



## Assessments by Community Occupational Therapists in Northern Ireland - 31 March 2006

*This statistical bulletin presents information on assessments by Occupational Therapists in Northern Ireland for the quarter ending 31 March 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 31 March 2006, 8,373 people were waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 428 (5%) from the number waiting at the end of the previous quarter, and 1,858 (18%) 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 March 2006, 2,454 (29%) were priority cases and 5,919 (71%) were other cases.
- Since 31 December 2005, the number of priority cases waiting for assessment decreased by 97 (4%), and the number of other (non-priority) cases decreased by 331 (5%).
- Over the last year from 31 March 2005, the number of priority cases waiting assessment decreased by -281 (10%), whilst the number of other cases decreased by 1,577 (21%).

- One fifth (24%) of priority cases and 43% of other cases had been waiting for assessment for 6 months or more at 31 March 2006.
- Since 31 December 2005, the proportion of priority cases waiting 6 months or more for assessment decreased by 10 percentage points.
- Since 31 March 1997, the number of people waiting for assessment has increased by 20%, from 7,703 at 31 March 1997 to 9,223 at 31 March 2006.

#### **Referrals for Assessment**

- During the quarter ending 31 March 2006, there were 11,522 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, an increase of 285 (3%) from the previous quarter, but 414 (3%) less than the corresponding figure at 31 March 2005.

- During the quarter ending 31 March 2006, half (50%) of all referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were from the other HPSS sources, 15% from GP's, 7% from NIHE, and 28% from other sources.
- Between 31 March 1997 and 31 March 2006, the average number of referrals for assessment increased by 7%, from 10,906 in 31 March 1997 to 722 at 31 March 2006.

### ***Assessments Commenced***

- During the quarter ending 31 March 2006, 9,677 assessments were commenced by community occupational therapists, an increase of 8% (695) on the number commenced during the previous quarter, but 2% (182) less than the number commenced during the same quarter last year.

- Over half (56%) 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 29% in 1 month or more. 63% of assessments in respect of other cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 3 months of the referral, 23% in 6 months or more, and 14% in 3 to 6 months.
- During the quarter ending 31 March 2006, Homefirst (1,477) had the highest number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases, whilst Causeway (248) had the lowest.
- Between 31 March 1997 and 31 March 2006, the average number of assessments commenced has increased by 31%, from 7,364 to 9,048 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**

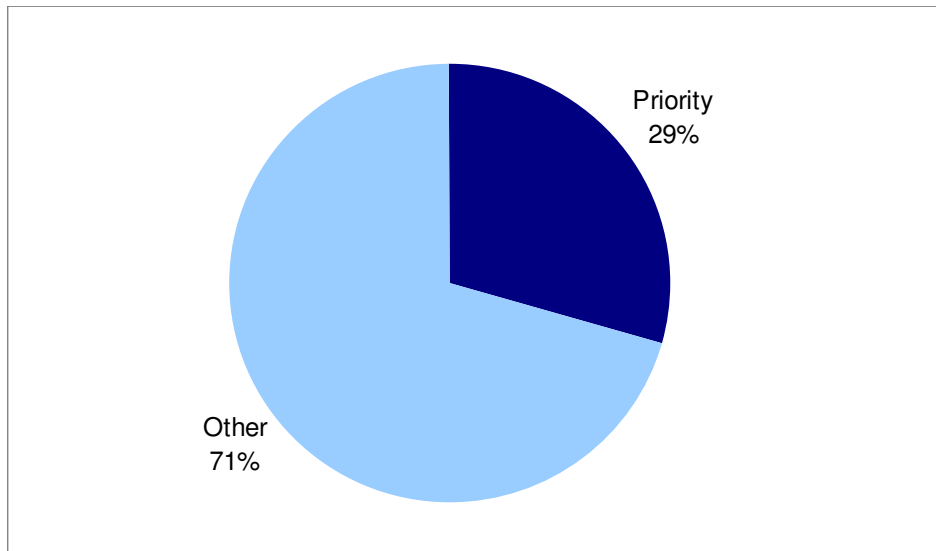
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 March 2006	31 December 2005	31 March 2005		
Priority Cases	2,454	2,551	2,735	-97	-281
Other Cases	5,919	6,250	7,496	-331	-1,577
All Persons Waiting	8,373	8,801	10,231	-428	-1,858

Source: CP4

- At 31 March 2006, 8,373 people were waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 428 (5%) from the number waiting at the end of the previous quarter, and 1,858 (18%) 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 March 2006, 2,454 (29%) were priority cases and 5,919 (71%) were other cases.
- Since 31 December 2005, the number of priority cases waiting for assessment decreased by 97 (4%), and the number of other (non-priority) cases decreased by 331 (5%).
- Over the last year from 31 March 2005, the number of priority cases waiting assessment decreased by -281 (10%), whilst the number of other cases decreased by 1,577 (21%).

## 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 March 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 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 March 2006	31 December 2005	31 March 2005		
Under 1 month	683	515	714	168	-31
1 month - under 3 months	644	644	770	0	-126
3 months - under 6 months	541	533	695	8	-154
6 months and over	586	859	556	-273	30
All Priority Cases	2,454	2,551	2,735	-97	-281

Source: CP4

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

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 March 2006	31 December 2005	31 March 2005		
Under 1 month	1,133	779	1,207	354	-74
1 month - under 3 months	1,074	1,494	1,504	-420	-430
3 months - under 6 months	1,184	1,391	1,516	-207	-332
6 months and over	2,528	2,586	3,269	-58	-741
All Other Cases	5,919	6,250	7,496	-331	-1,577

