March 1997, the number of people waiting for assessment has increased by 13%, from 7,703 at 31 March 1997 to 8,718 at 30 June 2006.

Referrals for Assessment

- During the quarter ending 30 June 2006, there were 11,164 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 358 (3%) from the previous quarter, and 1,043 (9%) less than the corresponding figure at 30 June 2005.

- During the quarter ending 30 June 2006, 14% of all referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were from GP's, 7% from NIHE, 51% from other HPSS sources, and 28% from other sources.
- Between 31 March 1997 and 30 June 2006, the average number of referrals for assessment increased by 2%, from 10,906 in 31 March 1997 to 11,164 at 30 June 2006.

Assessments Commenced

- During the quarter ending 30 June 2006, 9,394 assessments were commenced by community occupational therapists, 3% (283) less than the number commenced during the previous quarter, but 4% (363) more than the number commenced during the same quarter last year.

- Over half (53%) of assessments in respect of priority cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 2 weeks of the referral, 16% in 2 weeks to 1 month, and 31% in 1 month or more. 67% of assessments in respect of other (non-priority) cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 3 months of the referral, 20% in 6 months or more, and 14% in 3 to 6 months.
- During the quarter ending 30 June 2006, Homefirst (1,189) had the highest number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases, whilst Foyle (211) had the lowest.
- Between 31 March 1997 and 30 June 2006, the average number of assessments commenced has increased by 24%, from 7,364 to 9,139 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 (non-priority) cases.

Table A.1: Persons Waiting for Assessment

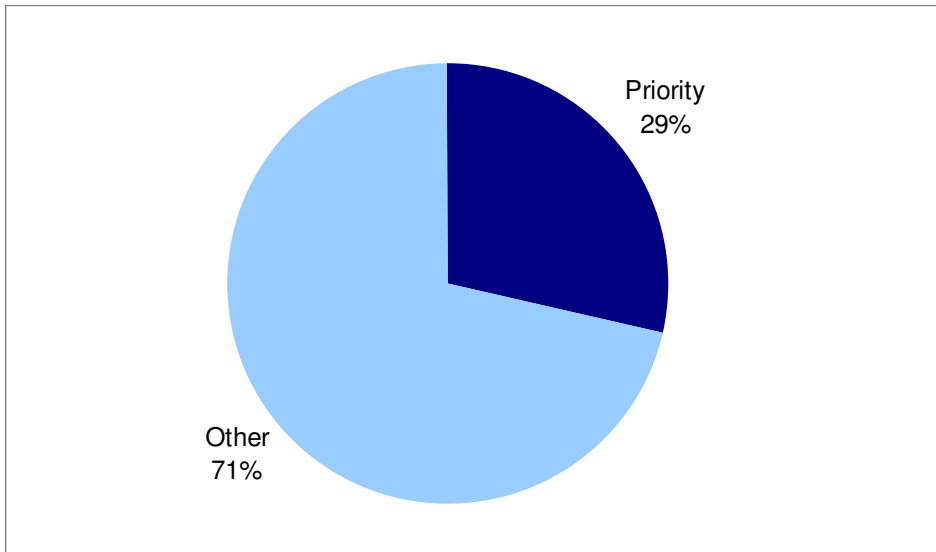
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 June 2006	31 March 2006	30 June 2005		
Priority Cases	2,353	2,454	2,773	-101	-420
Other Cases	5,877	5,919	7,474	-42	-1,597
All Persons Waiting	8,230	8,373	10,247	-143	-2,017

Source: CP4

- At 30 June 2006, 8,230 people were waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 143 (2%) from the number waiting at the end of the previous quarter, and 2,017 (20%) less than the number waiting at the end of the corresponding quarter last year.
- Of those waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists at 30 June 2006, 2,353 (29%) were priority cases and 5,877 (71%) were other (non-priority) cases.
- Since 31 March 2006, the number of priority cases waiting for assessment decreased by 101 (4%), and the number of other (non-priority) cases decreased by 42 (1%).
- Over the last year from 30 June 2005, the number of priority cases waiting assessment decreased by 420 (15%), whilst the number of other (non-priority) cases decreased by 1,597 (21%).

Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

Figure A.1: Persons Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists, according to Priority and Other (non-priority) Cases (Quarter Ending 30 June 2006)



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 (non-priority) cases and all cases.

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

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 June 2006	31 March 2006	30 June 2005		
Under 1 month	721	683	756	38	-35
1 month - under 3 months	521	644	664	-123	-143
3 months - under 6 months	418	541	552	-123	-134
6 months and over	693	586	801	107	-108
All Priority Cases	2,353	2,454	2,773	-101	-420

Source: CP4

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

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 June 2006	31 March 2006	30 June 2005		
Under 1 month	1,230	1,133	1,418	97	-188
1 month - under 3 months	1,491	1,074	1,643	417	-152
3 months - under 6 months	1,158	1,184	1,454	-26	-296
6 months and over	1,998	2,528	2,959	-530	-961
All Other Cases	5,877	5,919	7,474	-42	-1,597

Source: CP4

Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

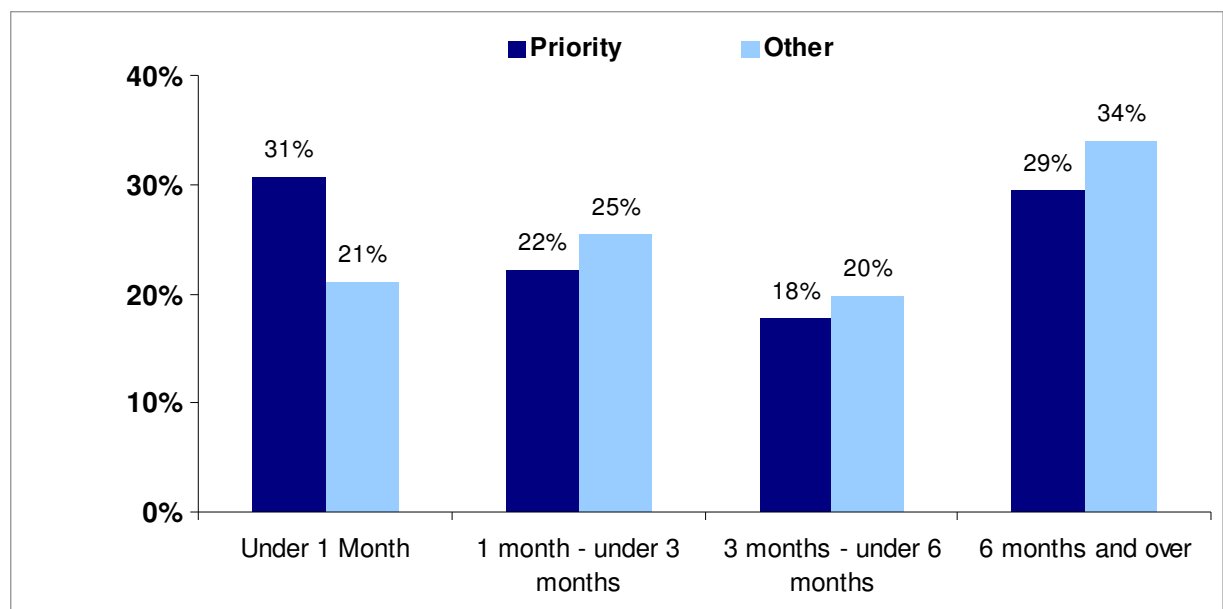
Table A.2 (c): All Cases Waiting for Assessment by Time Waiting and Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 June 2006	31 March 2006	30 June 2005		
Under 1 month	1,951	1,816	2,174	135	-223
1 month - under 3 months	2,012	1,718	2,307	294	-295
3 months - under 6 months	1,576	1,725	2,006	-149	-430
6 months and over	2,691	3,114	3,760	-423	-1,069
All Cases	8,230	8,373	10,247	-143	-2,017

