



Assessment by Occupational Therapists in Northern Ireland - 30 September 2005

This statistical bulletin presents information on assessments by Occupational Therapists in Northern Ireland for the quarter ending 30 September 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 30 September 2005, 9,469 people were waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 778 (8%) from the number waiting at the end of the previous quarter, and 1,276 (12%) 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 September 2005, 2,706 (29%) were priority cases and 6,763 (71%) were other cases.
- Since 30 June 2005, the number of priority cases waiting for assessment decreased by 67 (2%), and the number of other (non-priority) cases decreased by 711 (10%).
- Over the last year from 30 September 2004, the number of priority cases waiting assessment increased by 118 (5%), and the number of other cases decreased by 1,394 (17%).

- Over a quarter (28%) of priority cases and 37% of other cases had been waiting for assessment for 6 months or more at 30 September 2005.
- Since 30 June 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 30 September 2005, there were 11,922 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 285 (2%) from the previous quarter, and 408 (3%) less than the corresponding figure at 30 September 2004.

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2005, over half (48%) of all referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were from the HPSS other than GP's, 15% from GP's, 7% from NIHE, and 30% from other sources.
- Between 31 March 1997 and 30 September 2005, the average number of referrals for assessment increased by 9%, from 10,906 in 31 March 1997 to 11,859 30 September 2005.

Assessments Commenced

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2005, 8,501 assessments were commenced by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 6% (530) on the number commenced during the previous quarter, and 15% (1,518) less than the number commenced during the same quarter last year.

- Over half (51%) of assessments in respect of priority cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 2 weeks of the referral, 19% in 2 weeks to 1 month, and 30% in 1 month or more. 61% of assessments in respect of other cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 3 months of the referral, 28% in 6 months or more, and 11% in 3 to 6 months.
- During the quarter ending 30 September 2005, Homefirst (1,012) had the highest number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases, whilst Foyle (188) had the lowest.
- Between 31 March 1997 and 30 September 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

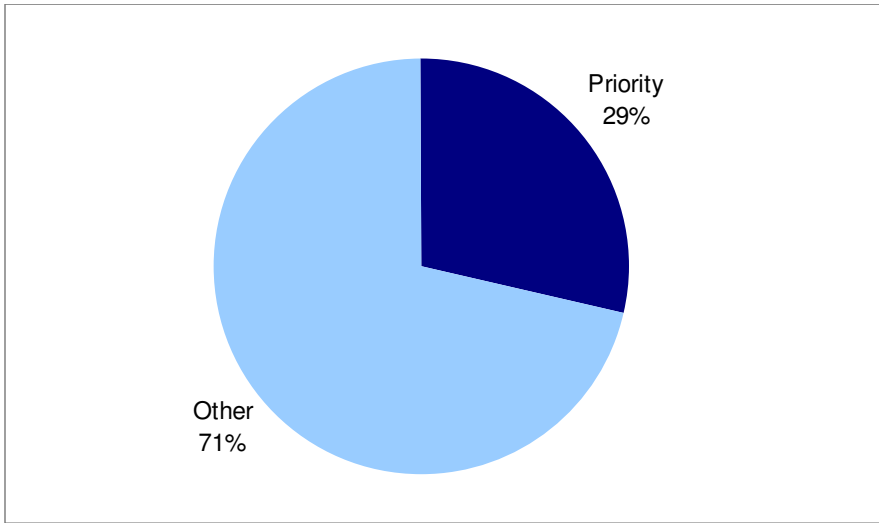
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2005	30 June 2005	30 September 2004		
Priority Cases	2,706	2,773	2,588	-67	118
Other Cases	6,763	7,474	8,157	-711	-1,394
All Persons Waiting	9,469	10,247	10,745	-778	-1,276

Source: CP4

- At 30 September 2005, 9,469 people were waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 778 (8%) from the number waiting at the end of the previous quarter, and 1,276 (12%) 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 September 2005, 2,706 (29%) were priority cases and 6,763 (71%) were other cases.
- Since 30 June 2005, the number of priority cases waiting for assessment decreased by 67 (2%), and the number of other (non-priority) cases decreased by 711 (10%).
- Over the last year from 30 September 2004, the number of priority cases waiting assessment increased by 118 (5%), and the number of other cases decreased by 1,394 (17%).

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 30 September 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
	30 September 2005	30 June 2005	30 September 2004		
Under 1 month	679	756	731	-77	-52
1 month - under 3 months	726	664	800	62	-74
3 months - under 6 months	550	552	606	-2	-56
6 months and over	751	801	451	-50	300
All Priority Cases	2,706	2,773	2,588	-67	118

Source: CP4

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

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2005	30 June 2005	30 September 2004		
Under 1 month	1,102	1,418	1,307	-316	-205
1 month - under 3 months	1,403	1,643	1,736	-240	-333
3 months - under 6 months	1,760	1,454	1,675	306	85
6 months and over	2,498	2,959	3,439	-461	-941
All Other Cases	6,763	7,474	8,157	-711	-1,394