Source: CP4

## Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

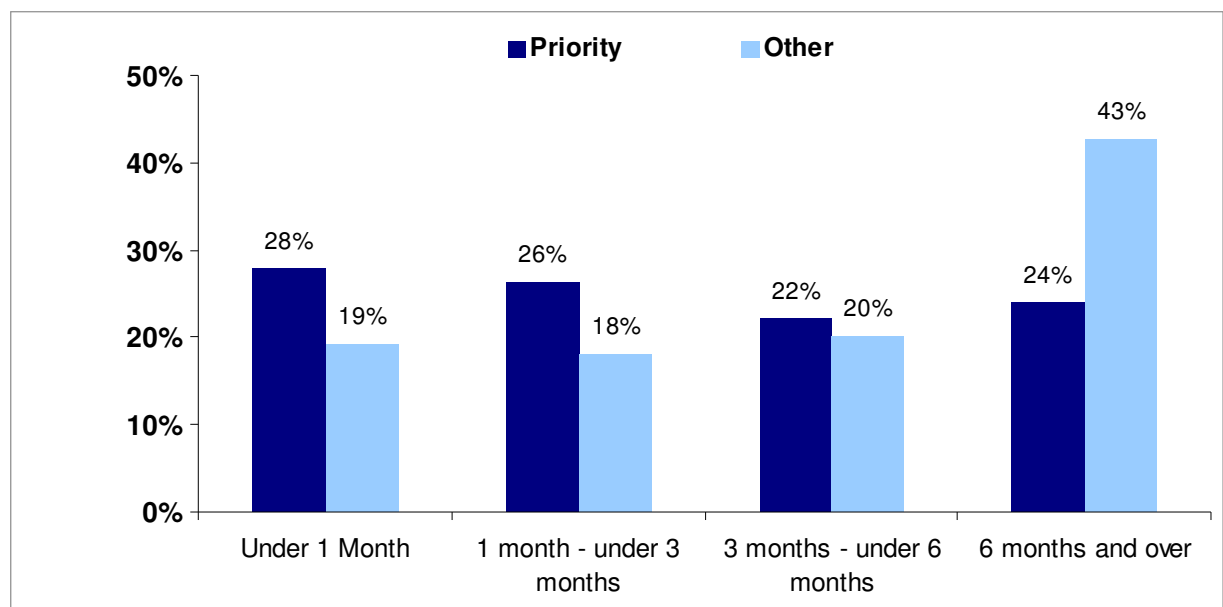
Table A.2 (c): All Cases Waiting for Assessment by Time Waiting and Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 March 2006	31 December 2005	31 March 2005		
Under 1 month	1,816	1,294	1,921	522	-105
1 month - under 3 months	1,718	2,138	2,274	-420	-556
3 months - under 6 months	1,725	1,924	2,211	-199	-486
6 months and over	3,114	3,445	3,825	-331	-711
All Cases	8,373	8,801	10,231	-428	-1,858

Source: CP4

- At 31 March 2006, over one third (37%) of all people waiting for assessment had been waiting for 6 months or more, similar to the previous quarter (39%) and the corresponding figure at 31 March 2005 (37%).
- Since the end of the previous quarter, the number of people waiting for assessment decreased by 428, with the most significant decrease in those waiting 1 - 3 months for assessment (522).

Figure A.2: Persons Waiting for Assessment by Length of Time and according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 31 March 2006)



Source: CP4

- One fifth (24%) of priority cases and 43% of other cases had been waiting for assessment for 6 months or more at 31 March 2006.
- Since 31 December 2005, the proportion of priority cases waiting 6 months or more for assessment decreased by 10 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 cases, and the

number and percentage waiting for six months or more.

**Table A.3: Persons Waiting for Assessment by Trust at 31 March 2006**

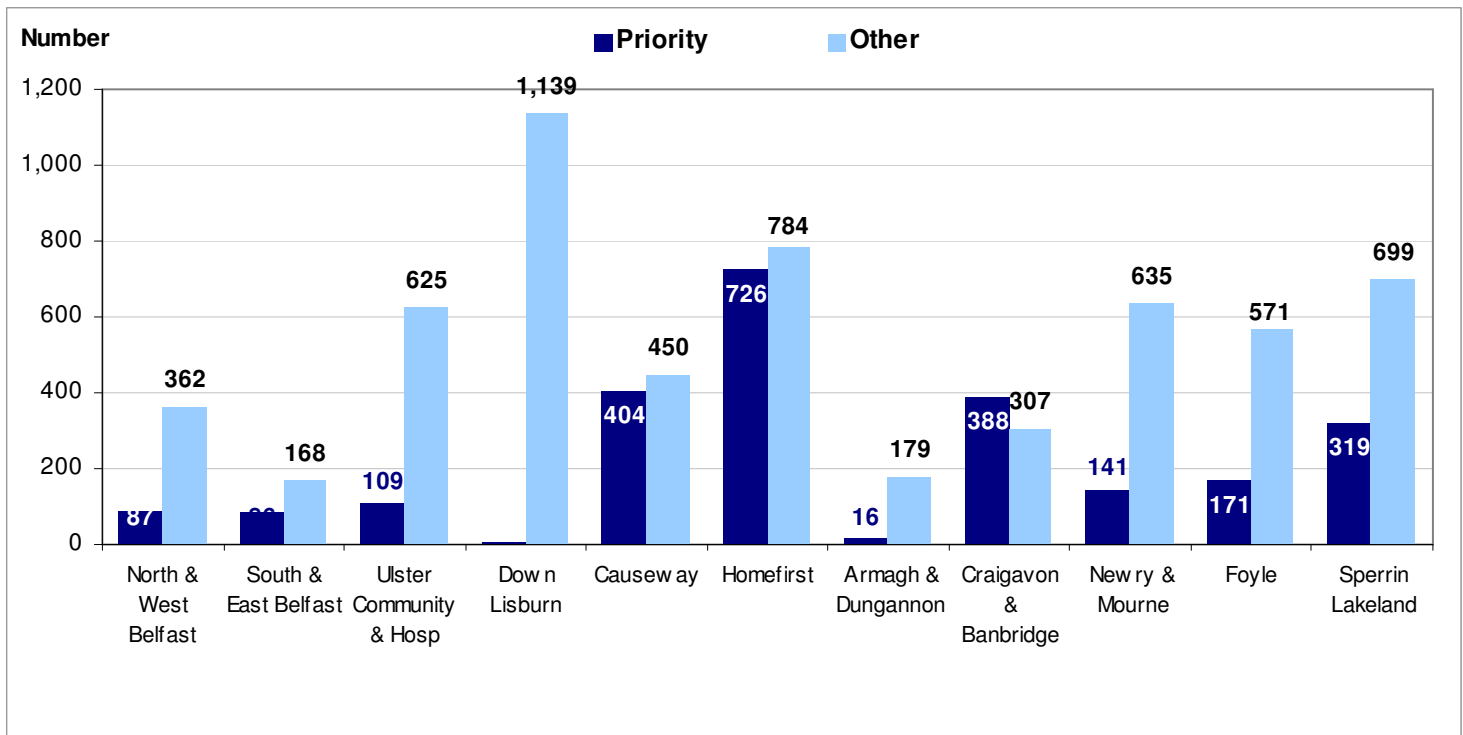
Trust	Priority Cases			Other Cases		
	Total Waiting	Number Waiting 6 Months or More	Percentage Waiting 6 Months or More	Total Waiting	Number Waiting 6 Months or More	Percentage Waiting 6 Months or More
North & West Belfast	87	0	0%	362	13	4%
South & East Belfast	86	0	0%	168	0	0%
Ulster Community & Hos	109	2	2%	625	42	7%
Down Lisburn	7	2	29%	1,139	575	50%
Causeway	404	214	53%	450	296	66%
Homefirst	726	250	34%	784	263	34%
Armagh & Dungannon	16	0	0%	179	37	21%
Craigavon & Banbridge	388	0	0%	307	307	100%
Newry & Mourne	141	13	9%	635	413	65%
Foyle	171	46	27%	571	131	23%
Sperrin Lakeland	319	59	18%	699	451	65%
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>2,454</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>5,919</b>	<b>2,528</b>	<b>43%</b>