Source: CP4

- At 30 June 2006, one third (33%) of all people waiting for assessment had been waiting for 6 months or more, slightly less than the previous quarter (37%) and the corresponding figure at 30 June 2005 (37%).
- Since the end of the previous quarter, the number of people waiting for assessment decreased by 143, with the most significant decrease in those waiting 6 months or more for assessment (423).

Figure A.2: Persons Waiting for Assessment by Length of Time and according to Priority and Other (non-priority) Cases (Quarter Ending 30 June 2006)



Source: CP4

- One fifth (29%) of priority cases and 34% of other (non-priority) cases had been waiting for assessment for 6 months or more at 30 June 2006.
- Since 31 March 2006, the proportion of priority cases waiting 6 months or more for assessment increased by 5 percentage points.

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 (non-priority)

cases, and the number and percentage waiting for six months or more.

Table A.3: Persons Waiting for Assessment by Trust at 30 June 2006

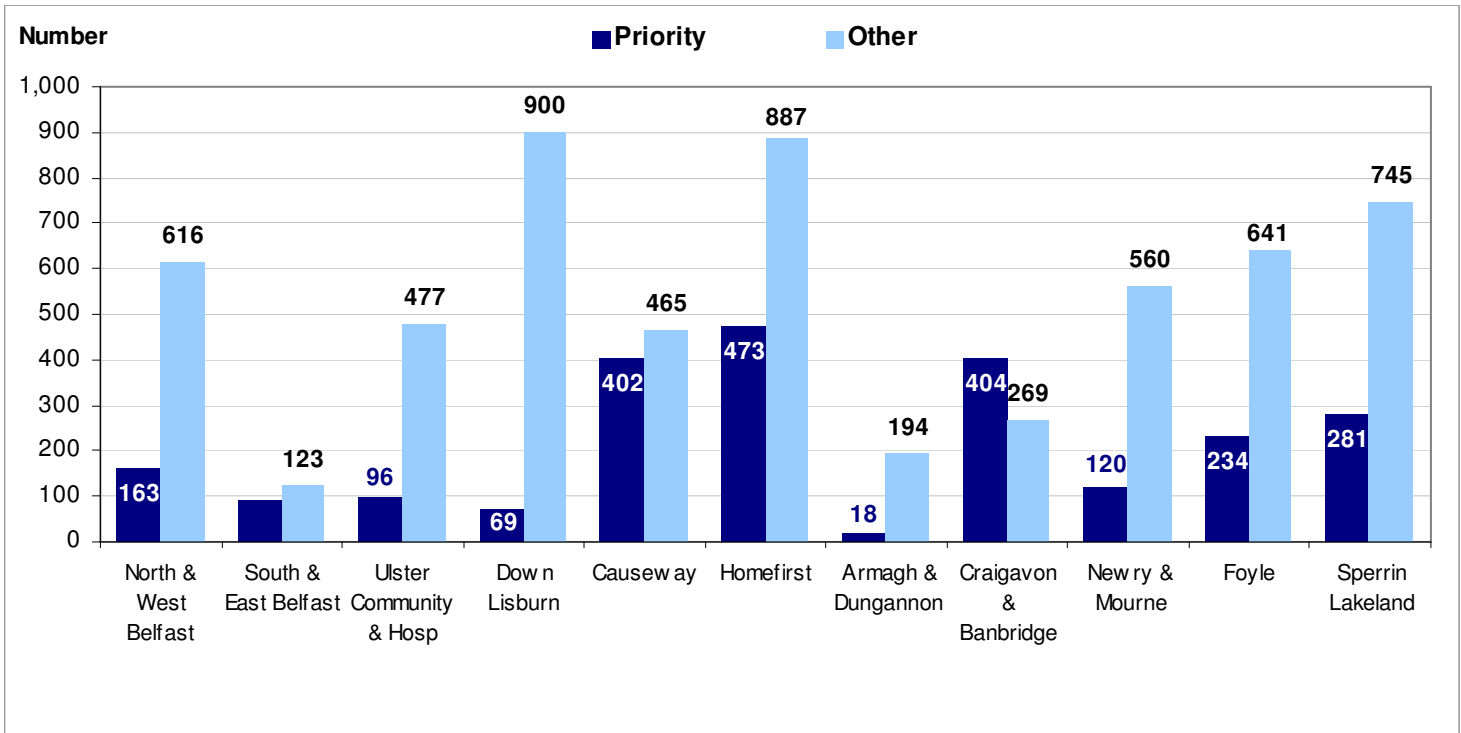
Trust	Priority Cases			Other Cases		
	Total Waiting	Number Waiting 6 Months or More	Percentage Waiting 6 Months or More	Total Waiting	Number Waiting 6 Months or More	Percentage Waiting 6 Months or More
North & West Belfast	163	2	1%	616	36	6%
South & East Belfast	93	0	0%	123	2	2%
Ulster Community & Hos	96	0	0%	477	2	0%
Down Lisburn	69	19	28%	900	475	53%
Causeway	402	188	47%	465	268	58%
Homefirst	473	219	46%	887	137	15%
Armagh & Dungannon	18	0	0%	194	37	19%
Craigavon & Banbridge	404	201	50%	269	134	50%
Newry & Mourne	120	0	0%	560	359	64%
Foyle	234	23	10%	641	83	13%
Sperrin Lakeland	281	41	15%	745	465	62%
Northern Ireland	2,353	693	29%	5,877	1,998	34%

Source: CP4

- Across Trusts, Homefirst had the highest number of people waiting for assessment designated priority (473) and Down Lisburn had the highest number waiting assessment for other (non-priority) cases (900), whilst Armagh & Dungannon had the lowest designated priority (18) and South & East Belfast the lowest designated as other (non-priority) (123).
- At 30 June 2006, Craigavon & Banbridge had the highest proportion of priority cases (50%) waiting 6 months or more for assessment, whilst Newry & Mourne had the highest proportion of other (non-priority) cases (64%) 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 (non-priority) Cases (Quarter Ending 30 June 2006)



