



Department of

**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

Assessments by Community Occupational Therapists in Northern Ireland - 31 December 2007

This statistical bulletin presents information on assessments by Occupational Therapists in Northern Ireland for the quarter ending 31 December 2007. 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.

11th March 2008

Theme:

**Assessments by
Community Occupational
Therapists in Northern
Ireland**

Issued by:

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

Contact Person:

Karen Bleakley
(028 905 23299)

Email

Karen.Bleakley@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Internet

http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/stats-cib_pubs.htm

Main Findings

Persons Waiting for Assessment

- At 31 December 2007, 4,718 people were waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists, 1,507 (24%) less than the number waiting at the end of the previous quarter, and 3,129 (40%) 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 2007, 1,346 (29%) were priority cases and 3,372 (71%) were other cases.
- Since 30 September 2007, the number of priority cases waiting for assessment decreased by 266 (17%), whilst the number of other (non-priority) cases decreased by 1,241 (27%).
- Over the last year from 31 December 2006, the number of priority cases waiting assessment decreased by 384 (22%), and the number of other cases decreased by 2,745 (45%).
- Over three-quarters (76%) of priority cases and over two-thirds (67%) of other cases had been waiting less than 3 months for assessment at 31 December 2007.
- Since 31 December 2006, the proportion of priority cases waiting 6 months or more for assessment decreased by 17 percentage points.
- Since 30 June 1998, the number of people waiting for assessment has decreased by 24%, from 8,056 at 30 June 1998 to 6,149 at 31 December 2007.

Referrals for Assessment

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2007 there were 11,564 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, 849 (7%) less than during the previous quarter, and 465 (4%) less than the corresponding figure at 31 December 2006.
- During the quarter ending 31 December 2007, 15% of all referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were from GP's, 6% from NIHE, 55% from the other HPSS sources and 24% from other sources.
- Between 30 June 1998 and 31 December 2007, the average number of referrals for assessment increased by 8%, from 11,669 at 30 June 1998 to 12,552 at 31 December 2007.

Assessments Commenced

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2007, 10,491 assessments were commenced by community occupational therapists, 615 (6%) more than the number commenced during the previous quarter and 684 (7%) more than the number commenced during the same quarter last year.
- Three fifths (60%) of assessments in respect of priority cases commenced within 2 weeks of the referral, 17% in 2 weeks to 1 month, and 24% in 1 month or more.
- Over two thirds (70%) of assessments in respect of other cases commenced within 3 months of the referral, 12% in 3 to 6 months, and 18% in 6 months or more.
- Between 30 June 1998 and 31 December 2007, the average number of assessments commenced has increased by 19%, from 8,734 to 10,422.

Contents

	Page
Section A: Persons Waiting For Assessment	1
Number of Persons Waiting for Assessment.....	1
Length of Time Waiting.....	3
Number Waiting by Trust.....	5
Trends.....	7
Section B: Referrals for Assessment	9
Number of Referrals for Assessment.....	9
Source of Referrals.....	10
Number of Referrals during Year.....	12
Trends.....	13
Section C: Assessments Commenced	14
Number of Assessments Commenced.....	14
Length of Time from Referral.....	15
Assessments Commenced by Trust.....	17
Number of Assessments Commenced during Year.....	19
Trends.....	20
Technical Notes.....	23
Additional Information.....	24

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

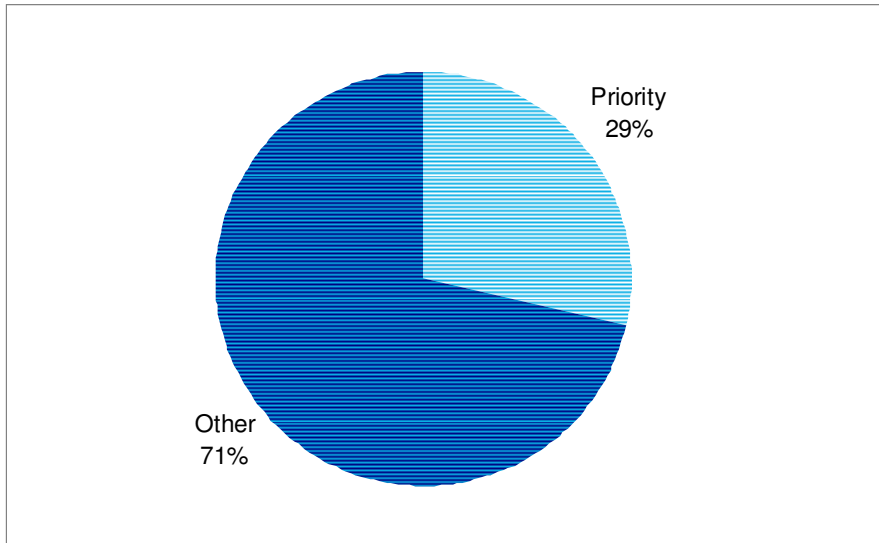
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 December 2007	30 September 2007	31 December 2006		
Priority Cases	1,346	1,612	1,730	-266	-384
Other Cases	3,372	4,613	6,117	-1,241	-2,745
All Persons Waiting	4,718	6,225	7,847	-1,507	-3,129

Source: CP4

- At 31 December 2007, 4,718 people were waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists, 1,507 (24%) less than the number waiting at the end of the previous quarter, and 3,129 (40%) 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 2007, 1,346 (29%) were priority cases and 3,372 (71%) were other cases.
- Since 30 September 2007, the number of priority cases waiting for assessment decreased by 266 (17%), whilst the number of other (non-priority) cases decreased by 1,241 (27%).
- Over the last year from 31 December 2006, the number of priority cases waiting assessment decreased by 384 (22%), and the number of other cases decreased by 2,745 (45%).