Source: CP4

- Across Trusts, Homefirst had the highest number of people waiting for assessment designated priority cases (726) and Down Lisburn had the highest number waiting assessment for other cases (1,139), whilst Armagh & Dungannon had the lowest (16) designated priority and South & East Belfast the lowest designated as other (168).
- At 31 March 2006, Causeway had the highest proportion of priority cases (53%) waiting 6 months or more for assessment, and Craigavon & Banbridge had the highest proportion of other cases (100%) 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 March 2006)**



Source: CP4

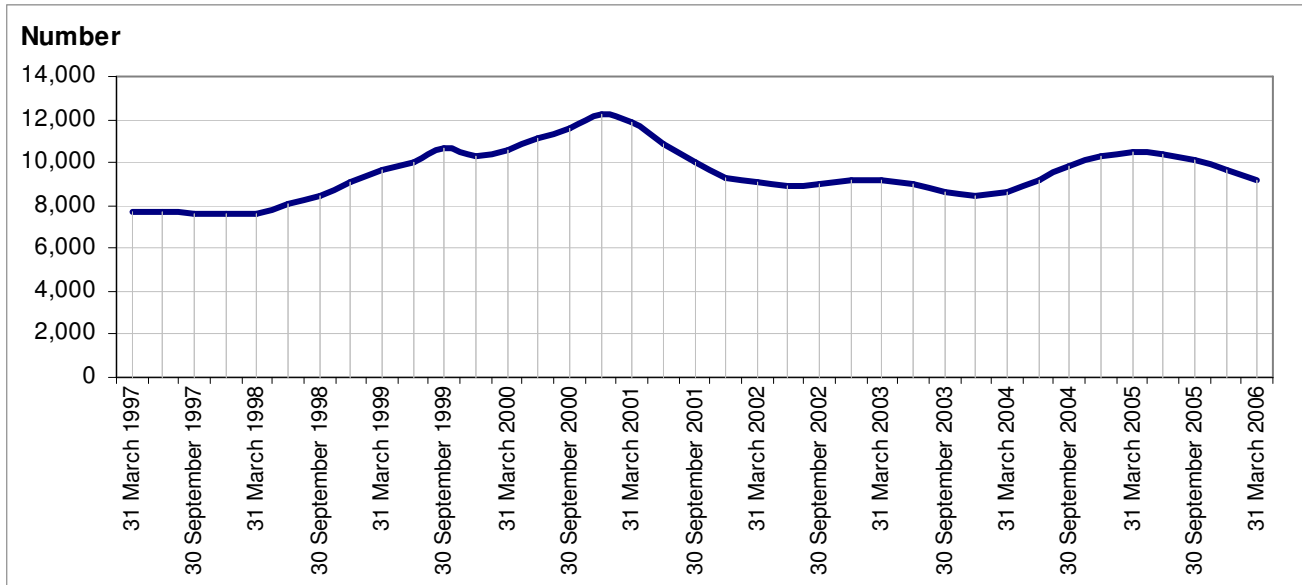
## Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

### 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 31 March 2006 is based on the average of the figures for the four quarters ending 31 March 2006.

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

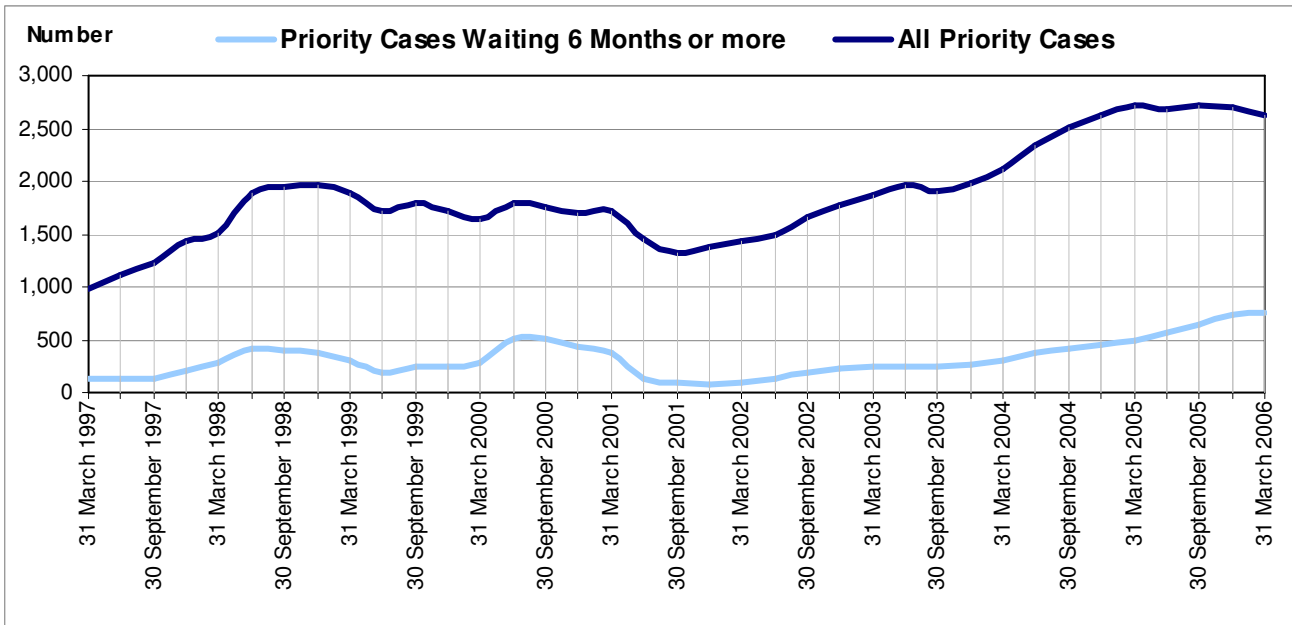


Source: CP4

- Since 31 March 1997, the number of people waiting for assessment has increased by 20%, from 7,703 at 31 March 1997 to 9,223 at 31 March 2006.
- Between 31 March 1997 and 31 March 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 7,601 at 30 September 1997.

## Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

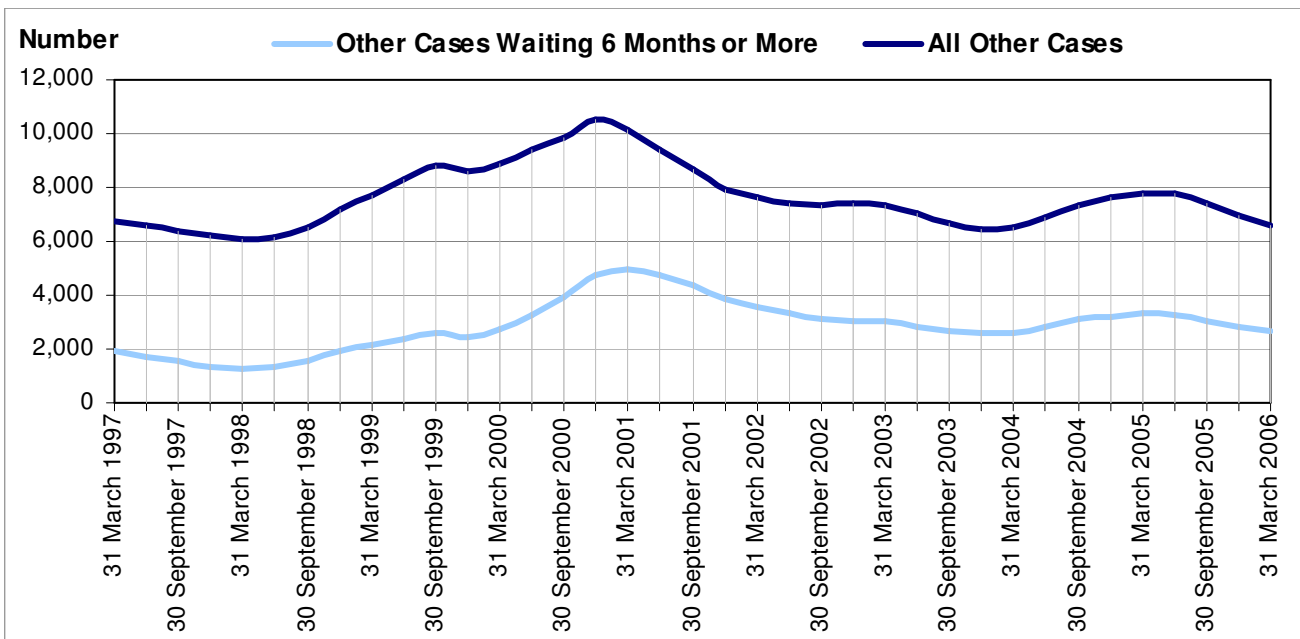
**Figure A.5: Priority Cases Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists (31 March 1997 – 31 March 2006)**



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 March 2006)**



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 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 cases, for the quarter ending 31 March 2006, is shown in Table B.1.

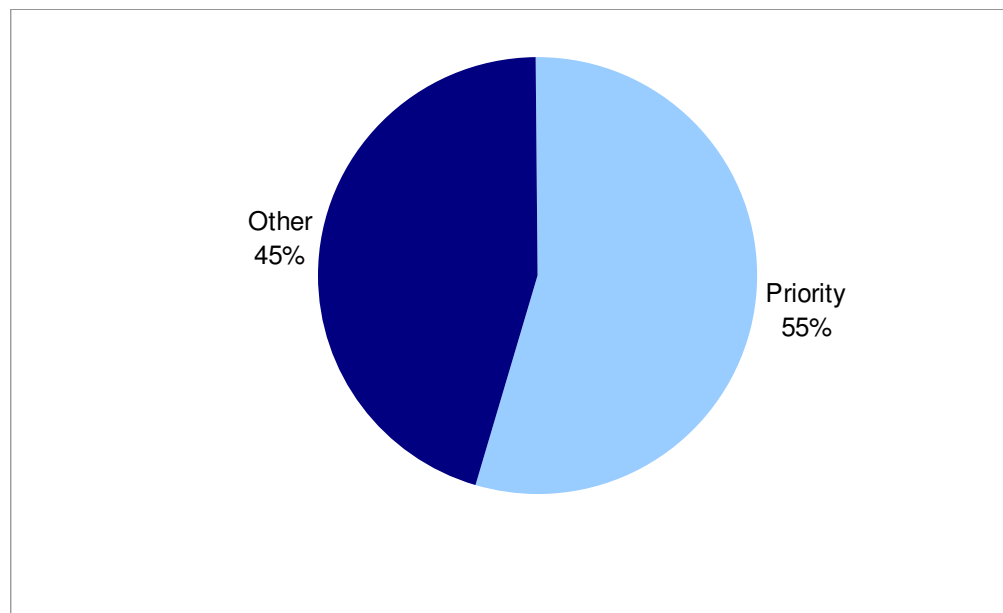
**Table B.1: Number of Referrals Received for Assessment by Quarter**

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 March 2006	31 December 2005	31 March 2005		
Priority Cases	6,286	5,808	6,242	478	44
Other Cases	5,236	5,429	5,694	-193	-458
All Referrals	11,522	11,237	11,936	285	-414

Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 31 March 2006, there were 11,522 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, an increase of 285 (3%) from the previous quarter, but 414 (3%) less than the corresponding figure at 31 March 2005.

**Figure B.1: Referrals according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 31 March 2006)**



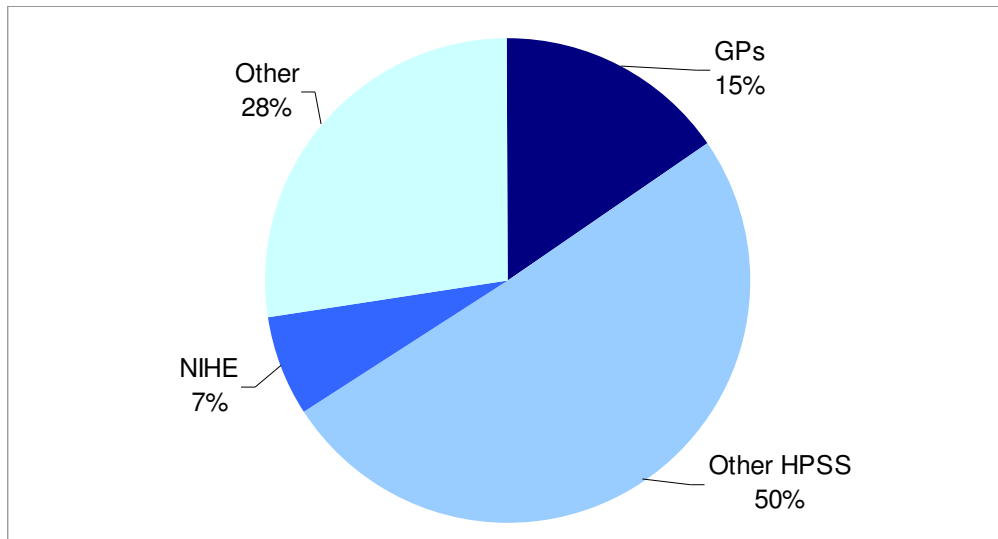
Source: CP4

- A slightly higher proportion of referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were in respect of priority cases (55%) than those designated other cases (45%).