Source: CP4

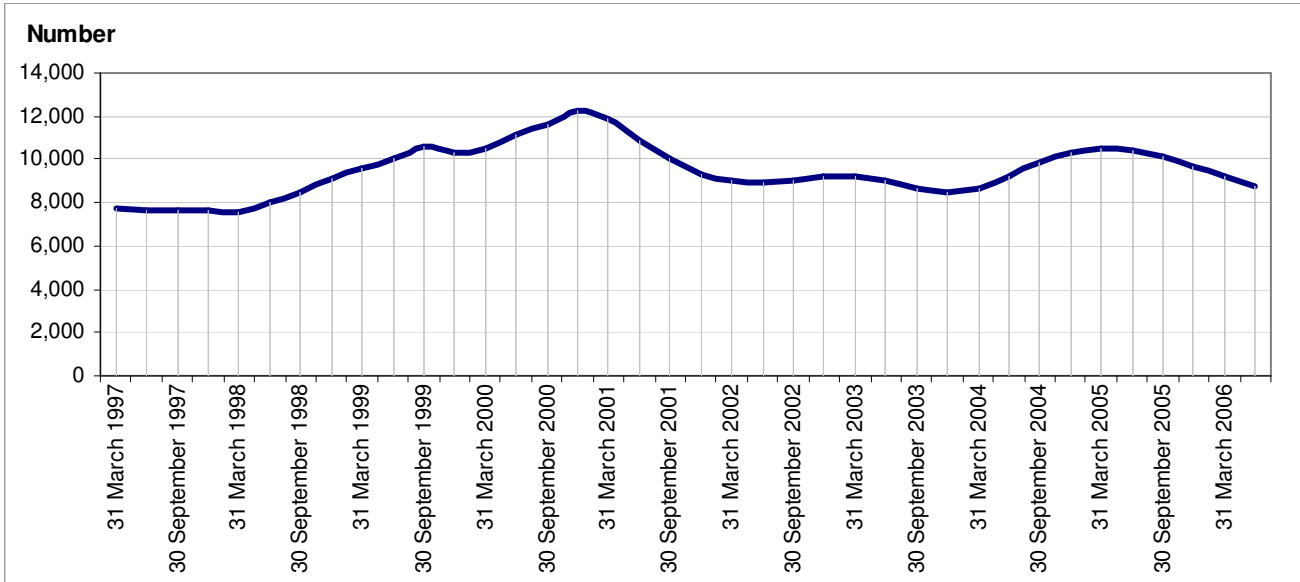
Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

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 30 June 2006 is based on the average of the figures for the four quarters ending 30 June 2006.

Figure A.4: All Persons Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists (31 March 1997 – 30 June 2006)

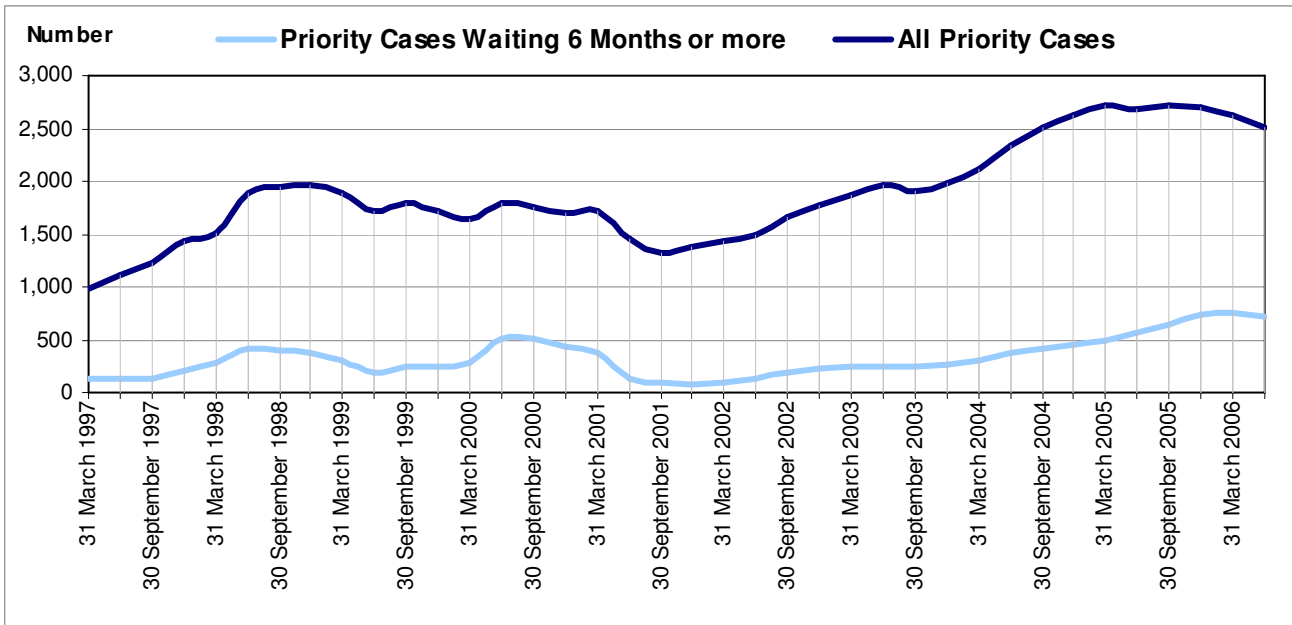


Source: CP4

- Since 31 March 1997, the number of people waiting for assessment has increased by 13%, from 7,703 at 31 March 1997 to 8,718 at 30 June 2006.
- Between 31 March 1997 and 30 June 2006, 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 7,586 at 31 March 1998.

Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

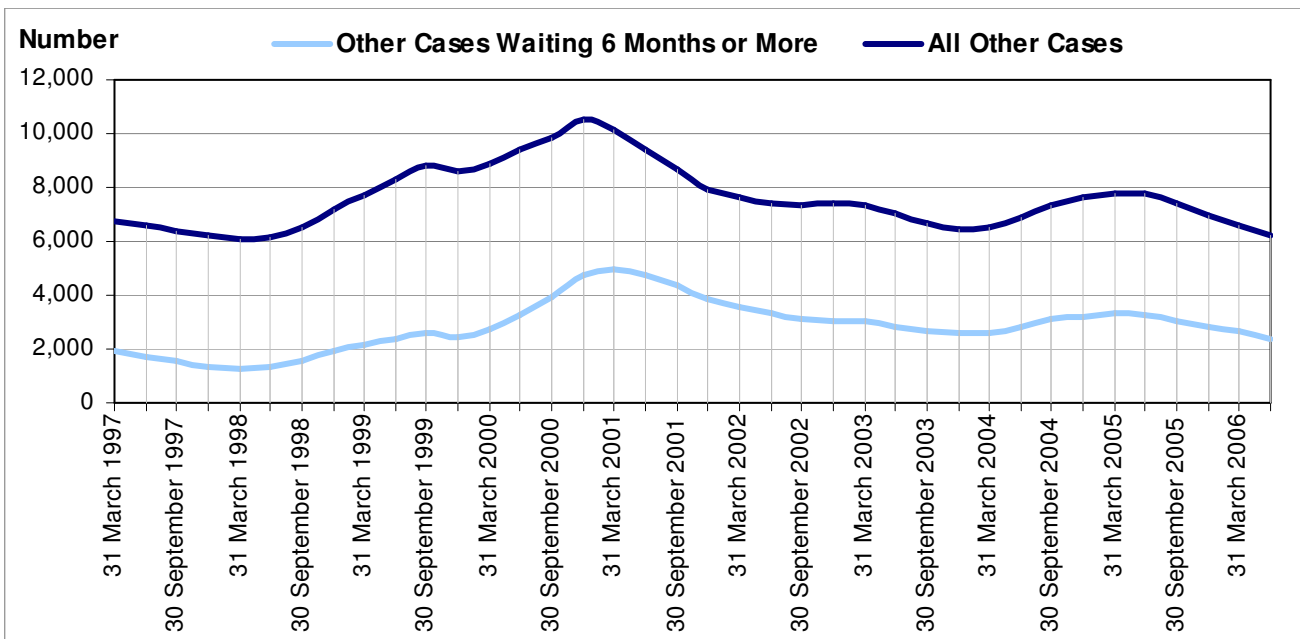
Figure A.5: Priority Cases Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists (31 March 1997 – 30 June 2006)



Source: CP4

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

Figure A.6: Other (non-priority) Cases Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists (31 March 1997 - 30 June 2006)



Source: CP4

- The number of non-priority cases waiting for assessment has decreased by 17% since 31 March 2005, from 10,509 at 31 March 2005 to 8,718 at 30 June 2006.

Section B: Referrals 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 (non-priority) cases, for the quarter ending 30 June 2006, is shown in Table B.1.

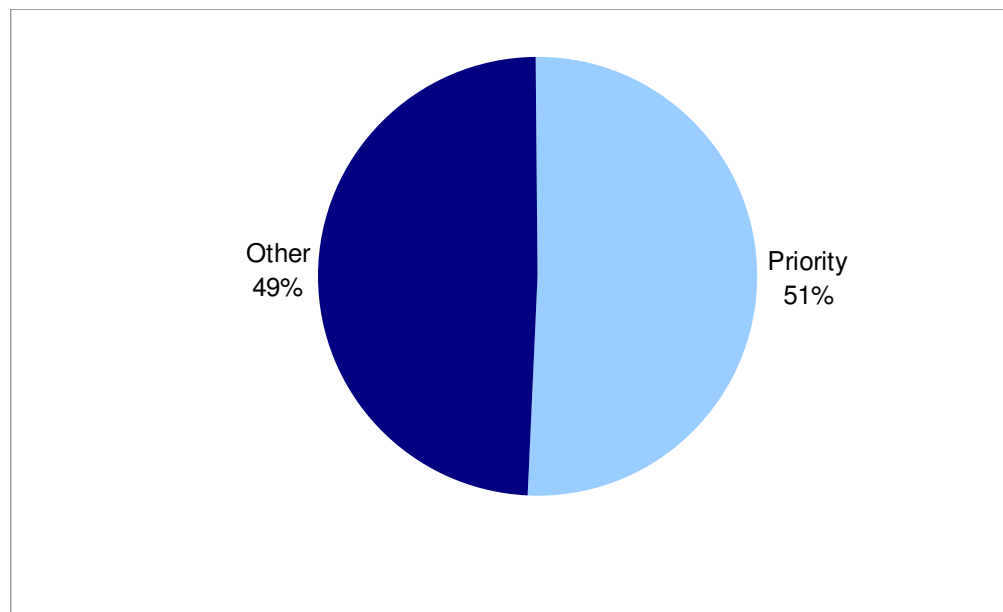
Table B.1: Number of Referrals Received for Assessment by Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 June 2006	31 March 2006	30 June 2005		
Priority Cases	5,651	6,286	6,026	-635	-375
Other Cases	5,513	5,236	6,181	277	-668
All Referrals	11,164	11,522	12,207	-358	-1,043

Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 30 June 2006, there were 11,164 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 358 (3%) from the previous quarter, and 1,043 (9%) less than the corresponding figure at 30 June 2005.

Figure B.1: Referrals according to Priority and Other (non-priority) Cases (Quarter Ending 30 June 2006)



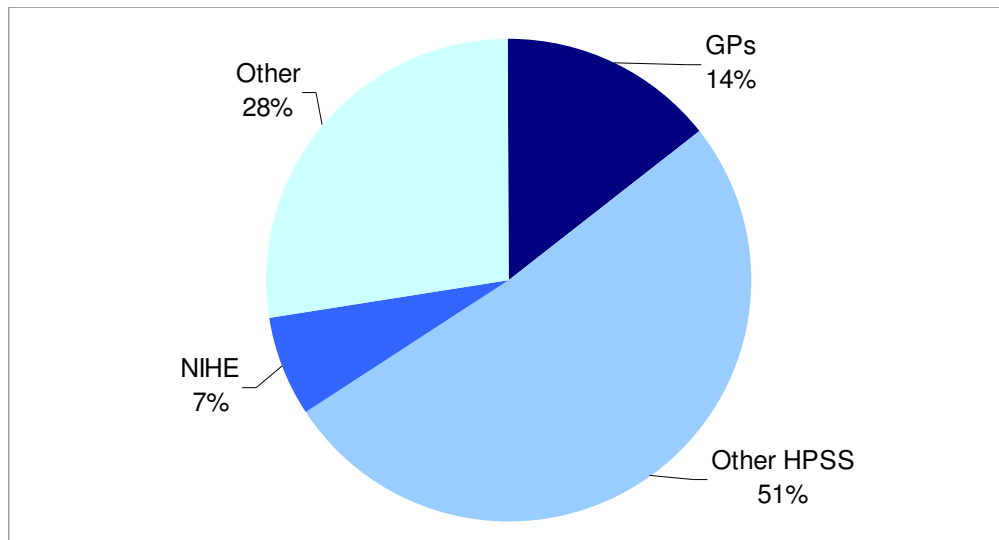
Source: CP4

- A slightly higher proportion of referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were in respect of priority cases (51%) than those designated other (non-priority) cases (49%).