Source: CP4

Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

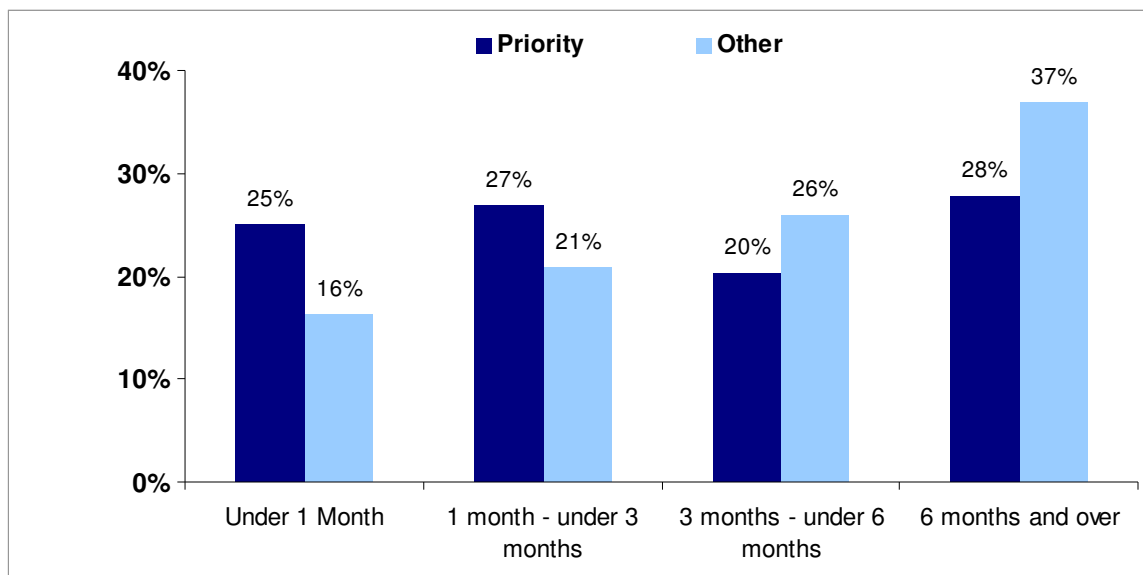
Table A.2 (c): All Cases Waiting for Assessment by Time Waiting and Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2005	30 June 2005	30 September 2004		
Under 1 month	1,781	2,174	2,038	-393	-257
1 month - under 3 months	2,129	2,307	2,536	-178	-407
3 months - under 6 months	2,310	2,006	2,281	304	29
6 months and over	3,249	3,760	3,890	-511	-641
All Cases	9,469	10,247	10,745	-778	-1,276

Source: CP4

- At 30 September 2005, over one third (34%) of all people waiting for assessment had been waiting for 6 months or more, similar to the previous quarter (37%) and the corresponding figure at 30 September 2004 (36%).
- Since the end of the previous quarter, the number of people waiting for assessment decreased by 778, with the most significant decrease in those waiting less than 1 month for assessment (-393).

Figure A.2: Persons Waiting for Assessment by Length of Time and according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 30 September 2005)



Source: CP4

- Over a quarter (28%) of priority cases and 37% of other cases had been waiting for assessment for 6 months or more at 30 September 2005.
- Since 30 June 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 30 September 2005

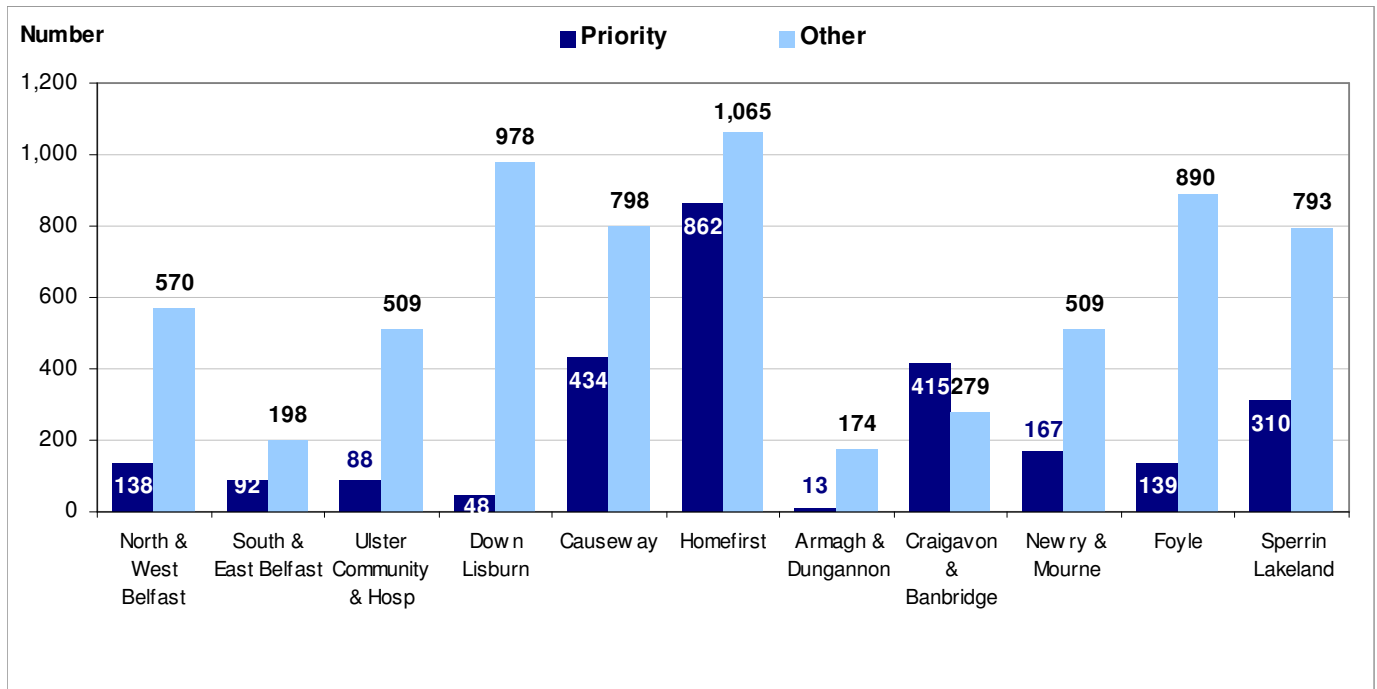
Trust	Priority Cases			Other Cases		
	Total Waiting	Number Waiting 6 Months or More	Percentage Waiting 6 Months or More	Total Waiting	Number Waiting 6 Months or More	Percentage Waiting 6 Months or More
North & West Belfast	138	0	0%	570	48	8%
South & East Belfast	92	0	0%	198	0	0%
Ulster Community & Hos	88	0	0%	509	0	0%
Down Lisburn	48	18	38%	978	425	43%
Causeway	434	139	32%	798	577	72%
Homefirst	862	289	34%	1,065	323	30%
Armagh & Dungannon	13	0	0%	174	9	5%
Craigavon & Banbridge	415	203	49%	279	136	49%
Newry & Mourne	167	0	0%	509	267	52%
Foyle	139	32	23%	890	266	30%
Sperrin Lakeland	310	70	23%	793	447	56%
Northern Ireland	2,706	751	28%	6,763	2,498	37%