## Section B: Referrals for Assessment

### Source of Referrals for Assessment

Figure B.2: Source of Referrals for Assessment (Quarter Ending 31 March 2006)

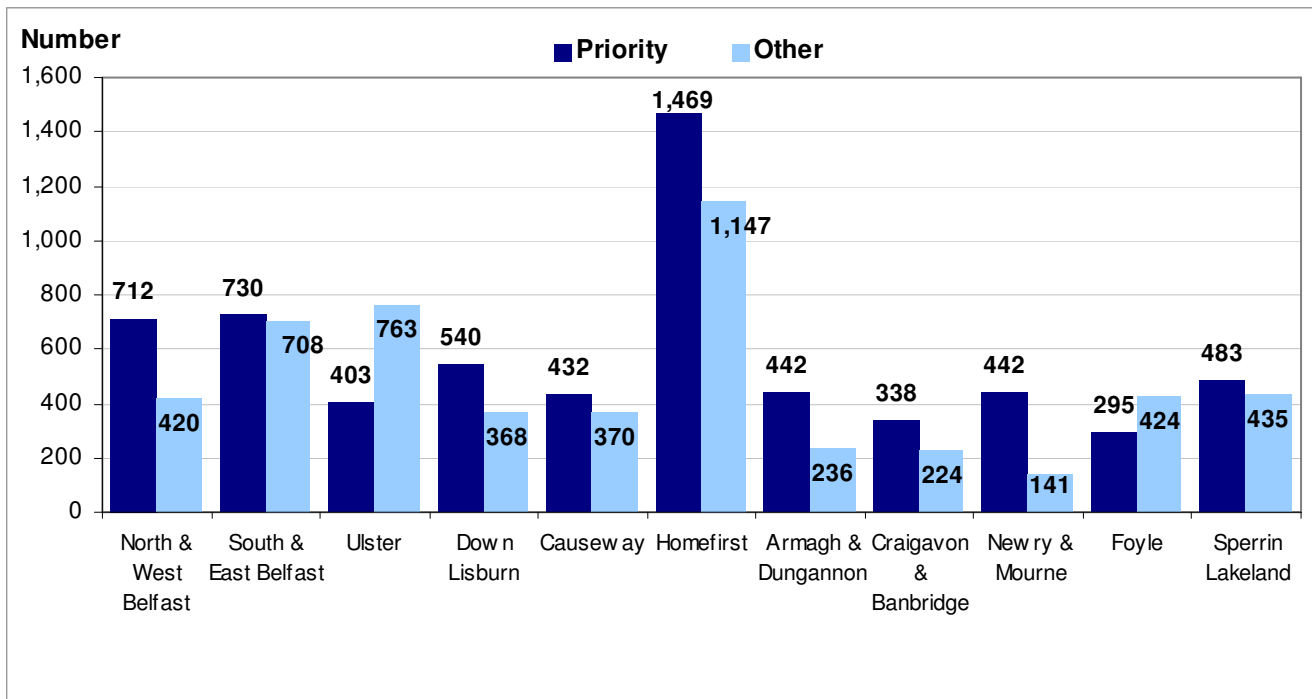


Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 31 March 2006, half (50%) of all referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were from the other HPSS sources, 15% from GP's, 7% from NIHE, and 28% 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 March 2006)**



Source: CP4

- Homefirst (1,469) had the highest number of priority case referrals for assessment by occupational therapists, whilst Foyle (295) had the lowest. In terms of other case referrals for assessment, Homefirst (1,147) had the highest and Newry & Mourne (141) 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 March 2006	31 March 2005	31 March 2004	2004 - 2005	2003 - 2005
Priority Cases	24,065	24,821	24,220	-756	-155
Other Cases	22,823	22,613	21,780	210	1,043
All Referrals	46,888	47,434	46,000	-546	888

Source: CP4

- During the year ending 31 March 2006, there were 46,888 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, 888 (2%) more than during the year ending 31 March 2004, but -546 (-1%) less than during year ending 31 March 2005.
- Since 31 March 2004, the number of referrals for assessment designated as priority cases decreased by -155 (-1%), whilst the number designated as other decreased by 1,043 (4%).

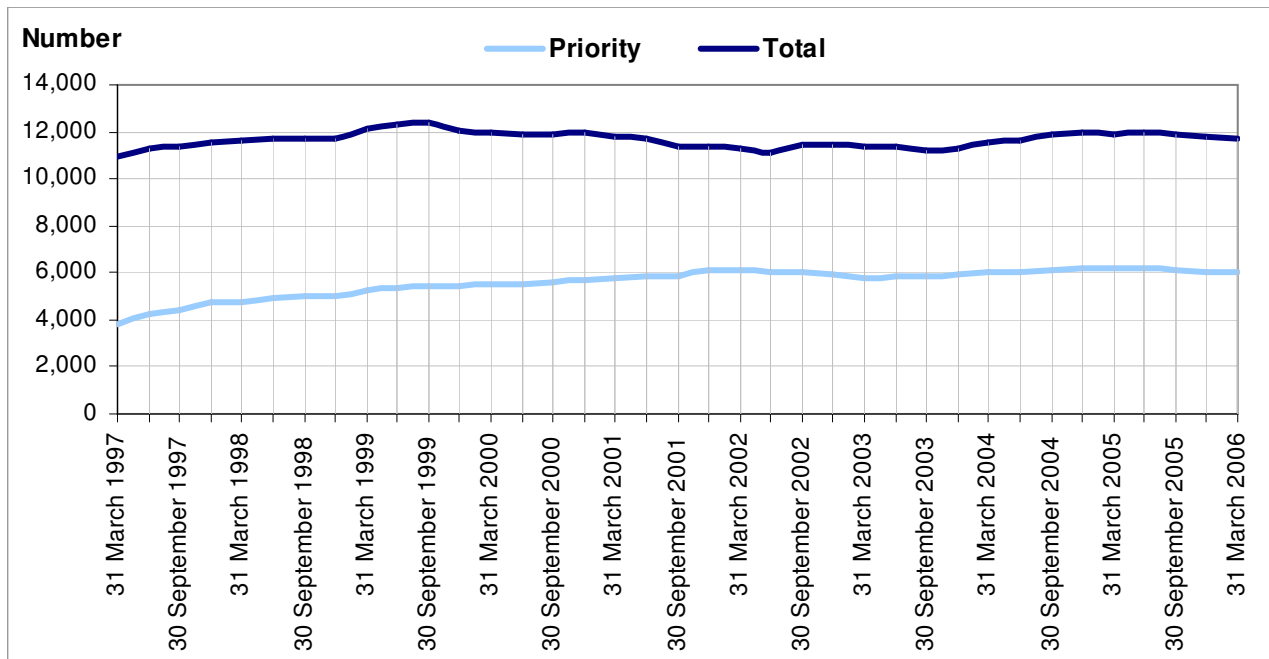
## Section B: Referrals for Assessment

### 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 Cases (31 March 1997 - 31 March 2006)**



Source: CP4

- Between 31 March 1997 and 31 March 2006, the average number of referrals for assessment increased by 7%, from 10,906 in 31 March 1997 to 11,722 at 31 March 2006.
- During this period, the average number of referrals for assessment designated as priority cases increased by 57%, from 3,823 in 31 March 1997 to 6,016 in 31 March 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 cases.

