



Department of

**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

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Assessments by Community Occupational Therapists in Northern Ireland - 30 September 2007

This statistical bulletin presents information on assessments by Occupational Therapists in Northern Ireland for the quarter ending 30 September 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.

11 February 2008

Theme:

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

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Main Findings

Persons Waiting for Assessment

- At 30 September 2007, 6,225 people were waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists, 84 (1%) less than the number waiting at the end of the previous quarter, and 2,440 (28%) 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 2007, 1,612 (26%) were priority cases and 4,613 (74%) were other cases.
- Since 30 June 2007, the number of priority cases waiting for assessment decreased by 27 (2%), and the number of other (non-priority) cases decreased by 57 (1%).
- Over the last year from 30 September 2006, the number of priority cases waiting assessment decreased by 426 (21%), and the number of other cases decreased by 2,014 (30%).
- Over 8 in 10 (81%) priority cases and 54% of other cases had been waiting less than 3 months for assessment at 30 September 2007.
- Since 30 September 2006, the proportion of priority cases waiting 6 months or more for assessment decreased by 21 percentage points.
- Since 31 March 1998, the number of people waiting for assessment has decreased by 9%, from 7,586 at 31 March 1998 to 6,932 at 30 September 2007.

Referrals for Assessment

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2007 there were 12,413 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, 748 (6%) less than during the previous quarter, and 289 (2%) more than the corresponding figure at 30 September 2006.
- During the quarter ending 30 September 2007, 14% of all referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were from GP's, 6% from NIHE, 53% from the other HPSS sources, and 27% from other sources.
- Between 31 March 1998 and 30 September 2007, the average number of referrals for assessment increased by 9%, from 11,596 in 31 March 1998 to 12,668 at 30 September 2007.

Assessments Commenced

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2007, 9,876 assessments were commenced by community occupational therapists, 629 (6%) less than the number commenced during the previous quarter and 551 (6%) more than the number commenced during the same quarter last year.
- Over half (60%) of assessments in respect of priority cases commenced within 2 weeks of the referral, 19% in 2 weeks to 1 month, and 22% in 1 month or more.
- Over two thirds (71%) of assessments in respect of other cases commenced within 3 months of the referral, 15% in 3 to 6 months, and 15% in 6 months or more.
- Between 31 March 1998 and 30 September 2007, the average number of assessments commenced has increased by 15%, from 8,878 to 10,251.

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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

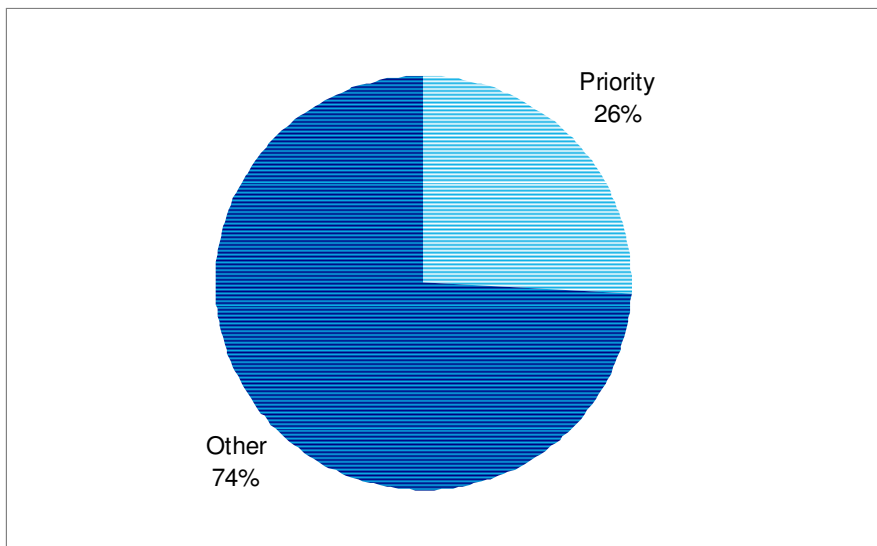
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2007	30 June 2007	30 September 2006		
Priority Cases	1,612	1,639	2,038	-27	-426
Other Cases	4,613	4,670	6,627	-57	-2,014
All Persons Waiting	6,225	6,309	8,665	-84	-2,440