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 2007)



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 2007	30 September 2007	31 December 2006		
Under 1 month	513	744	465	-231	48
1 month - under 3 months	507	569	547	-62	-40
3 months - under 6 months	235	232	298	3	-63
6 months and over	91	67	420	24	-329
All Priority Cases	1,346	1,612	1,730	-266	-384

Source: CP4

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

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 December 2007	30 September 2007	31 December 2006		
Under 1 month	974	1,258	904	-284	70
1 month - under 3 months	1,285	1,246	1,534	39	-249
3 months - under 6 months	792	1,295	1,356	-503	-564
6 months and over	321	814	2,323	-493	-2,002
All Other Cases	3,372	4,613	6,117	-1,241	-2,745

Source: CP4

Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

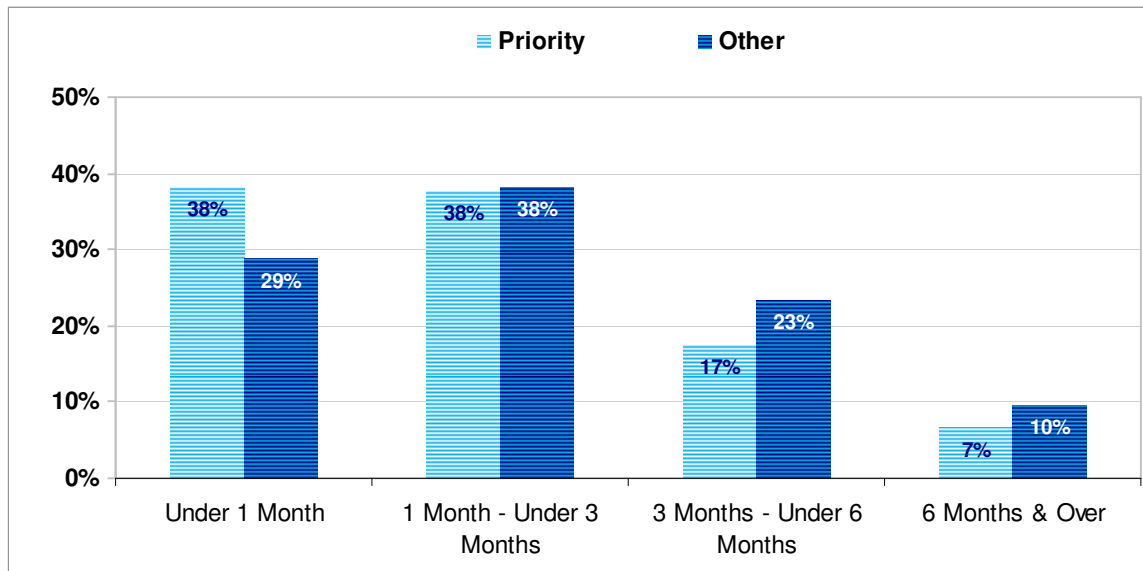
Table A.2 (c): All Cases Waiting for Assessment by Time Waiting and Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 December 2007	30 September 2007	31 December 2006		
Under 1 month	1,487	2,002	1,369	-515	118
1 month - under 3 months	1,792	1,815	2,081	-23	-289
3 months - under 6 months	1,027	1,527	1,654	-500	-627
6 months and over	412	881	2,743	-469	-2,331
All Cases	4,718	6,225	7,847	-1,507	-3,129

Source: CP4

- At 31 December 2007, 412 (9%) people waiting for assessment had been waiting for more than 6 months, compared with 881 (14%) at the end of the previous quarter and 2,743 (35%) at 31 December 2006.

Figure A.2: Persons Waiting for Assessment by Length of Time and according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 31 December 2007)



Source: CP4

- Over three-quarters (76%) of priority cases and over two-thirds (67%) of other cases had been waiting less than 3 months for assessment at 31 December 2007.
- Since 31 December 2006, the proportion of priority cases waiting 6 months or more for assessment decreased by 17 percentage points.

Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

Persons Waiting for Assessment by HSC Trust

Table A.3 shows, for each HSC 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 HSC Trust at 31 December 2007

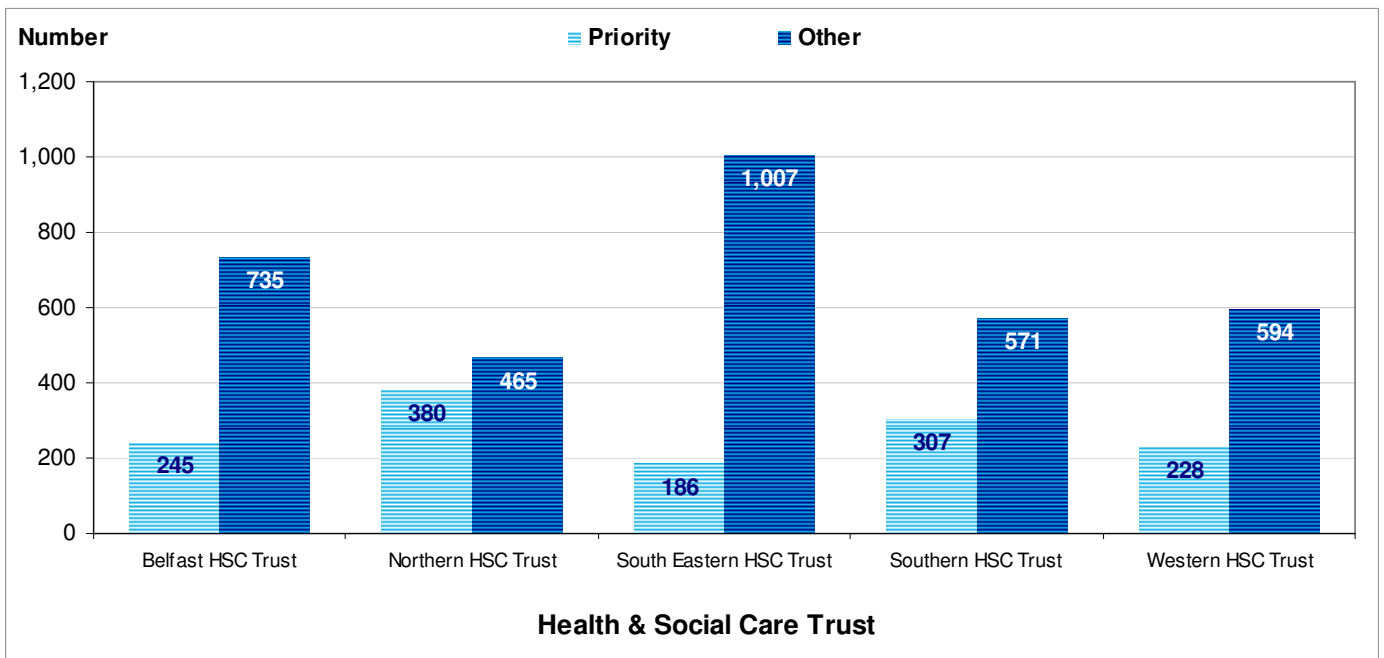
Trust	Priority Cases			Other Cases		
	Total Waiting	Number Waiting 6 Months or More	Percentage Waiting 6 Months or More	Total Waiting	Number Waiting 6 Months or More	Percentage Waiting 6 Months or More
Belfast HSC Trust	245	0	0%	735	0	0%
Northern HSC Trust	380	27	7%	465	18	4%
South Eastern HSC Trust	186	9	5%	1,007	89	9%
Southern HSC Trust	307	18	6%	571	132	23%
Western HSC Trust	228	37	16%	594	82	14%
Northern Ireland	1,346	91	7%	3,372	321	10%

Source: CP4

- Across HSS Trusts, the Northern HSC Trust had the highest number of people waiting for assessment designated priority (380), whilst the South Eastern HSC Trust had the highest number waiting assessment for other cases (1,007).
- At 31 December 2007, the Western HSC Trust had the highest proportion of priority cases (16%) waiting 6 months or more for assessment, whilst no priority cases waited 6 months or more in the Belfast HSC Trust.

Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

Figure A.3: Persons Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists by HSC Trust and according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter ending 31 December 2007)



Source: CP4

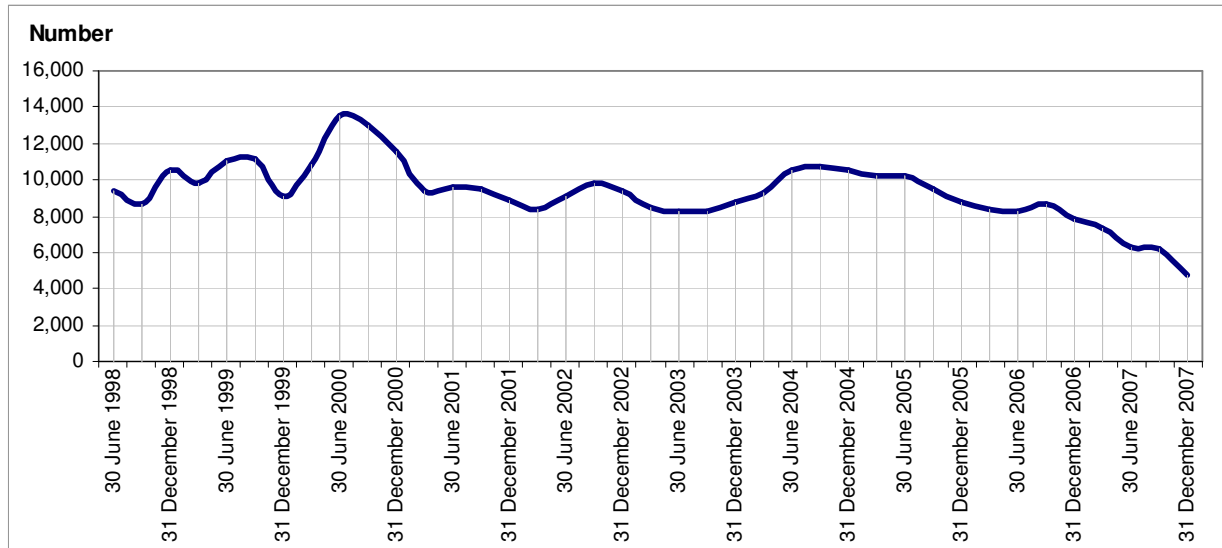
Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

Persons Waiting for Assessment Since 30 June 1998

The trends described in this section are based on the averages of figures for four quarters. For example, the figure for 31 December 2007 is based on the average number of persons

waiting for assessment for the four quarters ending 31 December 2007 (31 March 2007, 30 June 2007, 30 September 2007 and 31 December 2007).

Figure A.4: All Persons Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists (30 June 1998 – 31 December 2007)

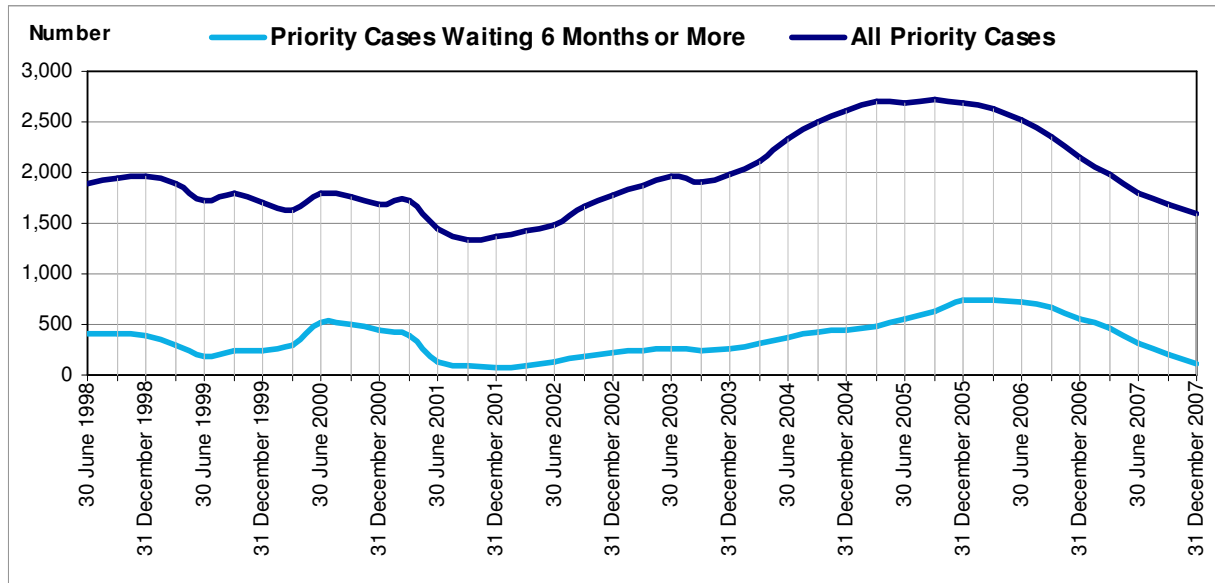


Source: CP4

- Since 30 June 1998, the number of people waiting for assessment has decreased by 24%, from 8,056 at 30 June 1998 to 6,149 at 31 December 2007.
- Between 30 June 1998 and 31 December 2007, 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 6,149 at 31 December 2007.

Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

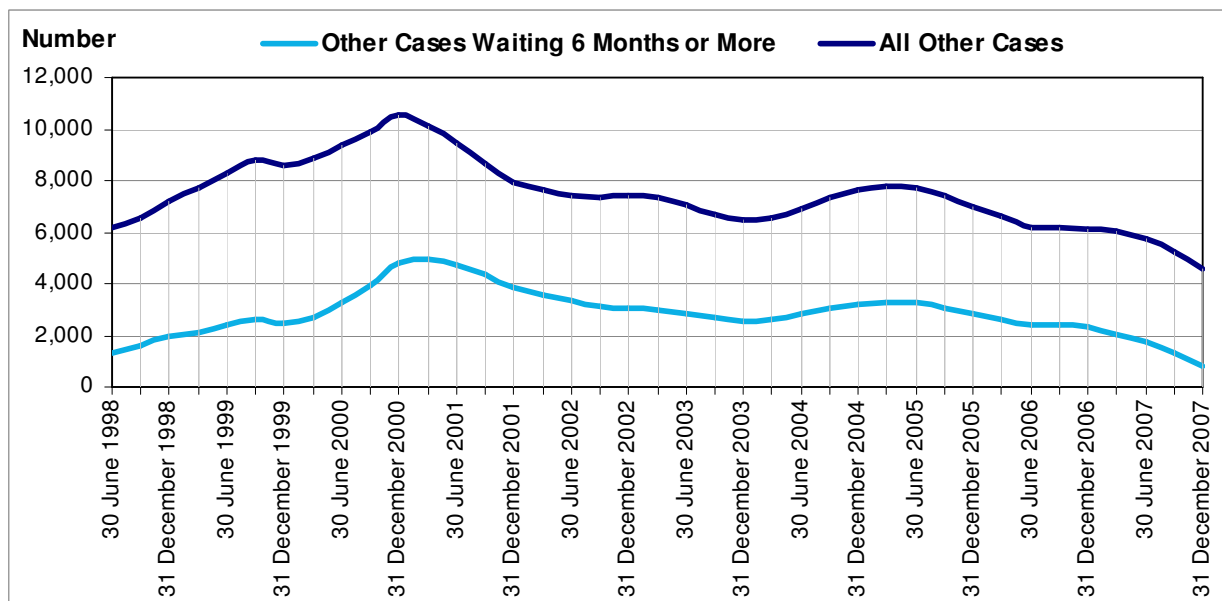
Figure A.5: Priority Cases Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists (30 June 1998 – 31 December 2007)



Source: CP4

- Since 30 June 1998, the number of people waiting for assessment has decreased by 15%, from 1,882 at 30 June 1998 to 1,594 at 31 December 2007.

Figure A.6: Other Cases Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists (30 June 1998 – 31 December 2007)



Source: CP4

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 December 2007, is shown in Table B.1.

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

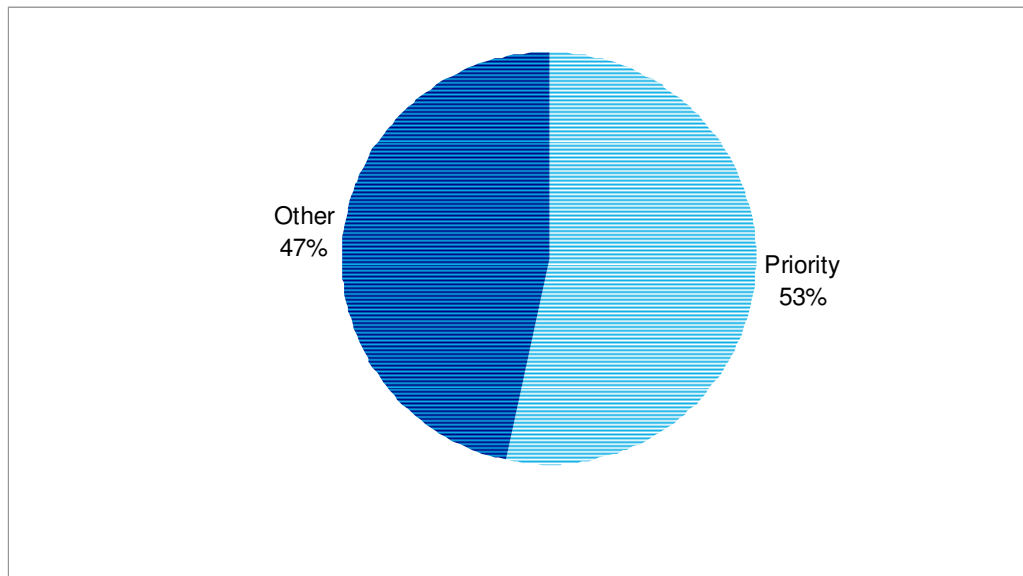
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 December 2007	30 September 2007	31 December 2006		
Priority Cases	6,157	6,378	6,033	-221	124
Other Cases	5,407	6,035	5,996	-628	-589
All Referrals	11,564	12,413	12,029	-849	-465

Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2007 there were 11,564 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, 849 (7%) less than

 during the previous quarter, and 465 (4%) less than the corresponding figure at 31 December 2006.

Figure B.1: Referrals according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 31 December 2007)

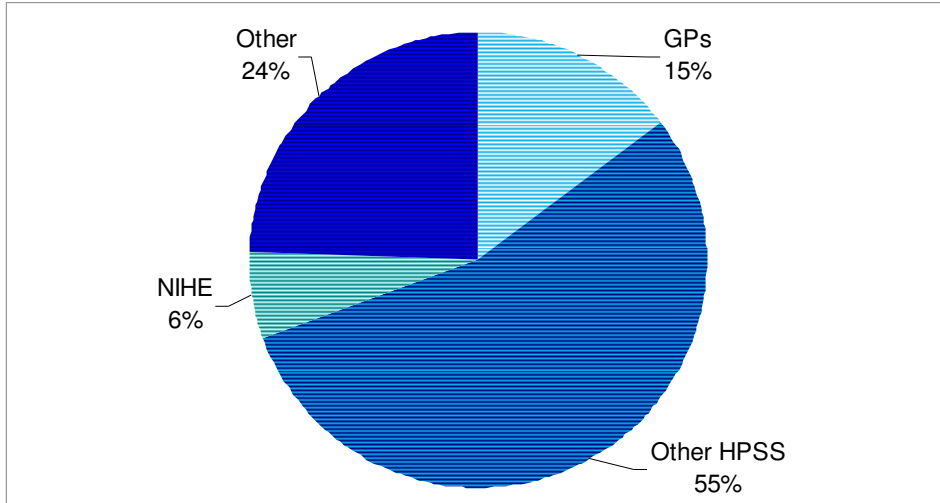


Source: CP4

Section B: Referrals for Assessment

Source of Referrals for Assessment

Figure B.2: Source of Referrals for Assessment (Quarter Ending 31 December 2007)