Source: CP4

- Across Trusts, Homefirst had the highest number of people waiting for assessment designated priority (862) and other cases (1,065), whilst Armagh & Dungannon had the lowest (13) and (174) respectively.
- At 30 September 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 30 September 2005)



Source: CP4

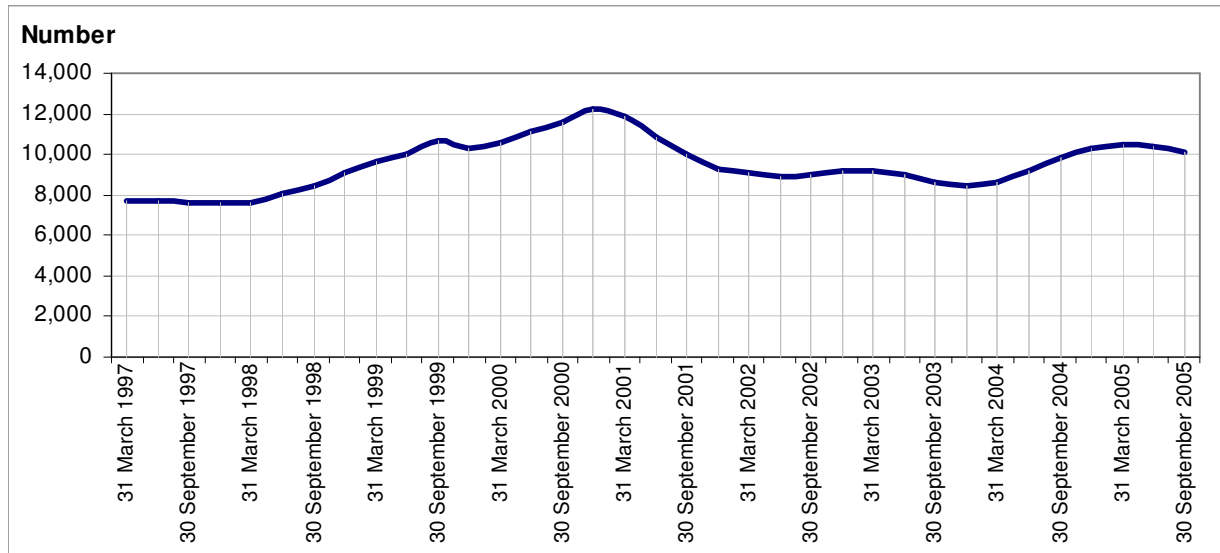
Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

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 30 September 2005 is based

on the average of the figures for the four quarters ending 30 September 2005.

Figure A.4: All Persons Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists (31 March 1997 – 30 September 2005)