Source: CP4

- At 30 September 2007, 6,225 people were waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists, 84 (1%) less than the number waiting at the end of the previous quarter, and 2,440 (28%) 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 2007, 1,612 (26%) were priority cases and 4,613 (74%) were other cases.
- Since 30 June 2007, the number of priority cases waiting for assessment decreased by 27 (2%), and the number of other (non-priority) cases decreased by 57 (1%).
- Over the last year from 30 September 2006, the number of priority cases waiting assessment decreased by 426 (21%), and the number of other cases decreased by 2,014 (30%).

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 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
	30 September 2007	30 June 2007	30 September 2006		
Under 1 month	744	615	652	129	92
1 month - under 3 months	569	621	532	-52	37
3 months - under 6 months	232	314	342	-82	-110
6 months and over	67	89	512	-22	-445
All Priority Cases	1,612	1,639	2,038	-27	-426

Source: CP4

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

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2007	30 June 2007	30 September 2006		
Under 1 month	1,258	1,188	1,199	70	59
1 month - under 3 months	1,246	1,436	1,476	-190	-230
3 months - under 6 months	1,295	1,427	1,582	-132	-287
6 months and over	814	619	2,370	195	-1,556
All Other Cases	4,613	4,670	6,627	-57	-2,014

Source: CP4

Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

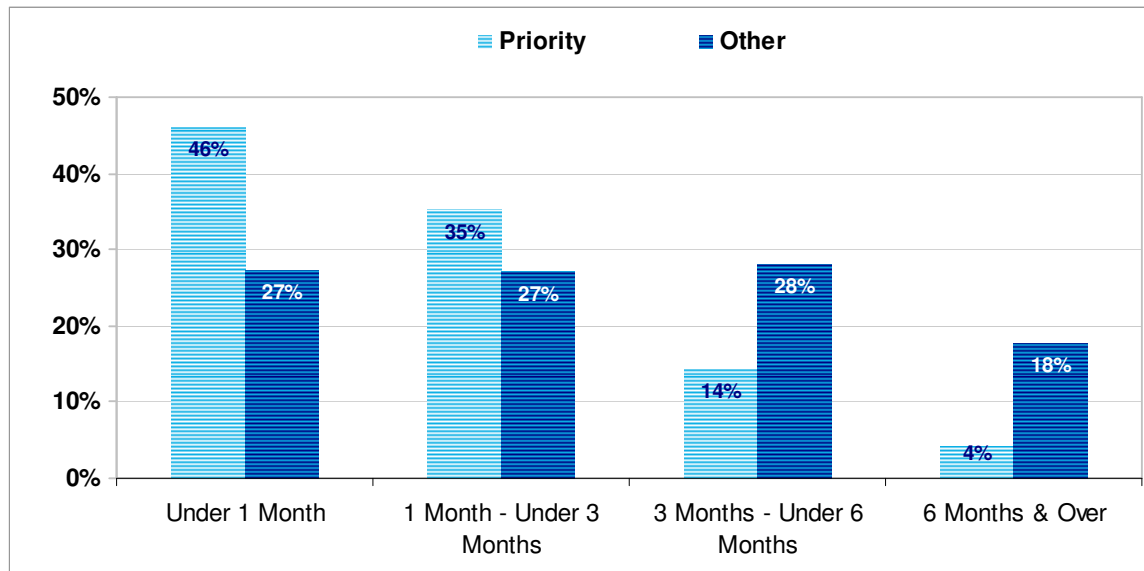
Table A.2 (c): All Cases Waiting for Assessment by Time Waiting and Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2007	30 June 2007	30 September 2006		
Under 1 month	2,002	1,803	1,851	199	151
1 month - under 3 months	1,815	2,057	2,008	-242	-193
3 months - under 6 months	1,527	1,741	1,924	-214	-397
6 months and over	881	708	2,882	173	-2,001
All Cases	6,225	6,309	8,665	-84	-2,440

Source: CP4

- At 30 September 2007, 5,344 people waiting for assessment had been waiting for less than 6 months, compared with 5,601 at the end of the previous quarter and 5,783 at 30 September 2006.