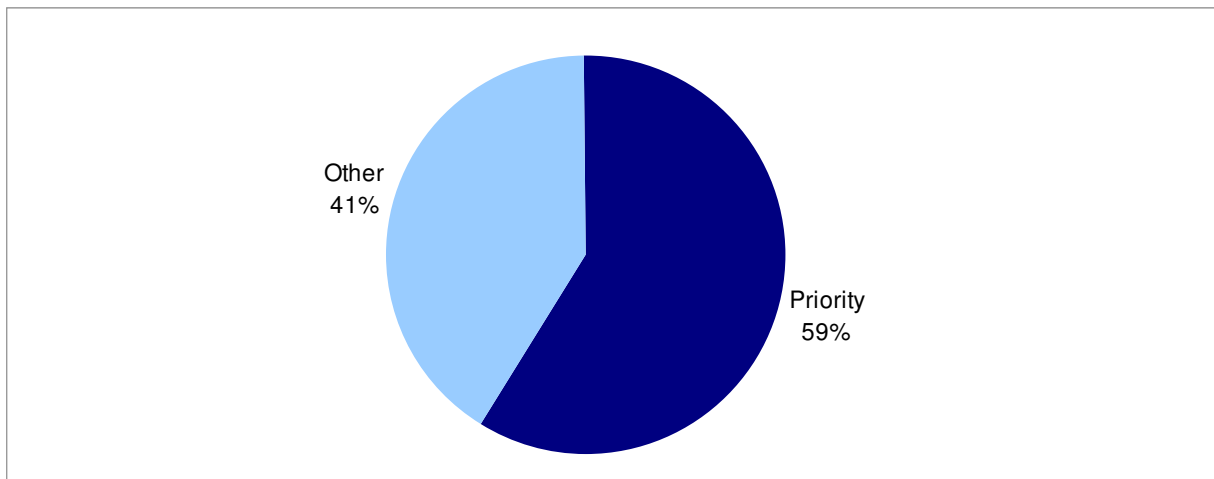
**Table C.1: Number of Assessments Commenced by Quarter**

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 March 2006	31 December 2005	31 March 2005		
Priority Cases	5,676	5,216	5,317	460	359
Other Cases	4,001	3,766	4,542	235	-541
All Assessments Commenced	9,677	8,982	9,859	695	-182

Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 31 March 2006, 9,677 assessments were commenced by community occupational therapists, an increase of 8% (695) on the number commenced during the previous quarter, but 2% (182) less than the number commenced during the same quarter last year.
- Between the quarters ending 31 December 2005 and 31 March 2006, the number of priority case assessments commenced increased by 460 (9%), from 5,216 in 31 December 2005 to 5,676 in 31 March 2006, and the number of other case assessments commenced increased by 235 (6%), from 3,766 in 31 December 2005 to 4,001 in 31 March 2006.
- During the quarter ending 31 March 2006, a higher proportion of assessments commenced were designated priority cases (59%) than other cases (41%).

**Figure C.1: Assessments Commenced according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 31 March 2006)**



Source: CP4

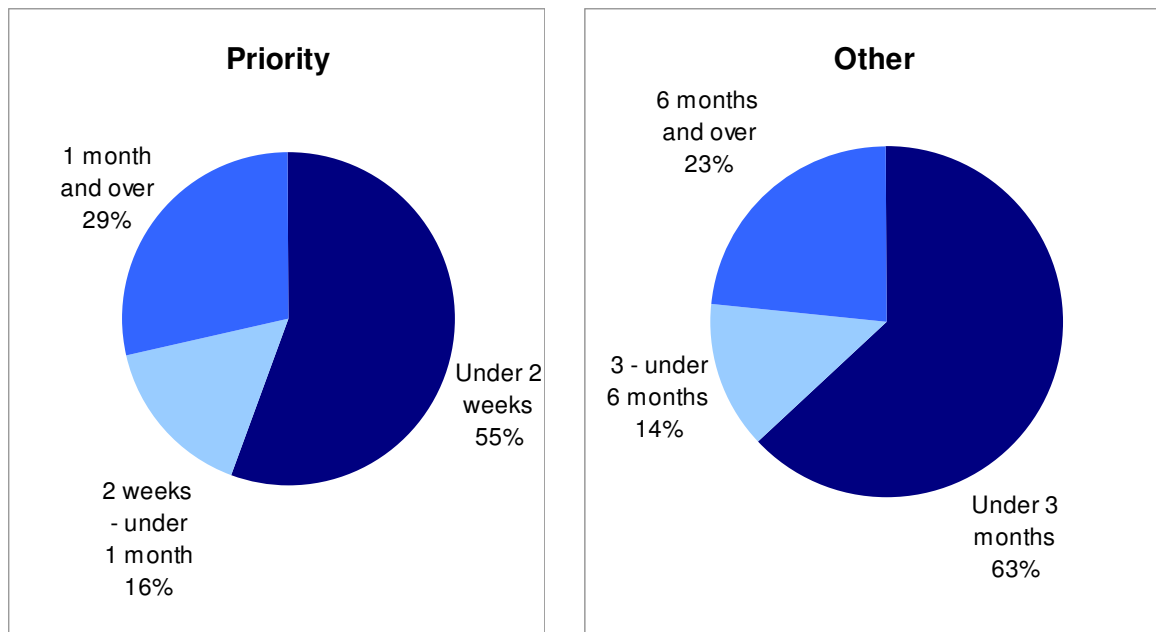
## Section C: Assessments Commenced

### Number of Assessments Commenced by Time from Referral (31 March 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 cases.