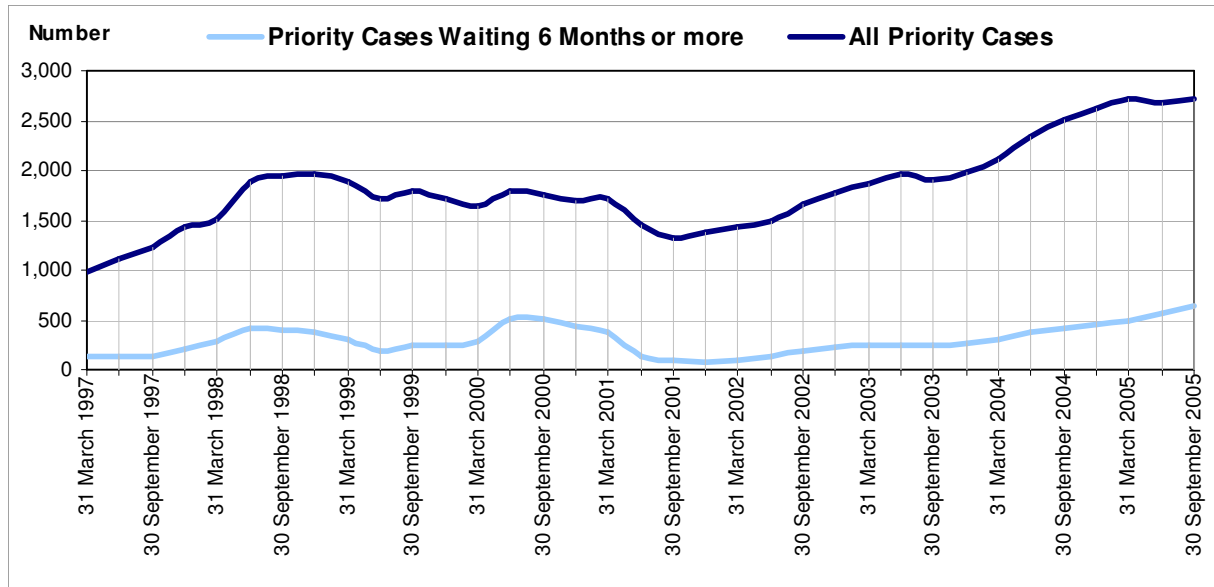


Source: CP4

- 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

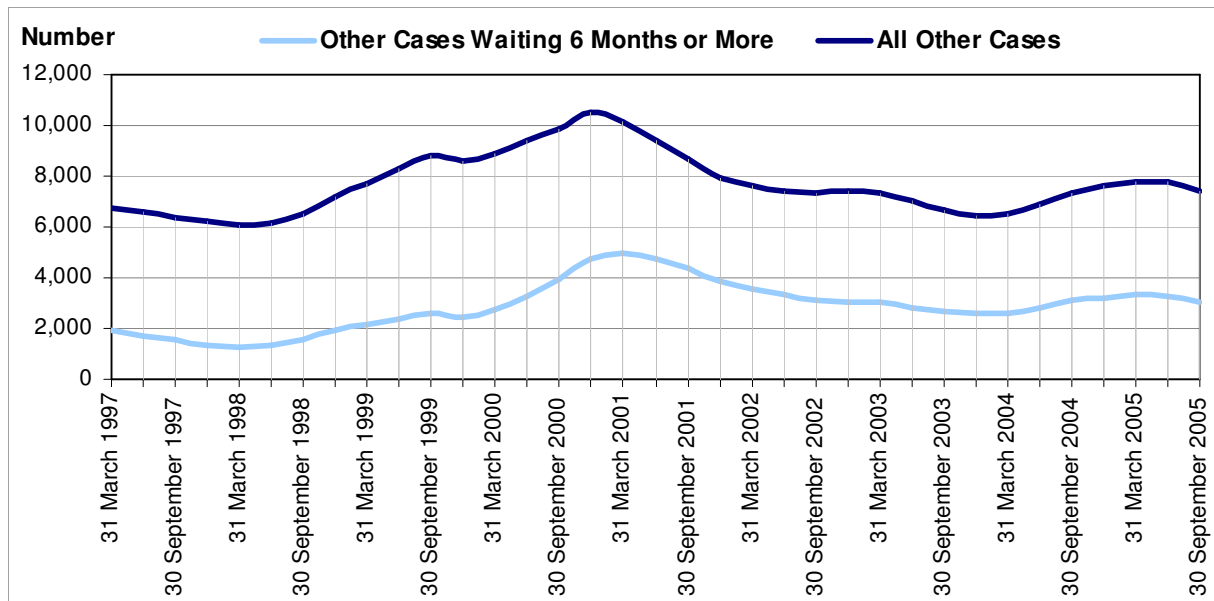
Figure A.5: Priority Cases Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists (31 March 1997 – 30 September 2005)



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 - 30 September 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 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 30 September 2005, is shown in Table B.1.

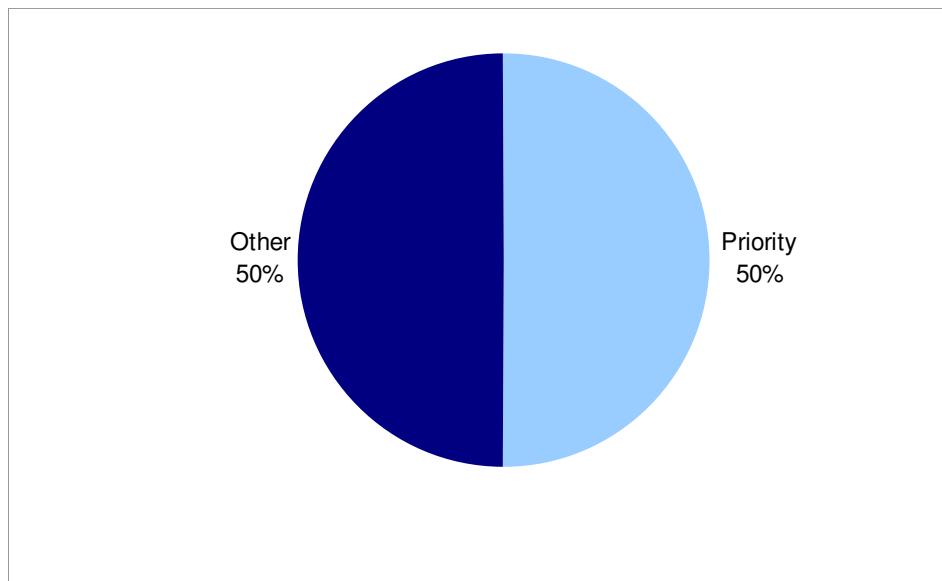
Table B.1: Number of Referrals Received for Assessment by Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2005	30 June 2005	30 September 2004		
Priority Cases	5,945	6,026	6,316	-81	-371
Other Cases	5,977	6,181	6,014	-204	-37
All Referrals	11,922	12,207	12,330	-285	-408

Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2005, there were 11,922 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 285 (2%) from the previous quarter, and 408 (3%) less than the corresponding figure at 30 September 2004.

Figure B.1: Referrals according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 30 September 2005)



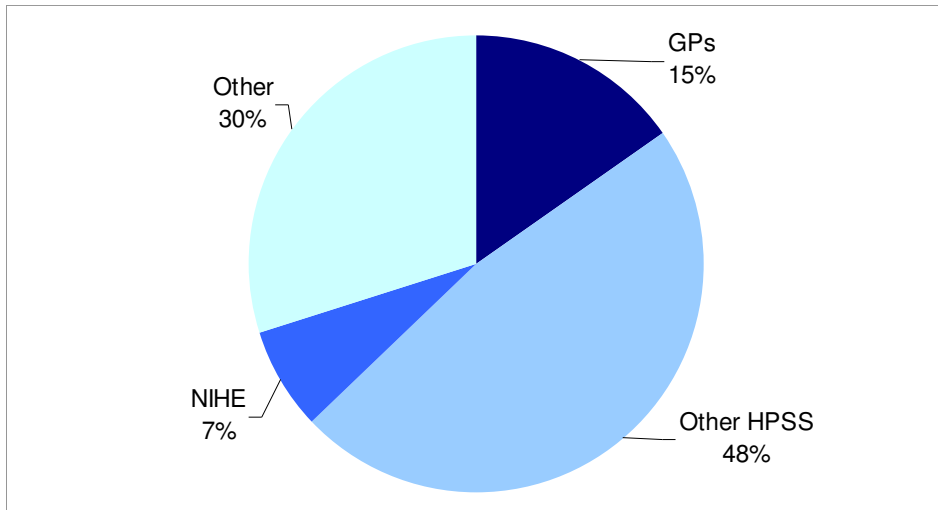
Source: CP4

- Similar proportions of referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were in respect of priority and other cases.