Figure A.2: Persons Waiting for Assessment by Length of Time and according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 30 September 2007)



Source: CP4

- Over 8 in 10 (81%) priority cases and 54% of other cases had been waiting less than 3 months for assessment at 30 September 2007.
- Since 30 September 2006, the proportion of priority cases waiting 6 months or more for assessment decreased by 21 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 30 September 2007

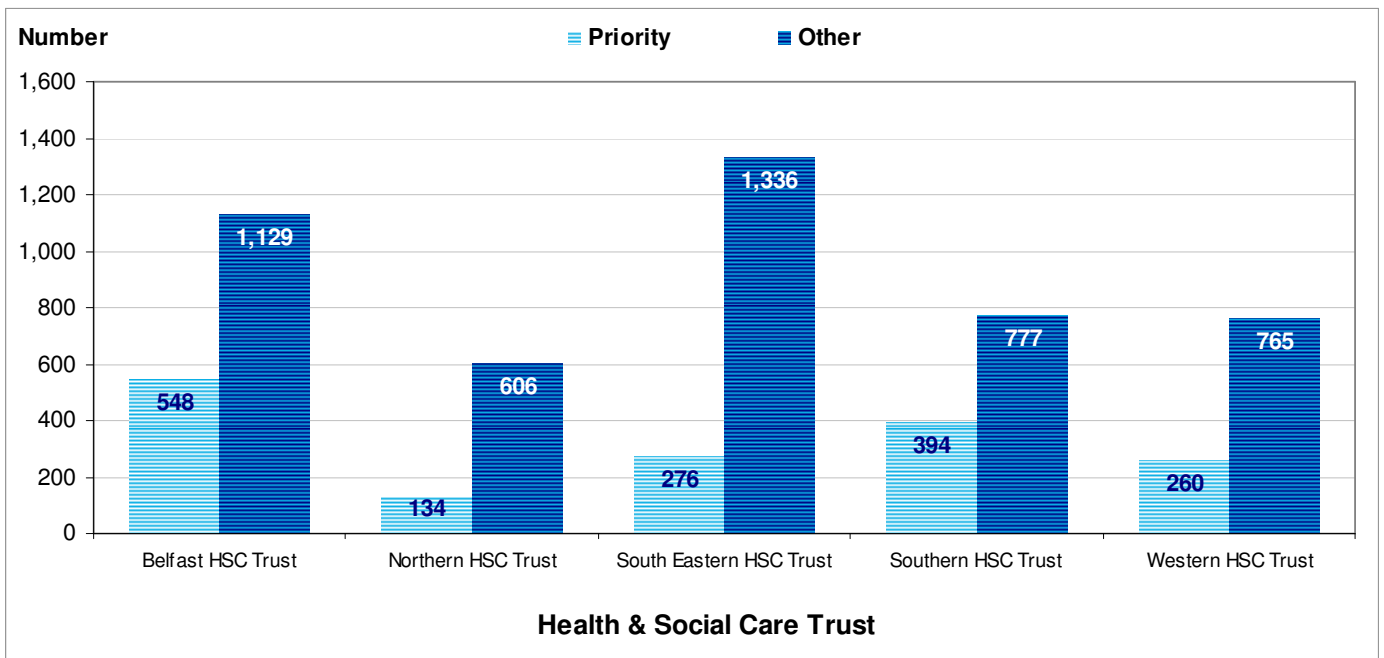
Trust	Priority Cases			Other Cases		
	Total Waiting	Number Waiting 6 Months or More	Percentage Waiting 6 Months or More	Total Waiting	Number Waiting 6 Months or More	Percentage Waiting 6 Months or More
Belfast HSC Trust	548	0	0%	1,129	144	13%
Northern HSC Trust	134	0	0%	606	4	1%
South Eastern HSC Trust	276	8	3%	1,336	377	28%
Southern HSC Trust	394	43	11%	777	227	29%
Western HSC Trust	260	16	6%	765	62	8%
Northern Ireland	1,612	67	4%	4,613	814	18%