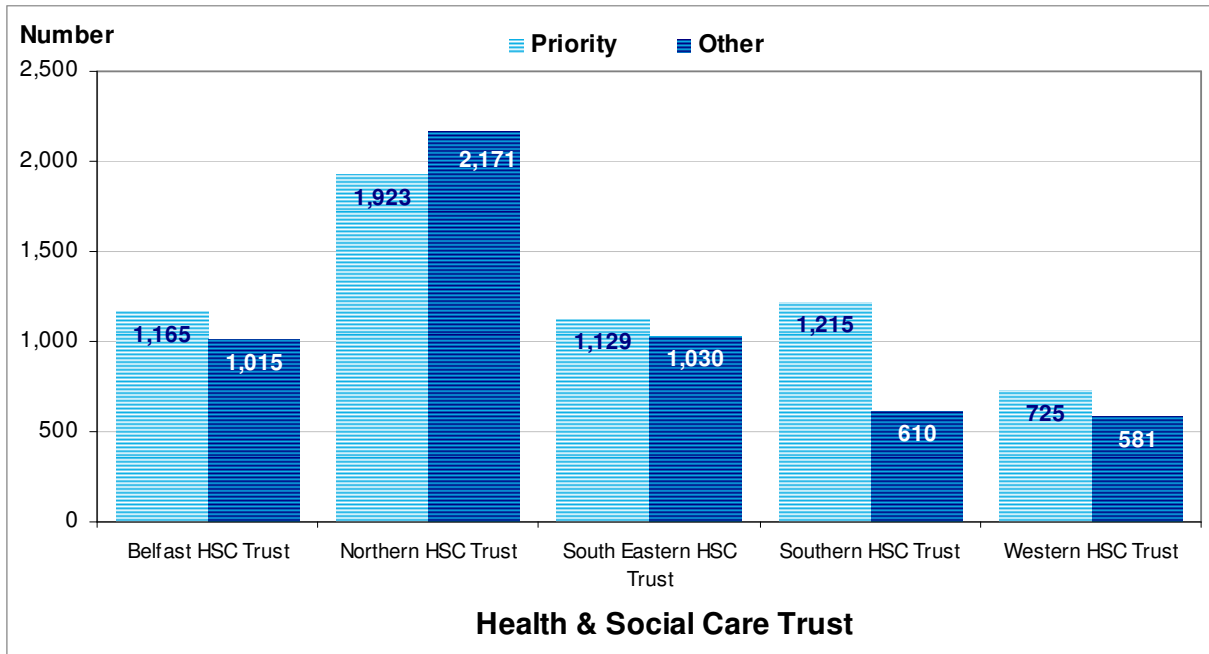


Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2007, 15% of all referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were from GP's, 6% from NIHE, 55% from the other HPSS sources and 24% from other sources.

Section B: Referrals for Assessment

Figure B.3: Referrals for Assessment according to Priority and Other Cases by HSC Trust (Quarter Ending 31 December 2007)



Source: CP4

- The Northern HSC Trust had the highest number (1,923) of priority case referrals for assessment by occupational therapists, whilst the Western HSC Trust had the lowest (725).
- In terms of other case referrals for assessment, the Northern HSC Trust had the highest number (2,171) and the Western HSC Trust the lowest (581).

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 for Assessment Received during Year Ending 31 December (2005 - 2007)

	Year Ending			Change	
	31 December 2007	31 December 2006	31 December 2005	2006 - 2007	2005 - 2007
Priority Cases	25,678	24,236	24,021	1,442	1,657
Other Cases	24,530	22,603	23,281	1,927	1,249
All Referrals	50,208	46,839	47,302	3,369	2,906

Source: CP4

- During the year ending 31 December 2007, there were 50,208 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, 3,369 more than during year ending 31 December 2006, and 2,906 more than during the year ending 31 December 2005.
- Since 31 December 2005, the number of referrals for assessment designated as priority cases increased by 1,657.

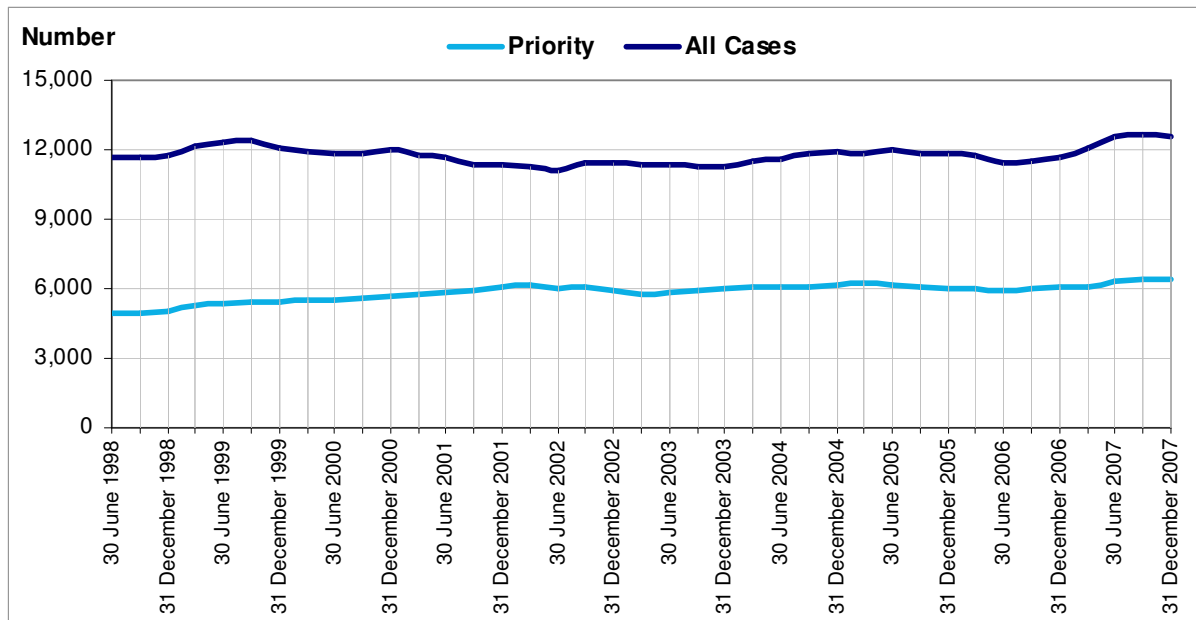
Section B: Referrals for Assessment

Referrals for Assessment Since 30 June 1998

The trends reported in this section are based on the average number of referrals for assessment for four quarters, i.e. data for 31 December 2007 is based on the average number

of referrals for the four quarters ending 31 December 2007 (31 March 2007, 30 June 2007, 30 September 2007 and 31 December 2007).