Section B: Referrals for Assessment

Source of Referrals for Assessment

Figure B.2: Source of Referrals for Assessment (Quarter Ending 30 September



2005)

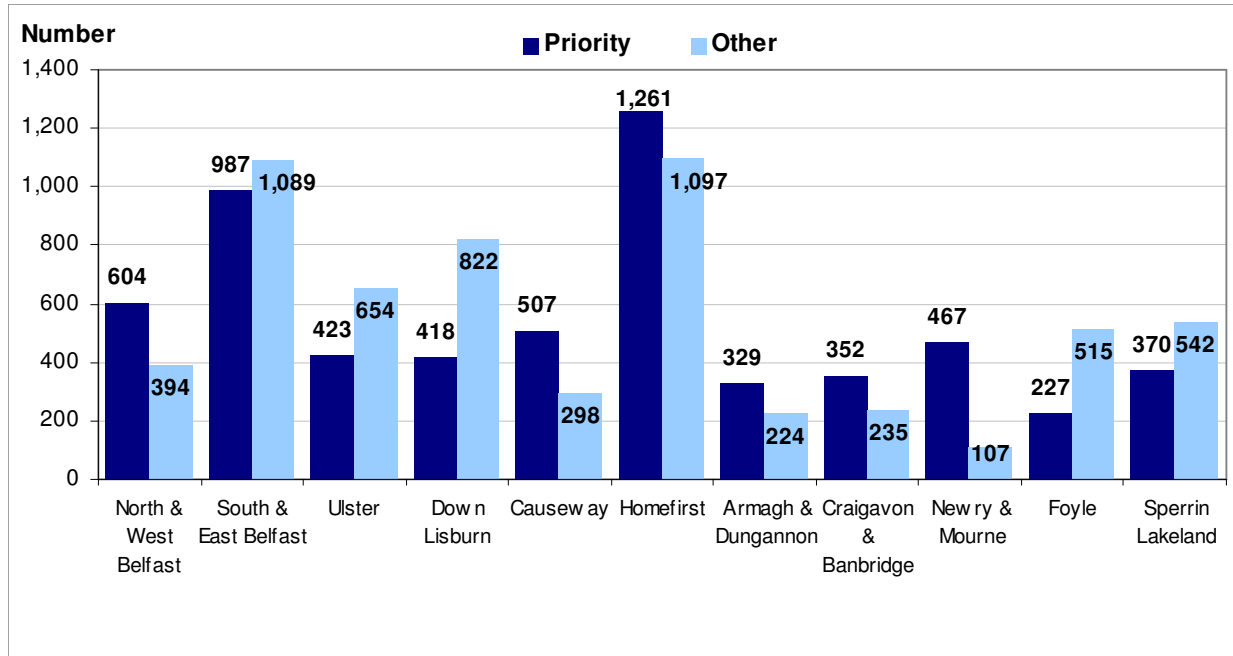
Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2005, over half (48%) of all referrals for assessment by community

occupational therapists were from the HPSS other than GP's, 15% from GP's, 7% from NIHE, and 30% from other sources.

Section B: Referrals for Assessment

Figure B.3: Referrals for Assessment according to Priority and Other Cases by Trust (Quarter Ending 30 September 2005)



Source: CP4

- Homefirst (1,261) had the highest number of priority case referrals for assessment by occupational therapists, whilst Foyle (227) had the lowest. In

terms of other case referrals for assessment, Homefirst (1,097) had the highest and Newry & Mourne (107) 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	
	30 September 2005	30 September 2004	30 September 2003	2004 - 2005	2003 - 2005
Priority Cases	24,393	24,369	23,579	24	814
Other Cases	23,053	23,014	21,345	39	1,708
All Referrals	47,446	47,383	44,924	63	2,522

Source: CP4

- During the year ending 30 September 2005, there were 47,446 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, 2,522 (6%) more than during the year ending 30 September 2003, and 63 (0%) more than during year ending 30 September 2004.
- Since 30 September 2003, the number of referrals for assessment designated as priority cases increased by 814 (3%).

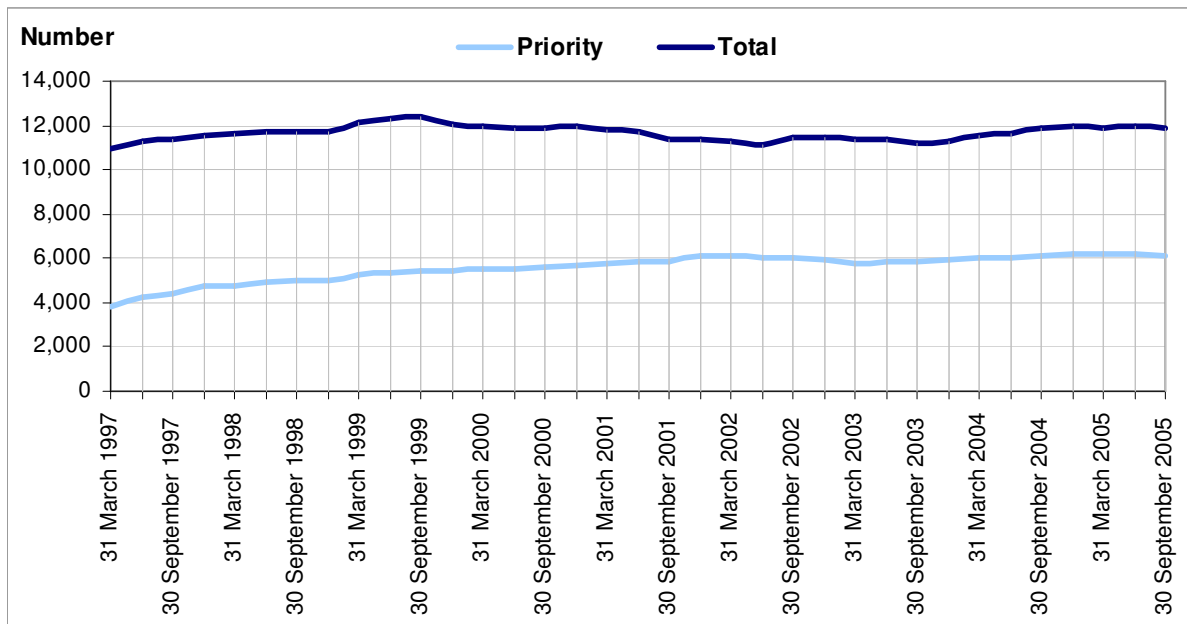
Section B: Referrals for Assessment

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 - 30 September 2005)



Source: CP4

- Between 31 March 1997 and 30 September 2005, the average number of referrals for assessment increased by 9%, from 10,906 in 31 March 1997 to 11,859 30 September 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 30 September 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.