Source: CP4

- Across HSS Trusts, Belfast HSC Trust had the highest number of people waiting for assessment designated priority (548), whilst the South Eastern HSC Trust had the highest number waiting assessment for other cases (1,336).
- At 30 September 2007, the Southern HSC Trust had the highest proportion of priority cases (11%) waiting 6 months or more for assessment, whilst no priority cases waited 6 months or more in the Belfast HSC Trust or the Northern 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 30 September 2007)



Source: CP4

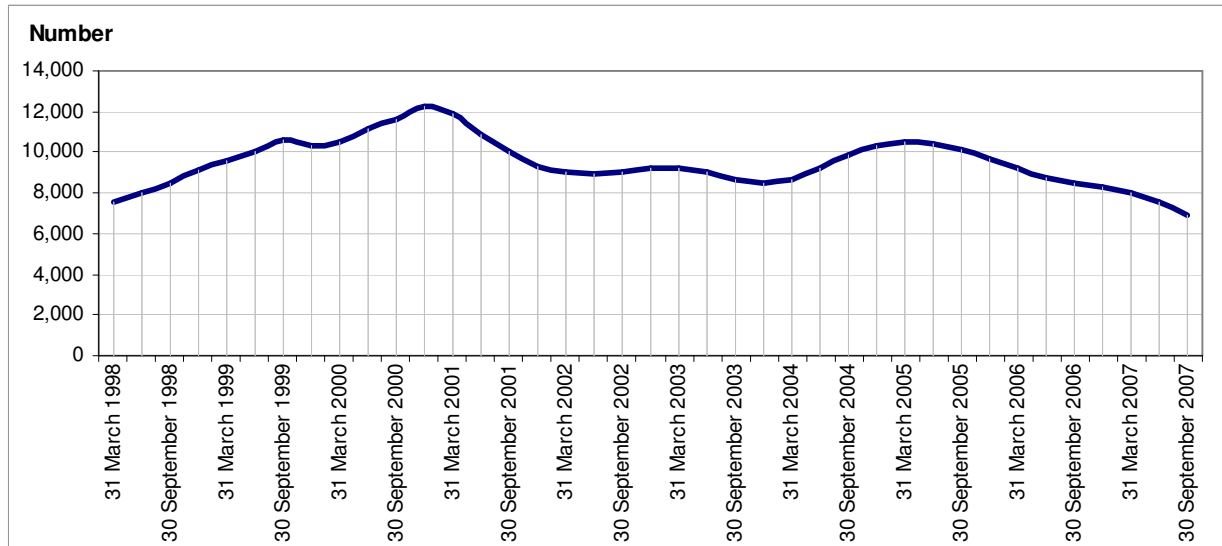
Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

Persons Waiting for Assessment Since 31 March 1998

The trends described in this section are based on the averages of figures for four quarters. For example, the figure for 30 September 2007 is based on the average number of persons

waiting for assessment for the four quarters ending 30 September 2007 (31 December 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007 and 30 September 2007).