Figure B.4: Referrals for Assessment according to Priority and Other Cases (30 June 1998 – 31 December 2007)



Source: CP4

- Between 30 June 1998 and 31 December 2007, the average number of referrals for assessment increased by 8%, from 11,669 at 30 June 1998 to 12,552 at 31 December 2007.
- During this period, the average number of referrals for assessment designated as priority cases increased by 30%, from 4,928 at 30 June 1998 to 6,420 at 31 December 2007.

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.

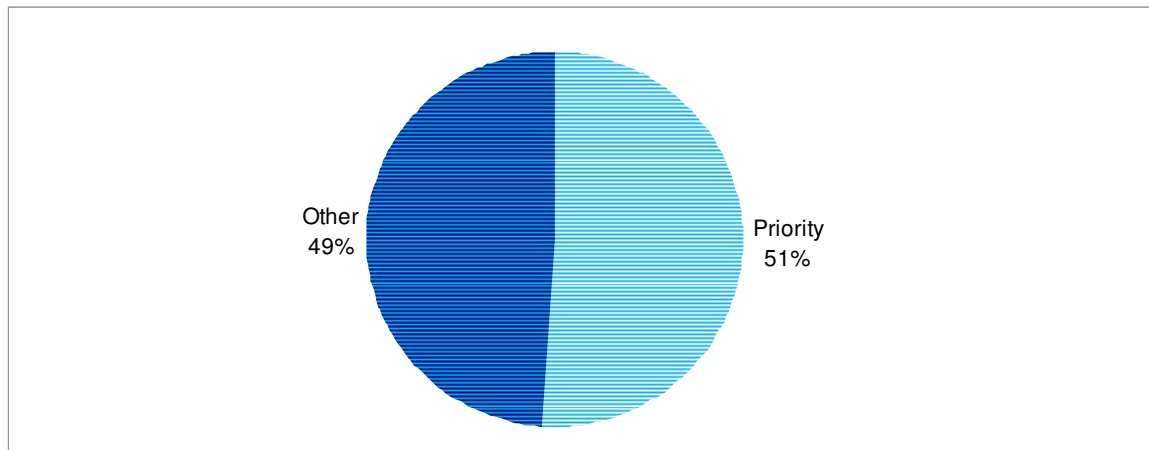
Table C.1: Number of Assessments Commenced by Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 December 2007	30 September 2007	31 December 2006		
Priority Cases	5,353	5,479	5,360	-126	-7
Other Cases	5,138	4,397	4,447	741	691
All Assessments Commenced	10,491	9,876	9,807	615	684

Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2007, 10,491 assessments were commenced by community occupational therapists, 615 (6%) more than the number commenced during the previous quarter and 684 (7%) more than the number commenced during the same quarter last year.
- Between the quarters ending 30 September 2007 and 31 December 2007, the number of priority case assessments commenced decreased by 126 (2%), from 5,479 at 30 September 2007 to 5,353 at 31 December 2007, whilst the number of other case assessments commenced increased by 741 (17%), from 4,397 at 30 September 2007 to 5,138 at 31 December 2007.
- During the quarter ending 31 December 2007, a higher proportion of assessments commenced were designated priority cases (51%) than other cases (49%).

Figure C.1: Assessments Commenced according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter ending 31 December 2007)



Source: CP4

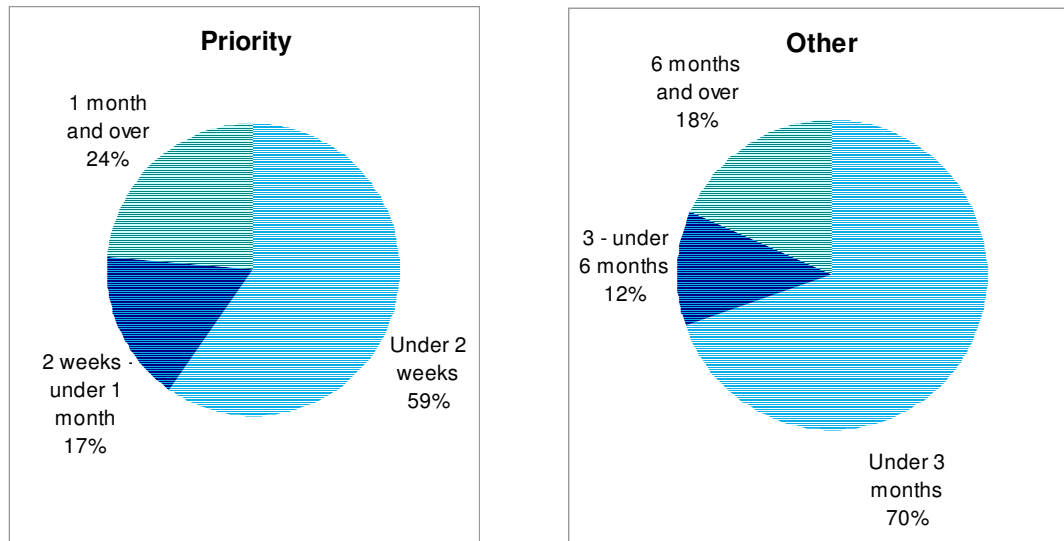
Section C: Assessments Commenced

Number of Assessments Commenced by Time from Referral

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 2007)



Source: CP4

- Three fifths (60%) of assessments in respect of priority cases commenced within 2 weeks of the referral, 17% in 2 weeks to 1 month, and 24% in 1 month or more.
- Over two thirds (70%) of assessments in respect of other cases commenced within 3 months of the referral, 12% in 3 to 6 months, and 18% in 6 months or more.