Section B: Referrals for Assessment

Source of Referrals for Assessment

Figure B.2: Source of Referrals for Assessment (Quarter Ending 30 June 2006)

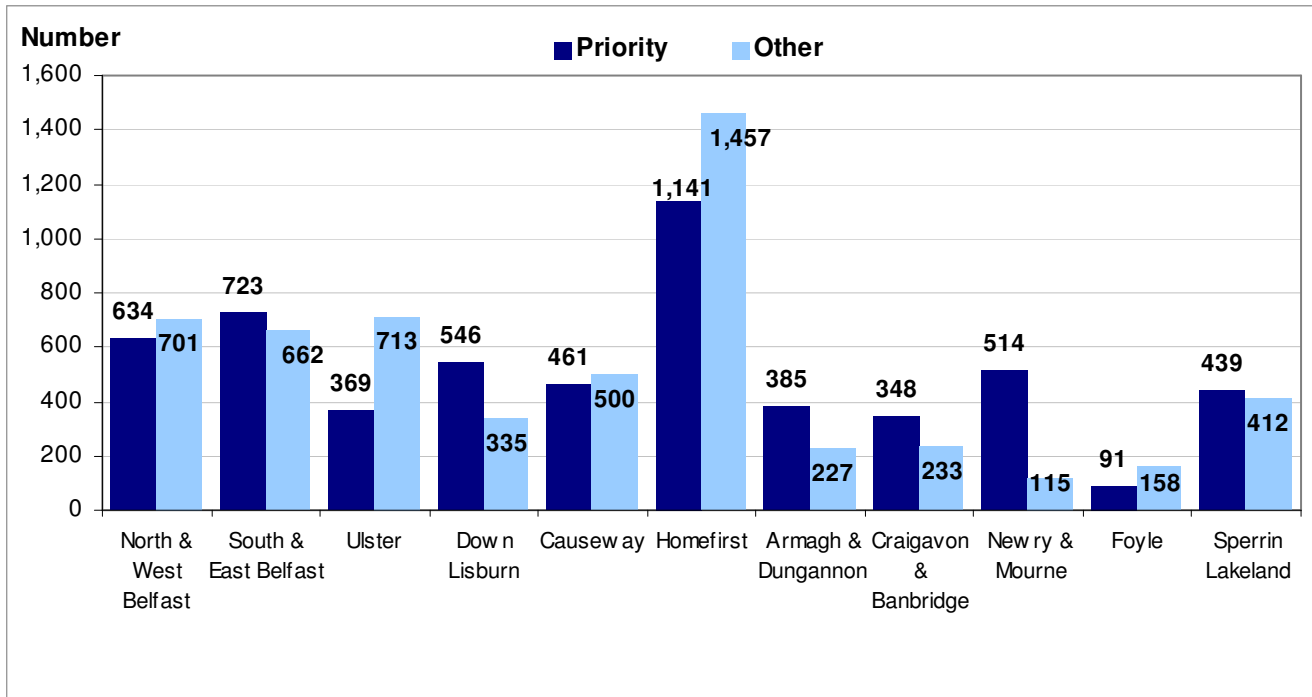


Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 30 June 2006, 14% of all referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were from GP's, 7% from NIHE, 51% from other HPSS sources, and 28% from other sources.

Section B: Referrals for Assessment

Figure B.3: Referrals for Assessment according to Priority and Other (non-priority) Cases by Trust (Quarter Ending 30 June 2006)



Source: CP4

- Homefirst (1,141) had the highest number of priority case referrals for assessment by occupational therapists, whilst Foyle (91) had the lowest. In terms of other (non-priority) case referrals for assessment, Homefirst (1,457) had the highest and Newry & Mourne (115) 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 (non-priority) cases.

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

	Year Ending			Change	
	30 June 2006	30 June 2005	30 June 2004	2005 - 2006	2003 - 2005
Priority Cases	23,690	24,764	24,218	-1,074	-528
Other (non-priority) Cases	22,155	23,090	22,126	-935	29
All Referrals	45,845	47,854	46,344	-2,009	-499

Source: CP4

- During the year ending 30 June 2006, there were 45,845 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, 2,009 (4%) less than during the year ending 30 June 2005, and 499 (1%) less than during year ending 30 June 2004.
- Since 30 June 2005, the number of referrals for assessment designated as priority cases decreased by 1,074 (4%).

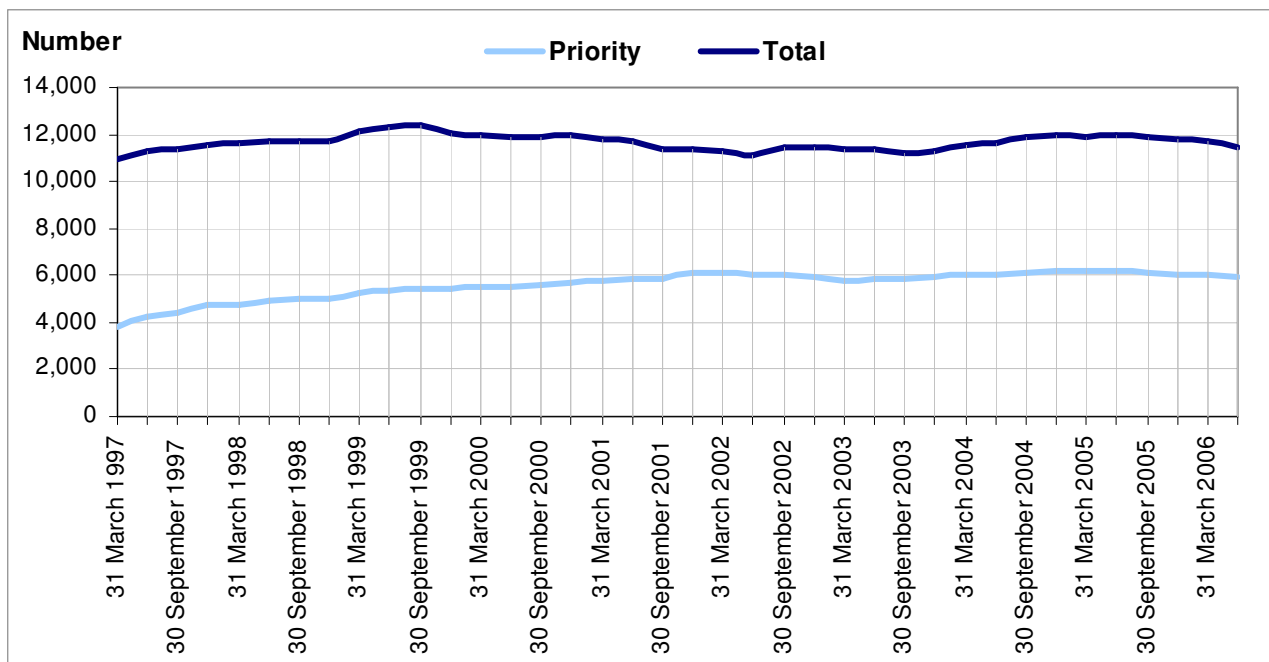
Section B: Referrals for Assessment

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 (non-priority) Cases (31 March 1997 - 30 June 2006)



Source: CP4

- Between 31 March 1997 and 30 June 2006, the average number of referrals for assessment increased by 2%, from 10,906 in 31 March 1997 to 11,164 at 30 June 2006.
- During this period, the average number of referrals for assessment designated as priority cases increased by 55%, from 3,823 in 31 March 1997 to 5,923 in 30 June 2006.

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 (non-priority) cases.