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

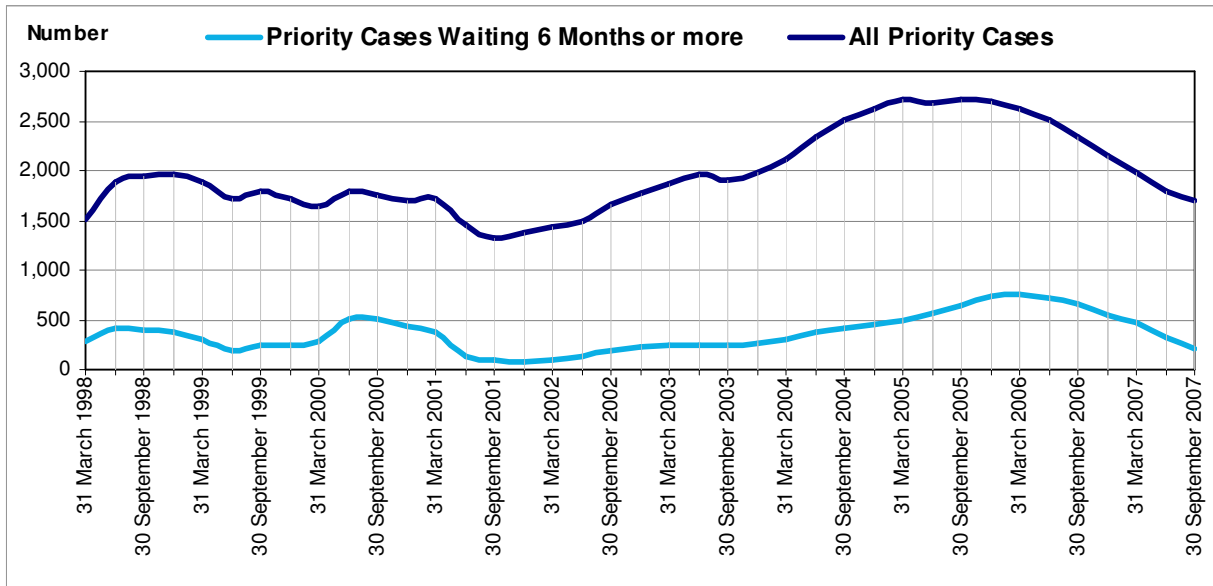


Source: CP4

- Since 31 March 1998, the number of people waiting for assessment has decreased by 9%, from 7,586 at 31 March 1998 to 6,932 at 30 September 2007.
- Between 31 March 1998 and 30 September 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 6,932 at 30 September 2007.

Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

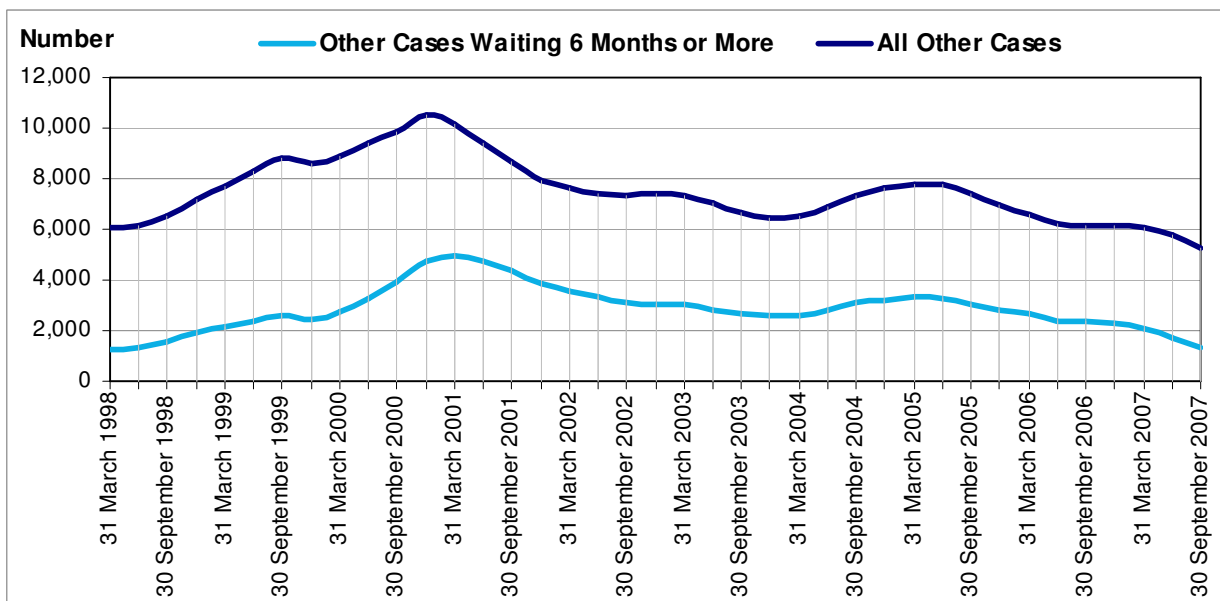
Figure A.5: Priority Cases Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists (31 March 1998 – 30 September 2007)