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

(a) Priority Cases

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 December 2007	30 September 2007	31 December 2006		
Under 2 weeks	3,191	3,277	2,833	-86	358
2 weeks - under 1 month	894	1,019	846	-125	48
1 month and over	1,268	1,183	1,681	85	-413

Source: CP4

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

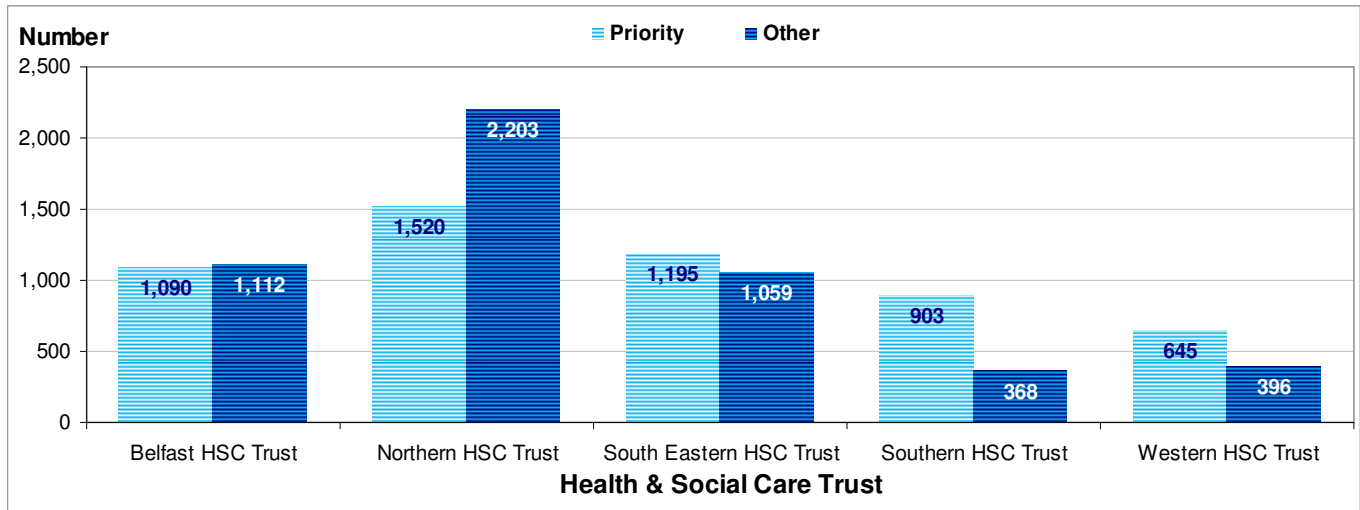
(b) Other Cases					
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	31 December 2007	30 September 2007	31 December 2006		
Under 3 months	3,583	3,104	2,768	479	815
3 months - under 6 months	611	645	647	-34	-36
6 months and over	944	648	1,032	296	-88

Source: CP4

Section C: Assessments Commenced

Number of Assessments Commenced by HSC Trust

Figure C.3: Number of Assessments Commenced by Designation and HSC Trust (Quarter ending 31 December 2007)



Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 31 December 2007, the Northern HSC Trust (1,520) had the highest number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases, whilst the Western HSC Trust (645) had the lowest.
- For the same period, the Northern HSC Trust (2,203) had the highest number of assessments commenced in respect of other (non-priority) cases.

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.

Table C.4: Number of Assessments Commenced by HSC Trust, Designation and Time from Referral (Quarter ending 31 December 2007)

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
Belfast HSC Trust	1,090	731	67%	1,112	909	82%
Northern HSC Trust	1,520	962	63%	2,203	1,943	88%
South Eastern HSC Trust	1,195	579	48%	1,059	385	36%
Southern HSC Trust	903	638	71%	368	161	44%
Western HSC Trust	645	281	44%	396	185	47%
Northern Ireland	5,353	3,191	60%	5,138	3,583	70%

Source: CP4

- In respect of priority cases the proportions of assessments commencing within 2 weeks in HSC Trusts, ranged from 44% in the Western HSC Trust to 71% in the Southern HSC Trust.
- For non-priority (other) cases, the proportion of assessments commencing within 3 months ranged from 36% in the South Eastern HSC Trust to 88% in the Northern HSC Trust.

Section C: Assessments Commenced

Number of Assessments Commenced 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 31 December 2007, including a comparison with the previous two years.

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

	Year Ending:			Change Since 31 December 2006	Change Since 31 December 2005
	31 December 2007	31 December 2006	31 December 2005		
Priority Cases	22,368	22,068	20,274	300	2,094
Other Cases	19,318	16,135	16,099	3,183	3,219
All Assessments Commenced	41,686	38,203	36,373	3,483	5,313

Source: CP4

- During the year ending 31 December 2007, 41,686 assessments commenced, 9% (3,483) more than the number commenced during year ending 31 December 2006, and 15% (5,313) more than the number commenced during the year ending 31 December 2005.
- Of the 41,686 assessments commenced during this period, the majority (54%) were in respect of priority cases.

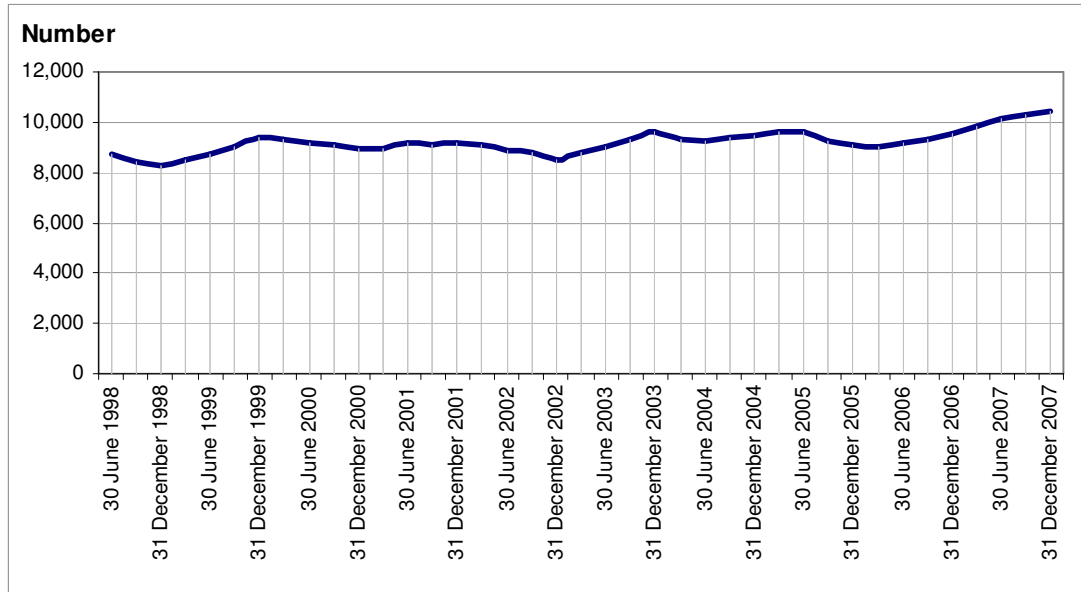
Section C: Assessments Commenced

Assessments Commenced Since 30 June 1998

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 2007 is based on the average number

of referrals for the four quarters up to and including 31 December 2007 (31 March 2007, 30 June 2007, 30 September 2007 and 31 December 2007).