**Figure C.2: Number of Assessments Commenced by Designation and Time from Referral (Quarter Ending 31 March 2006)**



Source: CP4

- Over half (56%) 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 29% in 1 month or more. 63% of assessments in respect of other cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 3 months of the referral, 23% 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 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 March 2006	31 December 2005	31 March 2005		
Under 2 weeks	3,154	2,958	3,129	196	25
2 weeks - under 1 month	904	948	1,026	-44	-122
1 month and over	1,618	1,310	1,162	308	456
All Priority Cases	5,676	5,216	5,317	460	359

Source: CP4

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

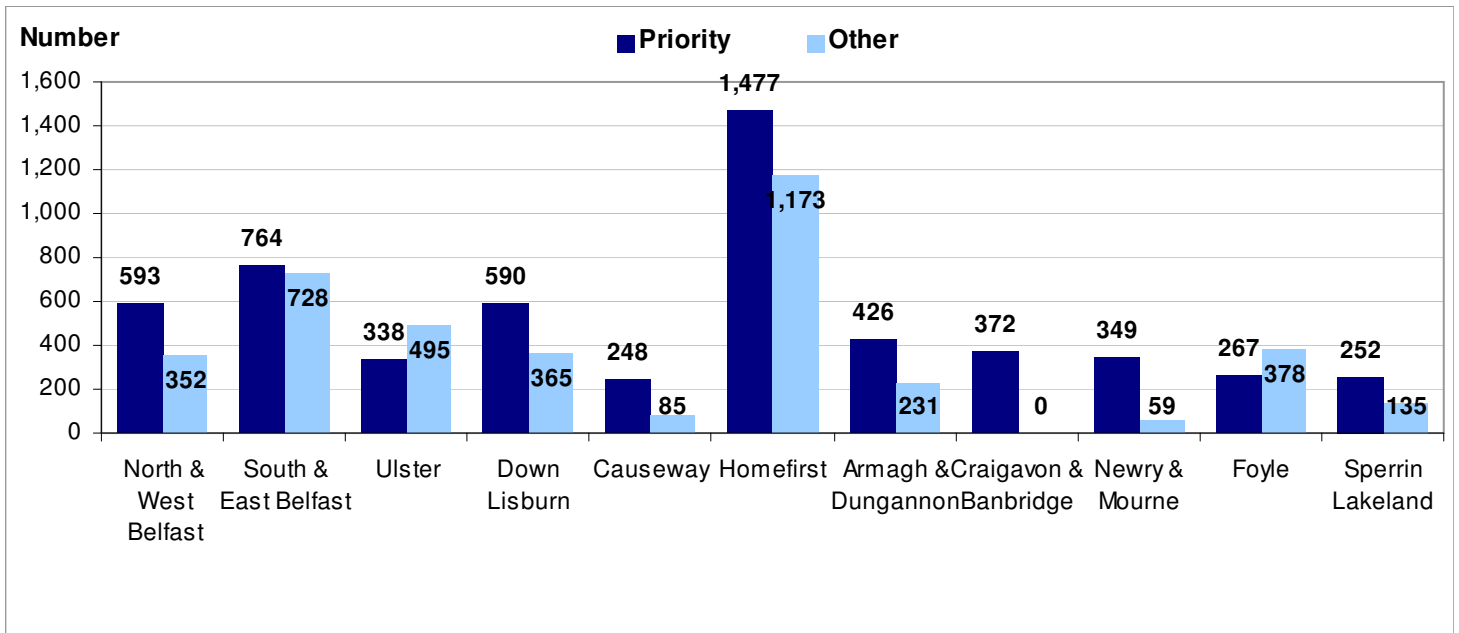
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 March 2006	31 December 2005	31 March 2005		
Under 3 months	2,521	2,334	2,223	187	298
3 months - under 6 months	544	505	937	39	-393
6 months and over	936	927	1,382	9	-446
All Other Cases	4,001	3,766	4,542	235	-541

Source: CP4

## Section C: Assessments Commenced

### Number of Assessments Commenced by Trust

Figure C.3:- Number of Assessments Commenced by Designation and Trust (31 March 2006)



Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 31 March 2006, Homefirst (1,477) had the highest number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases, whilst Causeway (248) had the lowest.
- For the same period, Homefirst (1,173) 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 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 March 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	593	281	47%	352	77	22%
South & East Belfast	764	526	69%	728	680	93%
Ulster	338	232	69%	495	384	78%
Down Lisburn	590	265	45%	365	109	30%
Causeway	248	89	36%	85	21	25%
Homefirst	1,477	934	63%	1,173	957	82%
Armagh & Dungannon	426	373	88%	231	133	58%
Craigavon & Banbridge	372	216	58%	0	0	-
Newry & Mourne	349	124	36%	59	47	80%
Foyle	267	72	27%	378	85	22%
Sperrin Lakeland	252	42	17%	135	28	21%
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>5,676</b>	<b>3,154</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>4,001</b>	<b>2,521</b>	<b>63%</b>

Source: CP4

- Armagh & Dungannon (88%) had the highest proportion of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases within 2 weeks, whilst Sperrin Lakeland (17%) had the lowest.
- For non-priority (other) cases, South & East Belfast (93%) had the highest proportion of assessments commenced within 3 months, whilst Sperrin Lakeland each had the lowest (21%).

## 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 March 2006	31 March 2005	31 March 2004
Priority Cases	20,633	22,825	22,280
Other Cases	15,558	15,740	15,024
<b>All Assessments Commenced</b>	<b>36,191</b>	<b>38,565</b>	<b>37,304</b>

Source: CP4

- During the year ending 31 March 2006, 36,191 assessments commenced, 3% (1,113) less than the number commenced during the year ending 31 March 2004, and 6% (2,374) less than the number commenced during year ending 31 March 2005.
- Of the 36,191 assessments commenced during this period, the highest proportion (57%) were in respect of priority cases.