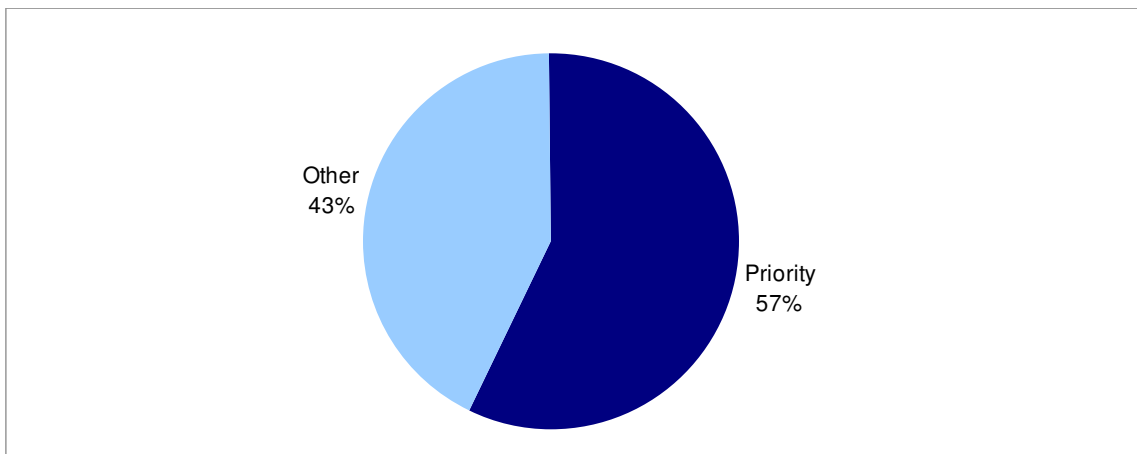
Table C.1: Number of Assessments Commenced by Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2005	30 June 2005	30 September 2004		
Priority Cases	4,834	4,907	6,099	-73	-1,265
Other Cases	3,667	4,124	3,920	-457	-253
All Assessments Commenced	8,501	9,031	10,019	-530	-1,518

Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2005, 8,501 assessments were commenced by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 6% (530) on the number commenced during the previous quarter, and 15% (1,518) less than the number commenced during the same quarter last year.
- During the quarter ending 30 September 2005, a higher proportion of assessments commenced were designated priority cases (57%) than other cases (43%).
- Between the quarters ending 30 June 2005 and 30 September 2005, the number of priority case assessments commenced decreased by 73 (1%), from 4,907 in 30 June 2005 to 4,834 in 30 September 2005, and the number of other case assessments commenced decreased by 457 (11%), from 4,124 in 30 June 2005 to 3,667 in 30 September 2005.

Figure C.1: Assessments Commenced according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 30 September 2005)



Source: CP4

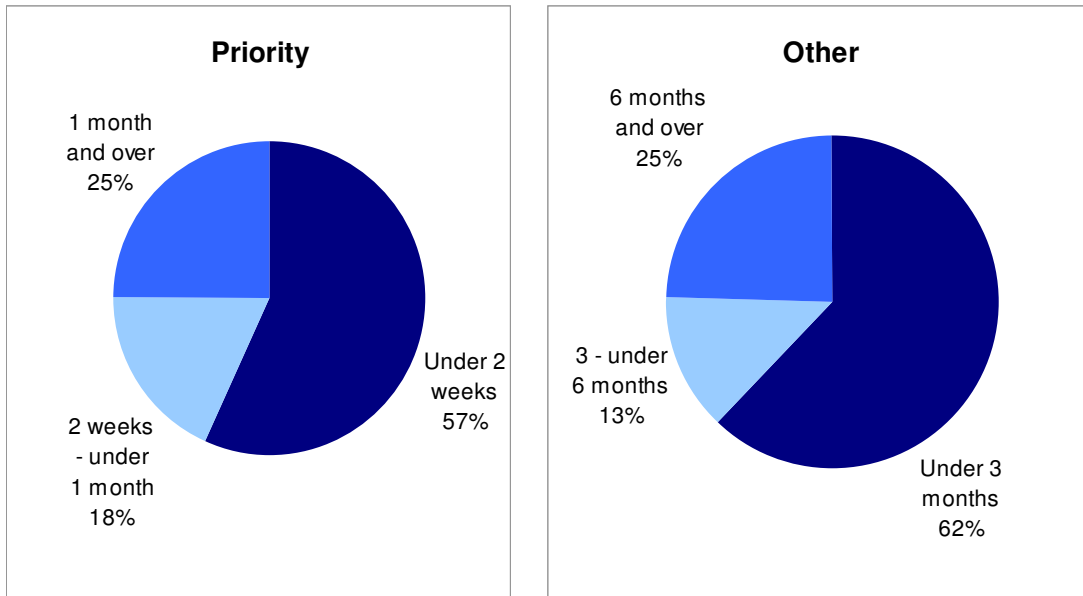
Section C: Assessments Commenced

Number of Assessments Commenced by Time from Referral (30 September 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 30 September 2005)



Source: CP4

- Over half (51%) of assessments in respect of priority cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 2 weeks of the referral, 19% in 2 weeks to 1 month, and 30% in 1 month or more. 61% of assessments in respect of other cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 3 months of the referral, 28% in 6 months or more, and 11% 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
	30 September 2005	30 June 2005	30 September 2004		
Under 2 weeks	2,489	2,781	3,874	-292	-1,385
2 weeks - under 1 month	910	978	870	-68	40
1 month and over	1,435	1,148	1,355	287	80
All Priority Cases	4,834	4,907	6,099	-73	-1,265