Figure C.4: Assessments Commenced (30 June 1998 - 31 December 2007)

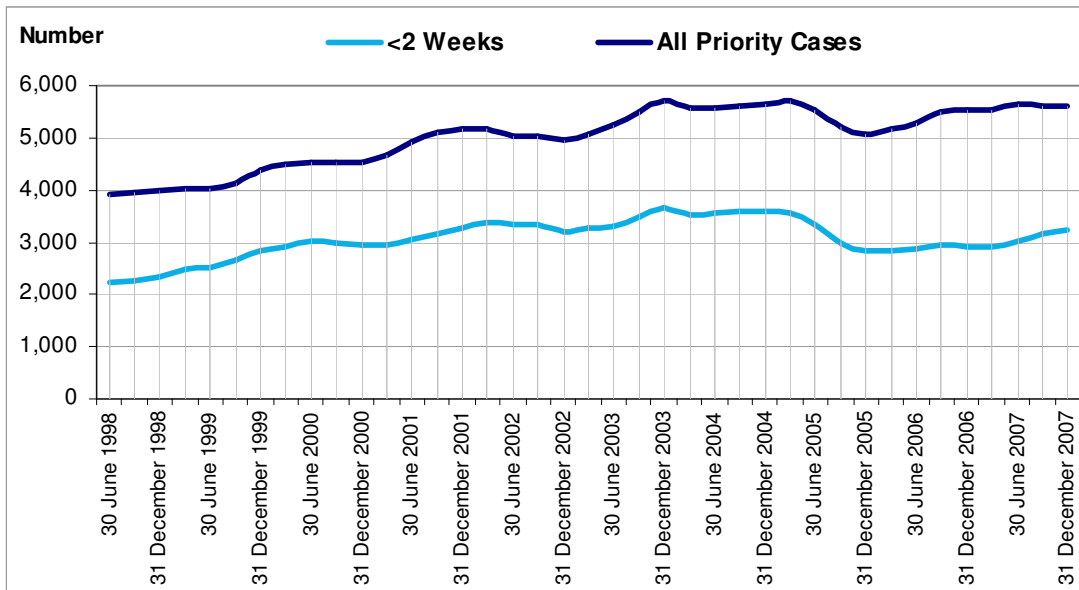


Source: CP4

- Between 30 June 1998 and 31 December 2007, the average number of assessments commenced has increased by 19%, from 8,734 to 10,422.

Section C: Assessments Commenced

Figure C.5: Assessments Commenced in Respect of Priority Cases (30 June 1998 - 31 December 2007)

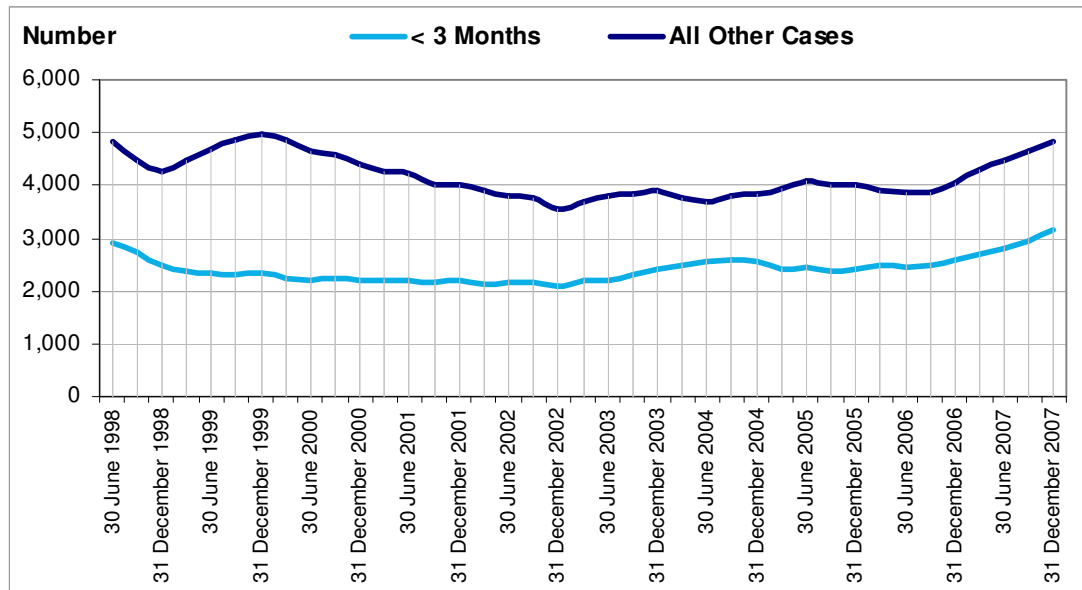


Source: CP4

- Since 30 June 1998, the average number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases, has increased by 43%, from 3,915 in 30 June 1998 to 5,592 in 31 December 2007.
- The average number of priority case assessments commenced within 2 weeks increased by 46%, from 2,226 in 30 June 1998 to 3,247 in 31 December 2007.

Section C: Assessments Commenced

Figure C.6: Assessments Commenced in Respect of Other Cases (30 June 1998 - 31 December 2007)



Source: CP4

- The average number of assessments commenced in respect of other cases ranged from 4,819 at 30 June 1998 to 4,830 at 31 December 2007.
- During the same period, the average number of other case assessments commenced within 3 months of referral, increased by 8%, from 2,916 at 30 June 1998 to 3,149 at 31 December 2007.

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 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.
8. The source of the information is the quarterly return CP4.
9. In accordance with the Review of Public Administration with effect from the 1st April 2007, five new integrated Health and social Care Trusts (Belfast, Northern, South Eastern, Southern, and Western) replaced the previous eighteen provider Trusts in Northern Ireland. Where applicable tables have been presented based on the new Trust Areas.
10. 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:

Karen Bleakley

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



(028) 90 523299

FAX: (028) 90 523288

EMAIL: Karen.Bleakley@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Additional Copies of this statistical bulletin, are available by contacting:

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



(028) 90 523299

FAX: (028) 90 523288

EMAIL: CIB@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Alternatively, this statistical bulletin and other statistical bulletins published by Community Information Branch (CIB) are available to download free from the internet at:

Internet address: http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/stats_research/stats-cib/stats-cib_pubs.htm