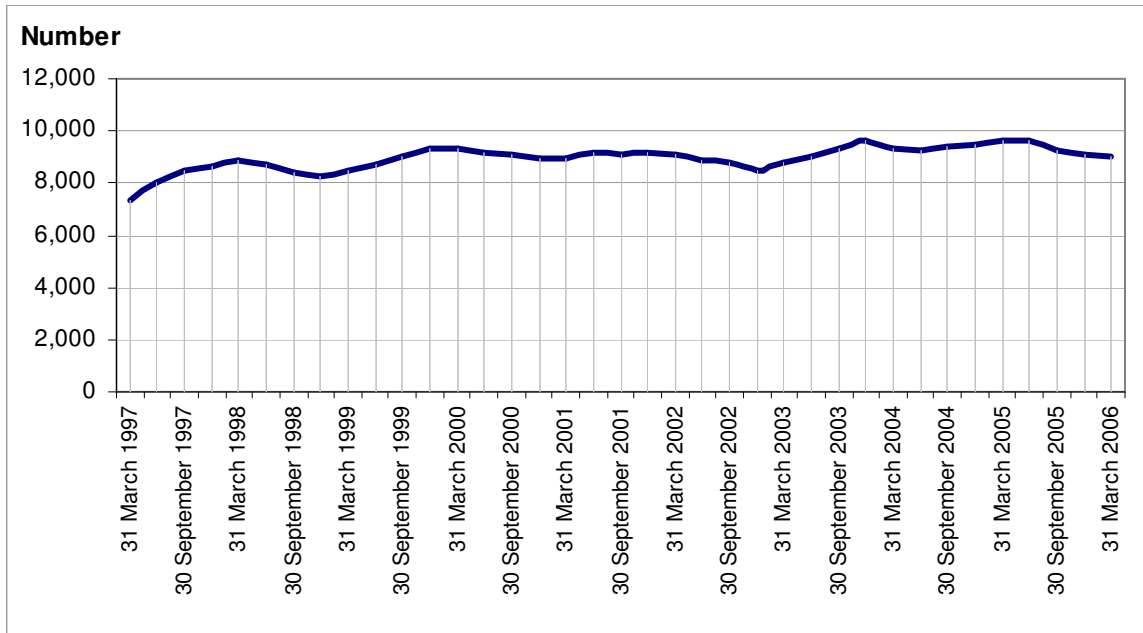
## Section C: Assessments Commenced

### 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 March 2006)**

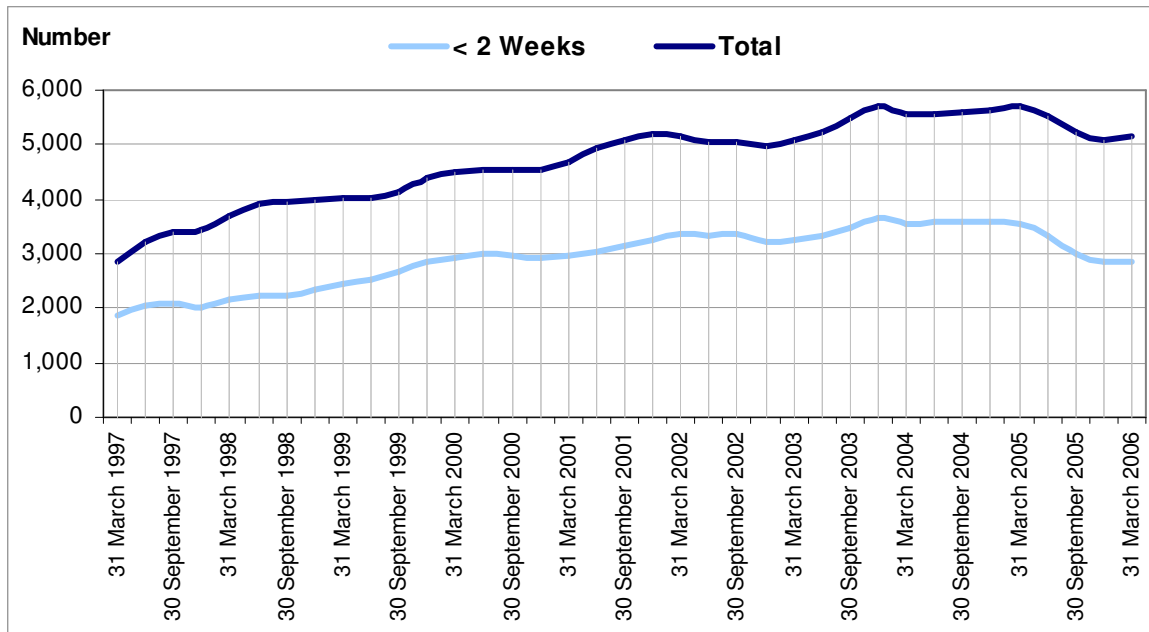


Source: CP4

- Between 31 March 1997 and 31 March 2006, the average number of assessments commenced has increased by 31%, from 7,364 to 9,048 respectively.

## Section C: Assessments Commenced

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

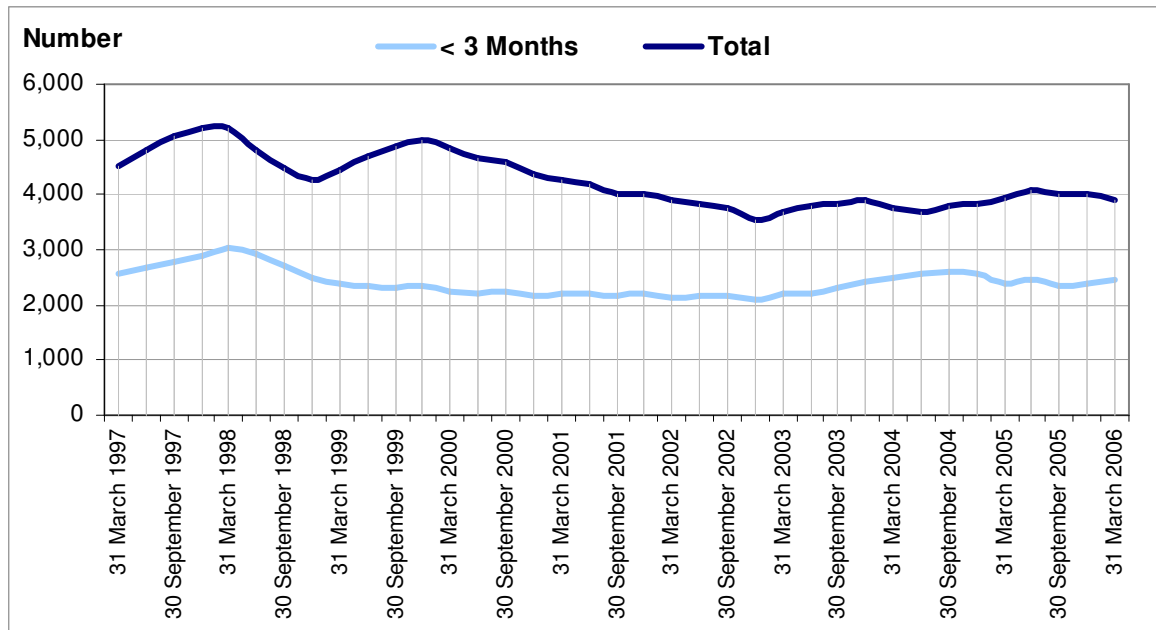


Source: CP4

- Since 31 March 1997, the average number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases, has increased by 82%, from 2,840 in 31 March 1997 to 5,158 in 31 March 2006. The average number of assessments commenced within 2 weeks increased by 53%, from 1,853 in 31 March 1997 to 2,846 in 31 March 2006.

## Section C: Assessments Commenced

**Figure C.6: Assessments Commenced in Respect of Other Cases (31 March 1997 – 31 March 2006)**



Source: CP4

- Since 31 March 1997, the average number of assessments commenced in respect of other cases decreased by 14%, from 4,524 at 31 March 1997 to 3,890 at 31 March 2006.
- During the same period, the average number of assessments commenced within 3 months of referral decreased by 3%, from 2,551 at 31 March 1997 to 2,471 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 2006 are expected to be released on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 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:

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