Source: CP4

- Since 31 March 1998, the number of people waiting for assessment has increased by 12%, from 1,516 at 31 March 1998 to 1,690 at 30 September 2007.

Figure A.6: Other Cases Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists (31 March 1998 – 30 September 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 30 September 2007, is shown in Table B.1.

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

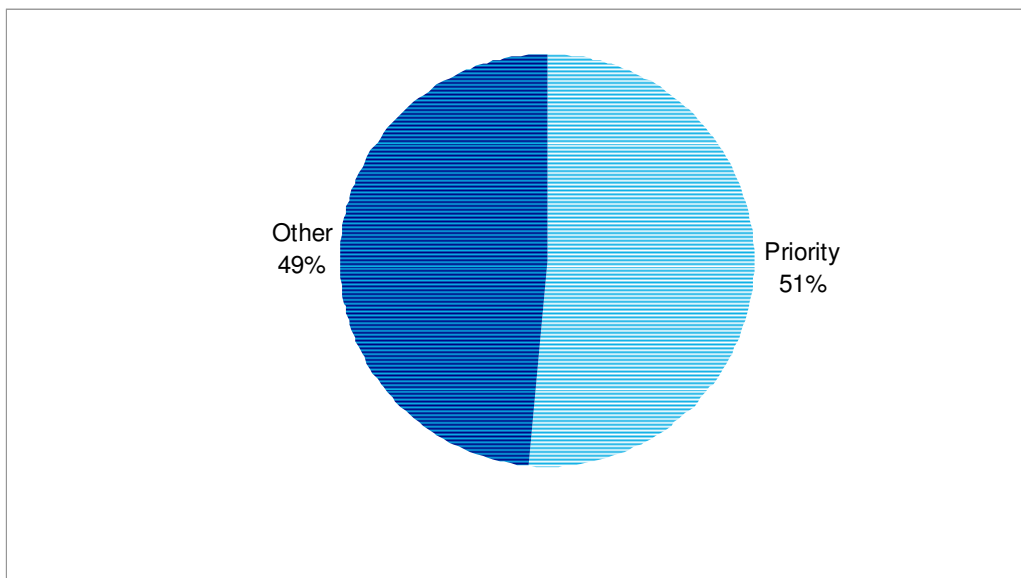
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2007	30 June 2007	30 September 2006		
Priority Cases	6,378	6,733	6,266	-355	112
Other Cases	6,035	6,428	5,858	-393	177
All Referrals	12,413	13,161	12,124	-748	289

Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2007 there were 12,413 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, 748 (6%) less than

during the previous quarter, and 289 (2%) more than the corresponding figure at 30 September 2006.

Figure B.1: Referrals according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 30 September 2007)