Source: CP4

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

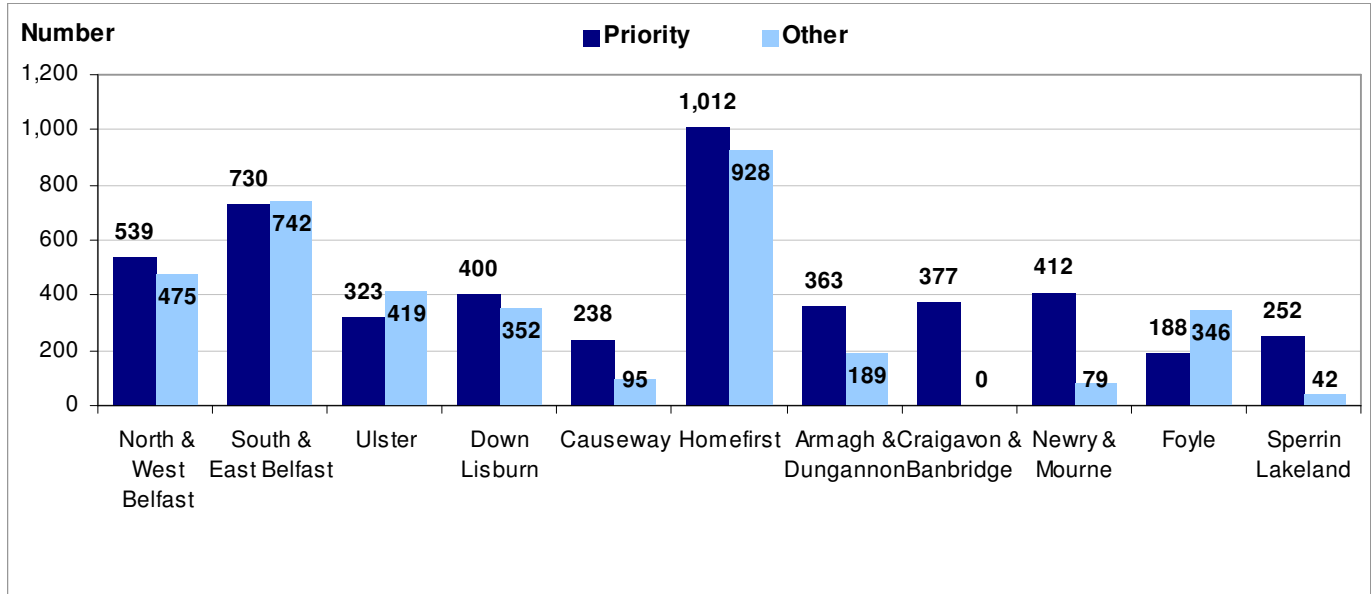
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2005	30 June 2005	30 September 2004		
Under 3 months	2,254	2,775	2,589	-521	-335
3 months - under 6 months	392	441	557	-49	-165
6 months and over	1,021	908	774	113	247
All Other Cases	3,667	4,124	3,920	-457	-253

Source: CP4

Section C: Assessments Commenced

Number of Assessments Commenced by Trust

Figure C.3:- Number of Assessments Commenced by Designation and Trust (30 September 2005)



Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2005, Homefirst (1,012) had the highest number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases, whilst Foyle (188) had the lowest.
- For the same period, Homefirst (928) had the highest number of assessments commenced in respect of other (non-priority) cases, whilst Sperrin Lakeland (42) 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 30 September 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	539	264	49%	475	93	20%
South & East Belfast	730	428	59%	742	705	95%
Ulster	323	199	62%	419	372	89%
Down Lisburn	400	219	55%	352	176	50%
Causeway	238	93	39%	95	24	25%
Homefirst	1,012	618	61%	928	674	73%
Armagh & Dungannon	363	281	77%	189	87	46%
Craigavon & Banbridge	377	219	58%	0	0	-
Newry & Mourne	412	61	15%	79	16	20%
Foyle	188	53	28%	346	85	25%
Sperrin Lakeland	252	54	21%	42	22	52%
Northern Ireland	4,834	2,489	51%	3,667	2,254	61%

Source: CP4

- Armagh & Dungannon (77%) 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) cases, South & East Belfast (95%) had the highest proportion of assessments commenced within 3 months, whilst North & West Belfast and Newry & Mourne each had the lowest (20%).

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:		
	30 September 2005	30 September 2004	30 September 2003
Priority Cases	20,857	22,365	21,994
Other Cases	16,068	15,160	15,325
All Assessments Commenced	36,925	37,525	37,319

Source: CP4

- During the year ending 30 September 2005, 36,925 assessments commenced, 1% (394) less than the number commenced during the year ending 30 September 2003, and 2% (600) less than the number commenced during year ending 30 September 2004.
- Of the 36,925 assessments commenced during this period, more than half (56%) were in respect of priority cases.