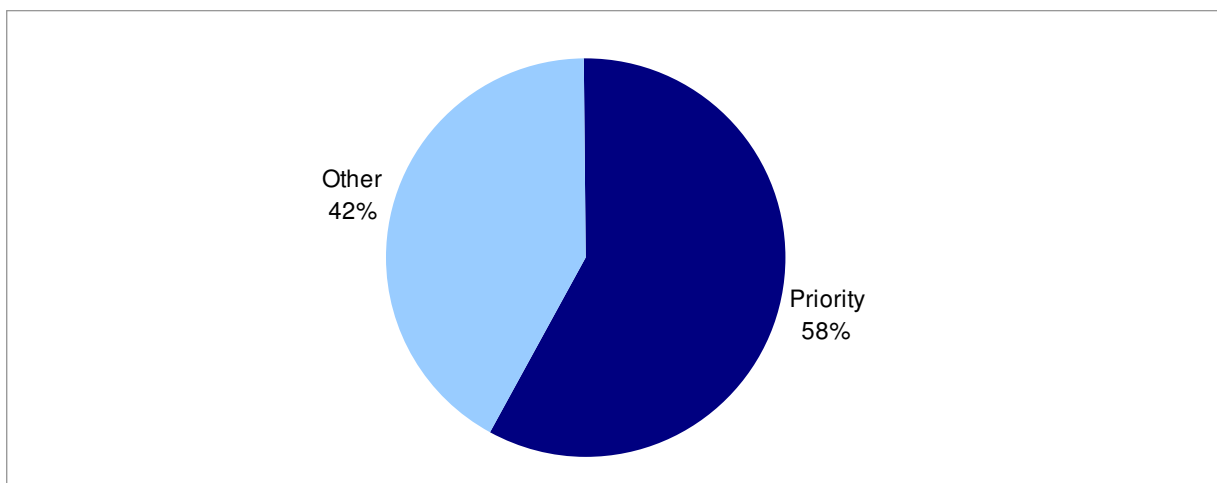
Table C.1: Number of Assessments Commenced by Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 June 2006	31 March 2006	30 June 2005		
Priority Cases	5,417	5,676	4,907	-259	510
Other Cases	3,977	4,001	4,124	-24	-147
All Assessments Commenced	9,394	9,677	9,031	-283	363

Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 30 June 2006, 9,394 assessments were commenced by community occupational therapists, 3% (283) less than the number commenced during the previous quarter, but 4% (363) more than during the same quarter last year.
- Between the quarters ending 31 March 2006 and 30 June 2006, the number of priority case assessments commenced decreased by 259 (5%), from 5,676 in 31 March 2006 to 5,417 in 30 June 2006, and the number of other (non-priority) case assessments commenced decreased by 24 (1%), from 4,001 in 31 March 2006 to 3,977 in 30 June 2006.
- During the quarter ending 30 June 2006, a higher proportion of assessments commenced were designated priority cases (58%) than other (non-priority) cases (42%).

Figure C.1: Assessments Commenced according to Priority and Other (non-priority) Cases (Quarter Ending 30 June 2006)



Source: CP4

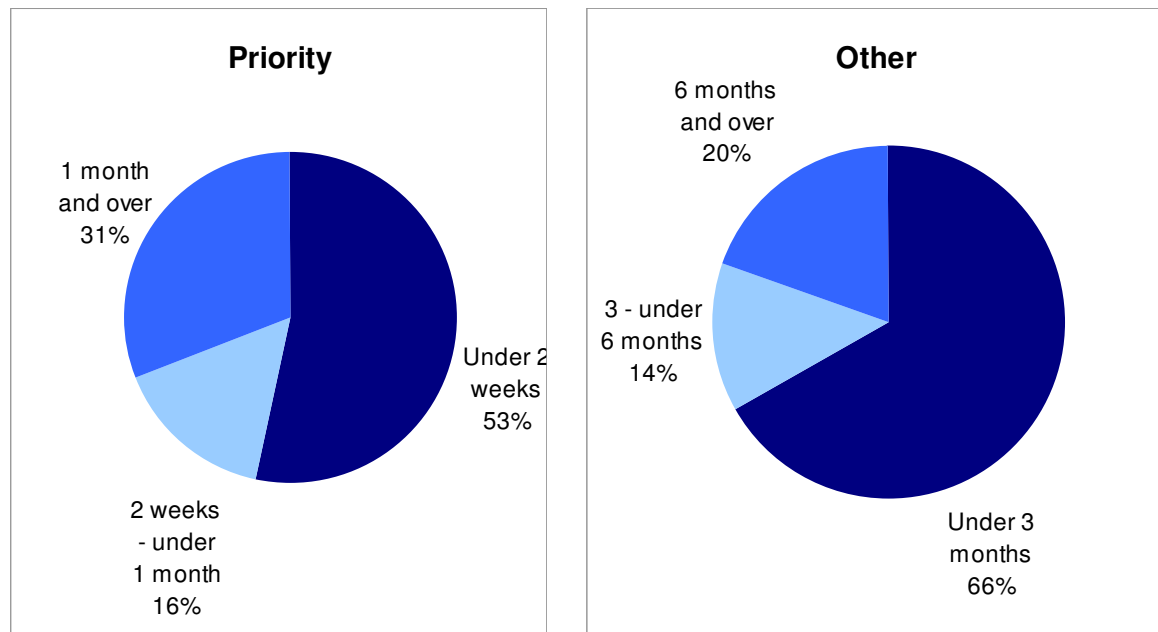
Section C: Assessments Commenced

Number of Assessments Commenced by Time from Referral (30 June 2006)

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

start of assessment, for priority and other (non-priority) cases.

Figure C.2: Number of Assessments Commenced by Designation and Time from Referral (Quarter Ending 30 June 2006)



Source: CP4

- Over half (53%) of assessments in respect of priority cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 2 weeks of the referral, 16% in 2 weeks to 1 month, and 31% in 1 month or more. 67% of assessments in respect of other (non-priority) cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 3 months of the referral, 20% in 6 months or more, and 14% 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 (non-priority) 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
	30 June 2006	31 March 2006	30 June 2005		
Under 2 weeks	2,882	3,154	2,781	-272	101
2 weeks - under 1 month	860	904	978	-44	-118
1 month and over	1,675	1,618	1,148	57	527
All Priority Cases	5,417	5,676	4,907	-259	510