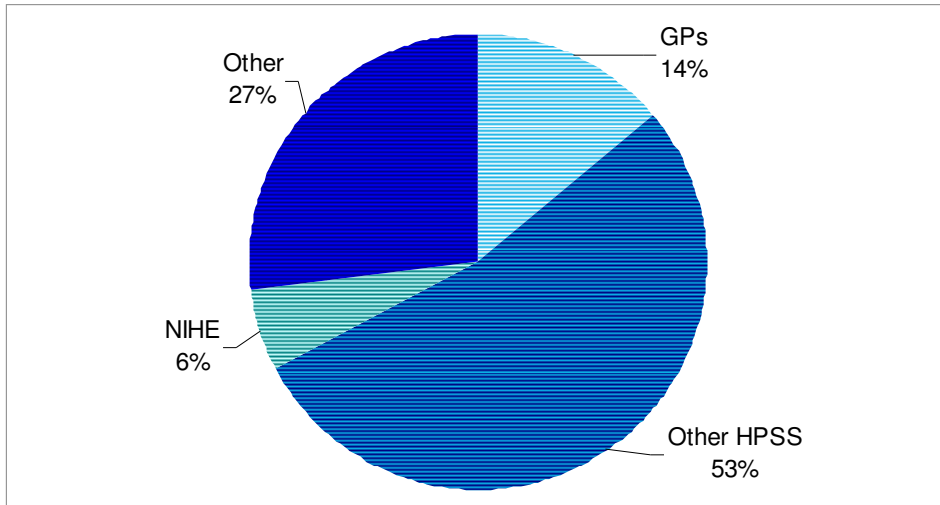


Source: CP4

Section B: Referrals for Assessment

Source of Referrals for Assessment

Figure B.2: Source of Referrals for Assessment (Quarter Ending 30 September 2007)

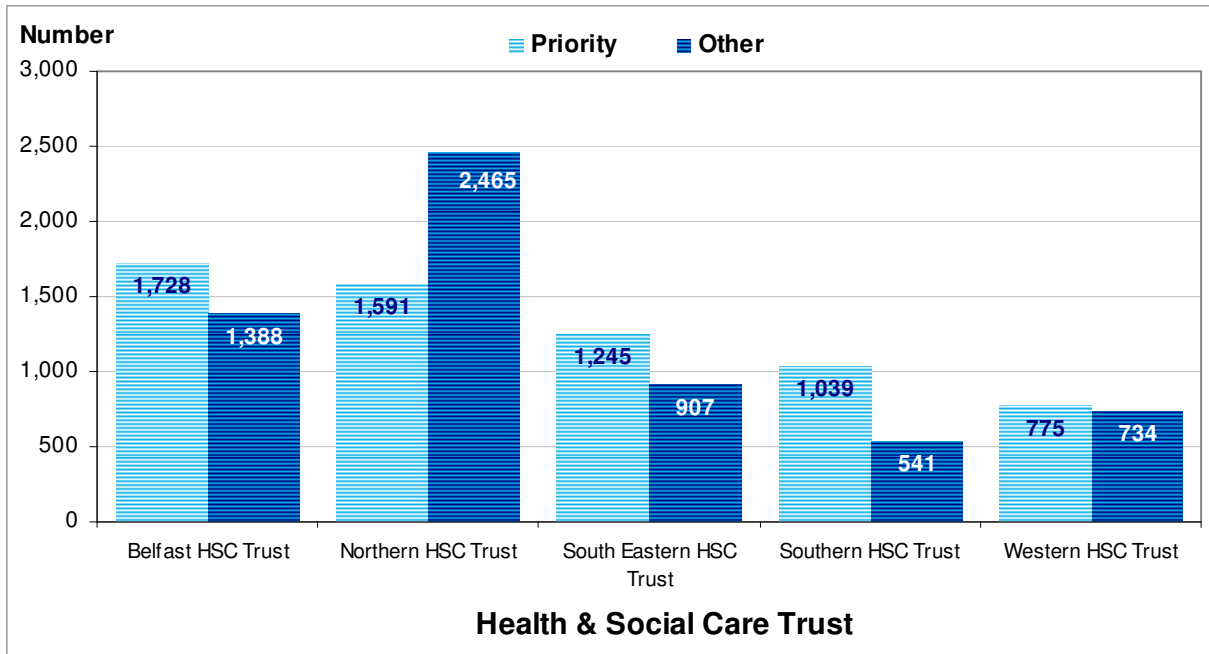


Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2007, 14% of all referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were from GP's, 6% from NIHE, 53% from the other HPSS sources, and 27% 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 30 September 2007)