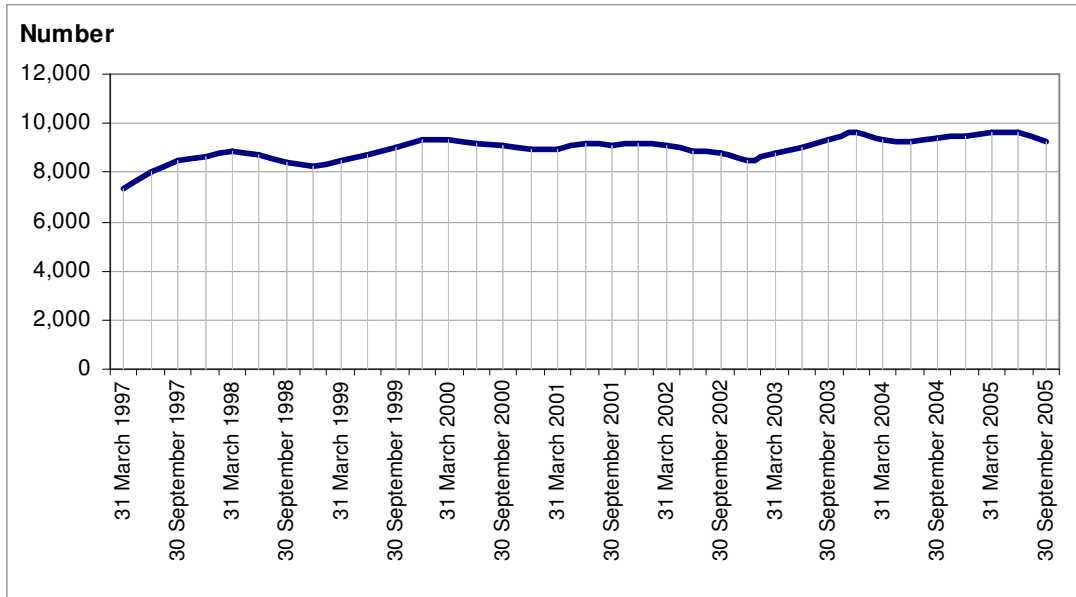
Section C: Assessments Commenced

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 - 30 September 2005)



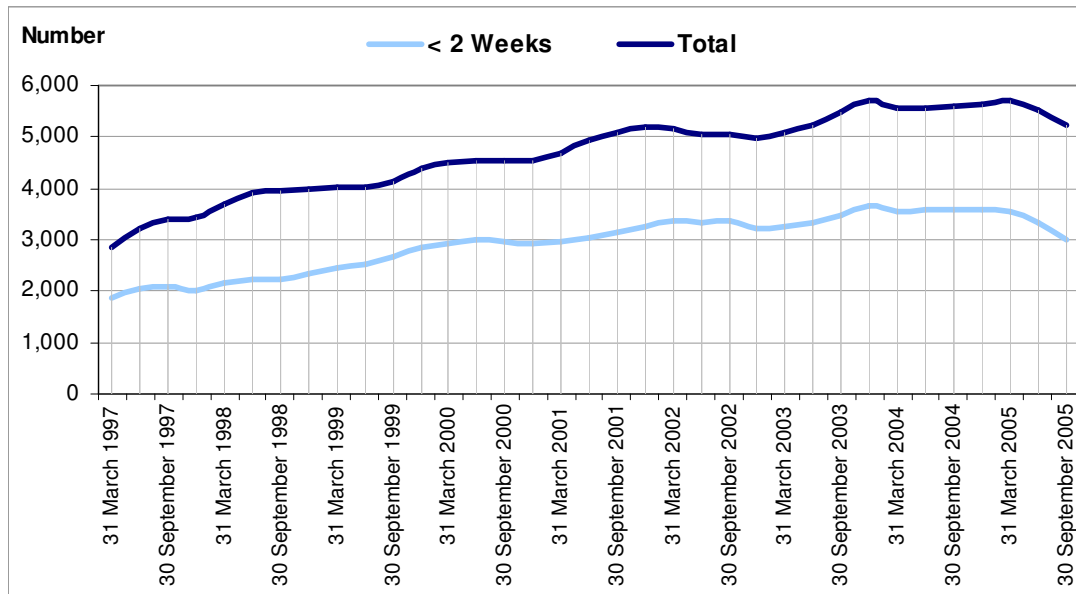
Source: CP4

- Between 31 March 1997 and 30 September 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 – 30 September 2005)

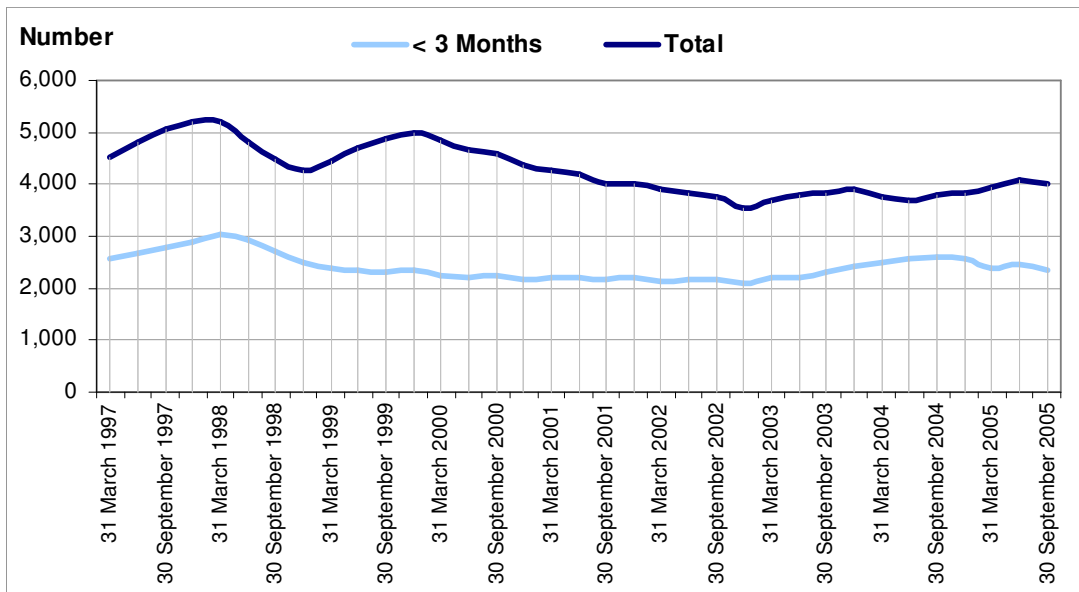


Source: CP4

- 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 30 September 2005. The average number of assessments commenced within 2 weeks increased by 91%, from 1,853 in 31 March 1997 to 3,541 in 30 September 2005.

Section C: Assessments Commenced

Figure C.6: Assessments Commenced in Respect of Other Cases (31 March 1997 – 30 September 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 30 September 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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