Source: CP4

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

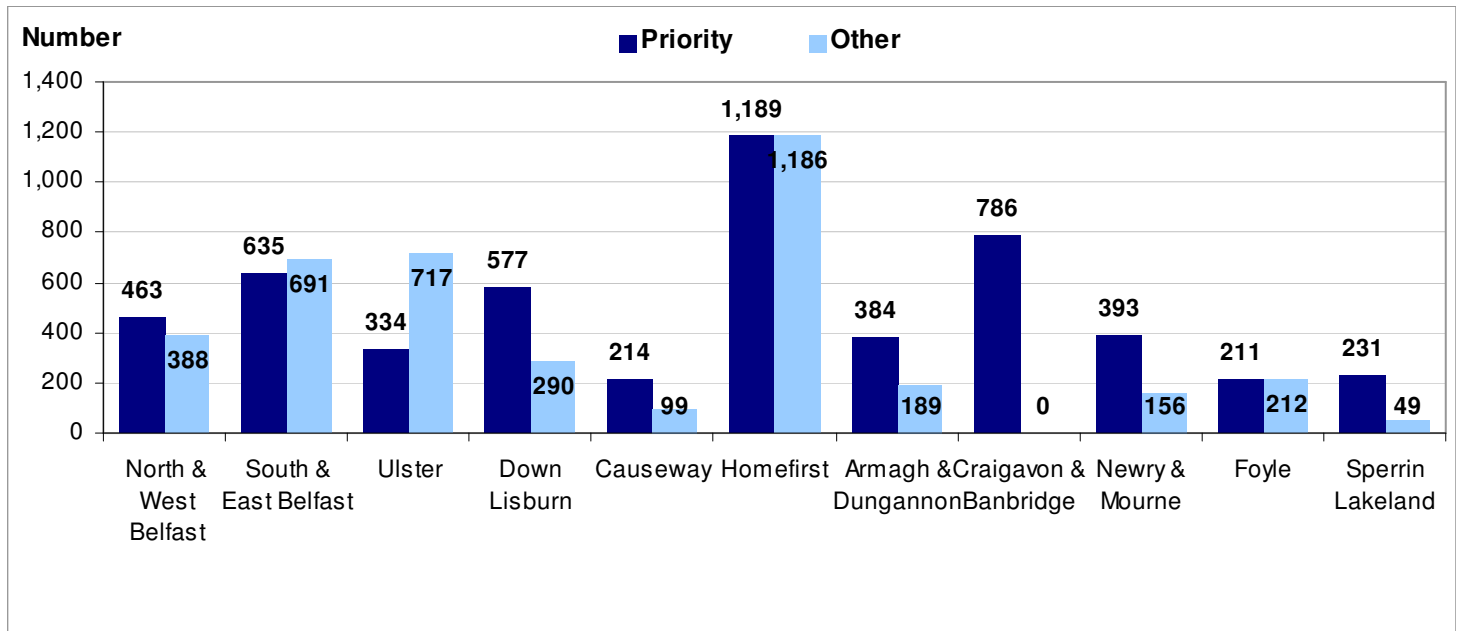
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 June 2006	31 March 2006	30 June 2005		
Under 3 months	2,655	2,521	2,775	134	-120
3 months - under 6 months	543	544	441	-1	102
6 months and over	779	936	908	-157	-129
All Other Cases	3,977	4,001	4,124	-24	-147

Source: CP4

Section C: Assessments Commenced

Number of Assessments Commenced by Trust

Figure C.3:- Number of Assessments Commenced by Designation and Trust (30 June 2006)



Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 30 June 2006, Homefirst (1,189) had the highest number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases, whilst Foyle (211) had the lowest.
- For the same period, Homefirst (1,186) had the highest number of assessments commenced in respect of other (non-priority) cases, whilst Craigavon & Banbridge (0) had none.

Section C: Assessments Commenced

Table C.4 shows, for each Trust, the number of assessments commenced according to priority and other (non-priority) cases, and the number and percentage commenced within the Charter Standard of two weeks for

priority cases and three months for other (non-priority) 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 30 June 2006)

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	463	238	51%	388	137	35%
South & East Belfast	635	413	65%	691	647	94%
Ulster	334	208	62%	717	459	64%
Down Lisburn	577	274	47%	290	91	31%
Causeway	214	86	40%	99	33	33%
Homefirst	1,189	714	60%	1,186	993	84%
Armagh & Dungannon	384	336	88%	189	129	68%
Craigavon & Banbridge	786	456	58%	0	0	-
Newry & Mourne	393	60	15%	156	38	24%
Foyle	211	43	20%	212	99	47%
Sperrin Lakeland	231	54	23%	49	29	59%
Northern Ireland	5,417	2,882	53%	3,977	2,655	67%

Source: CP4

- Armagh & Dungannon (88%) had the highest proportion of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases within 2 weeks, whilst Newry & Mourne (15%) had the lowest.
- For non-priority (other (non-priority)) cases, South & East Belfast (94%) had the highest proportion of assessments commenced within 3 months, whilst Newry & Mourne each had the lowest (24%).

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 (non-priority) 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:		
	30 June 2006	30 June 2005	30 June 2004
Priority Cases	21,143	22,122	22,296
Other Cases	15,411	16,321	14,819
All Assessments Commenced	36,554	38,443	37,115

Source: CP4

- During the year ending 30 June 2006, 36,554 assessments commenced, 2% (561) less than the number commenced during the year ending 30 June 2004, and 5% (1,889) less than the number commenced during year ending 30 June 2005.
- Of the 36,554 assessments commenced during this period, the majority (58%) were in respect of priority cases.

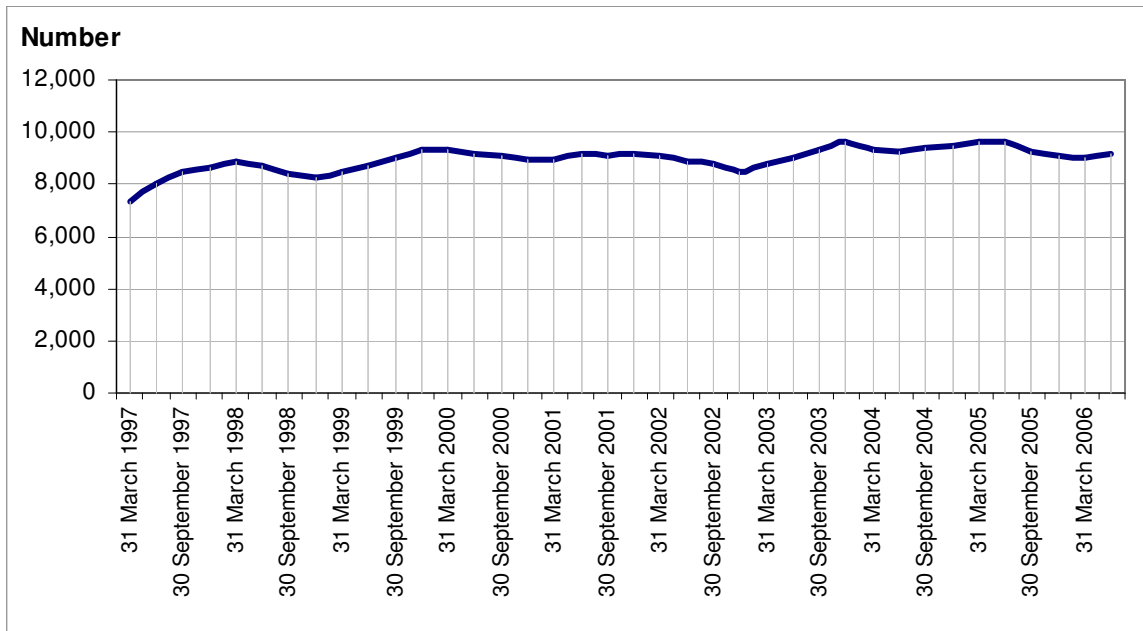
Section C: Assessments Commenced

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 - 30 June 2006)

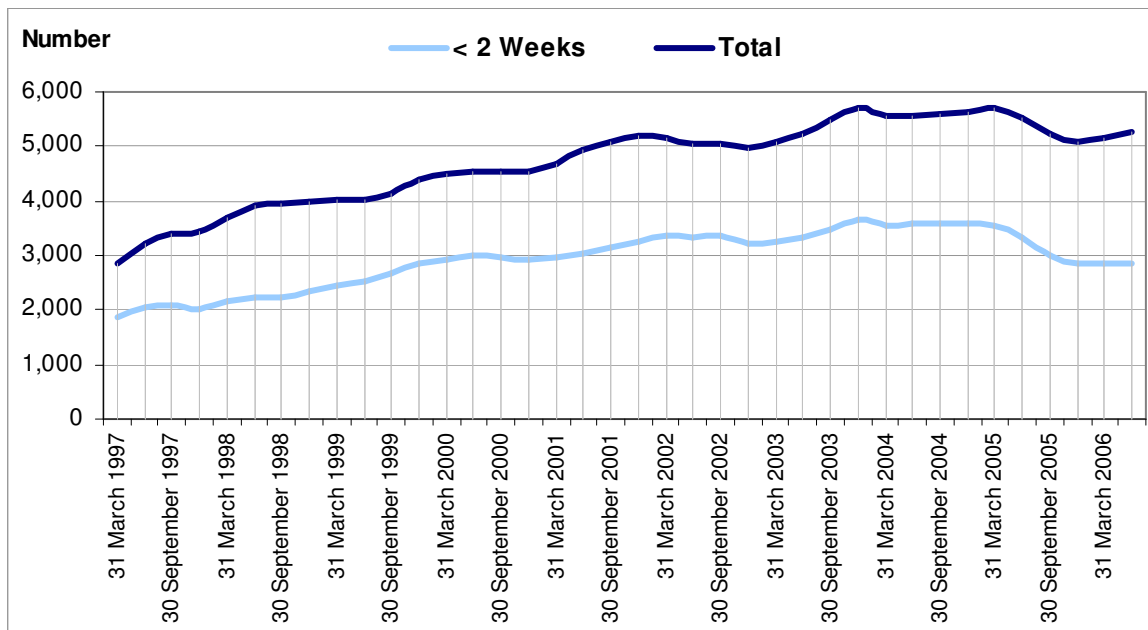


Source: CP4

- Between 31 March 1997 and 30 June 2006, the average number of assessments commenced has increased by 24%, from 7,364 to 9,139 respectively.

Section C: Assessments Commenced

Figure C.5: Assessments Commenced in Respect of Priority Cases (31 March 1997 – 30 June 2006)

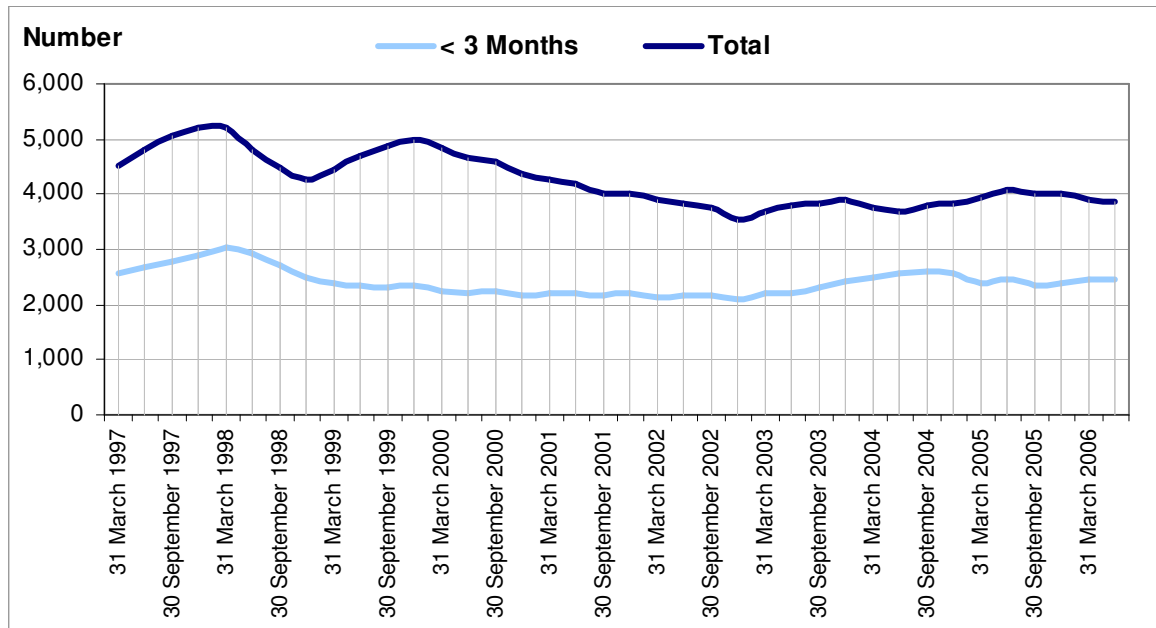


Source: CP4

- Since 31 March 1997, the average number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases, has increased by 86%, from 2,840 in 31 March 1997 to 5,286 in 30 June 2006. The average number of assessments commenced within 2 weeks increased by 55%, from 1,853 in 31 March 1997 to 2,871 in 30 June 2006.

Section C: Assessments Commenced

Figure C.6: Assessments Commenced in Respect of Other (non-priority) Cases (31 March 1997 – 30 June 2006)



Source: CP4

- Since 31 March 1997, the average number of assessments commenced in respect of other (non-priority) cases decreased by 15%, from 4,524 at 31 March 1997 to 3,853 at 30 June 2006.
- During the same period, the average number of assessments commenced within 3 months of referral decreased by 4%, from 2,551 at 31 March 1997 to 2,441 at 30 June 2006.

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 (non-priority) 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 (non-priority) 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 (non-priority) 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 September 2006 are expected to be released on the 24th November 2006.
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:

Kieran Taggart

Community Information Branch
Department of Health, Social Services, and Public Safety
Annex 2
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BT4 3SQ



(028) 90 522493

FAX: (028) 90 523288

EMAIL: Kieran.taggart@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Additional Copies of this statistical bulletin are available by contacting:

Nichola Kane

Community Information Branch
Department of Health, Social Services, and Public Safety
Annex 2
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BT4 3SQ



(028) 90 522960

FAX: (028) 90 523288

EMAIL: Nicola.Kane@dhsspsni.gov.uk

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