Source: CP4

- Belfast and the Northern HSC Trusts (1,728 and 1,591 respectively) had the highest number of priority case referrals for assessment by occupational therapists, whilst the Western HSC Trust (775) had the lowest.
- In terms of other case referrals for assessment, the Northern HSC Trust (2,465) had the highest number and the Southern HSC Trust (541) 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 for Assessment Received during Year Ending 30 September (2005 - 2007)

	Year Ending			Change	
	30 September 2007	30 September 2006	30 September 2005	2006 - 2007	2005 - 2007
Priority Cases	25,554	24,011	24,393	1,543	1,161
Other Cases	25,119	22,036	23,053	3,083	2,066
All Referrals	50,673	46,047	47,446	4,626	3,227

Source: CP4

- During the year ending 30 September 2007, there were 50,673 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, 4,626 more than during year ending 30 September 2006, and 3,227 more than during the year ending 30 September 2005.
- Since 30 September 2005, the number of referrals for assessment designated as priority cases increased by 1,161.

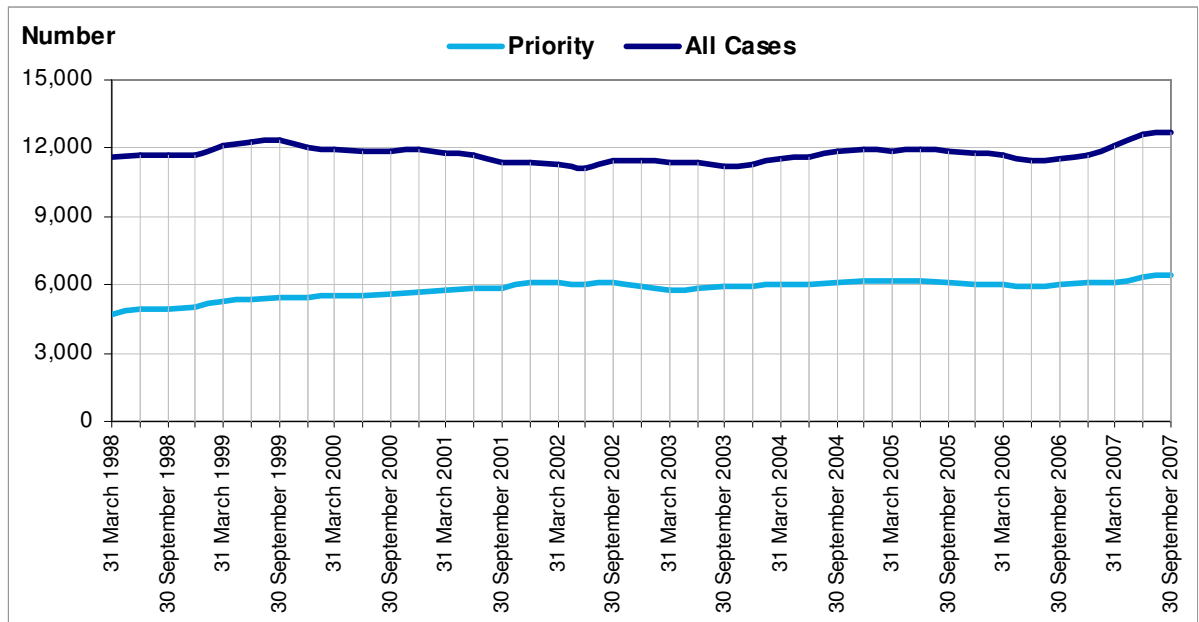
Section B: Referrals for Assessment

Referrals for Assessment Since 31 March 1998

The trends reported in this section are based on the average number of referrals for assessment for four quarters, i.e. data for 30 September 2007 is based on the average number

of referrals for the four quarters ending 30 September 2007 (31 December 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007 and 30 September 2007).

Figure B.4: Referrals for Assessment according to Priority and Other Cases (31 March 1998 - 30 September 2007)



Source: CP4

- Between 31 March 1998 and 30 September 2007, the average number of referrals for assessment increased by 9%, from 11,596 in 31 March 1998 to 12,668 at 30 September 2007.
- During this period, the average number of referrals for assessment designated as priority cases increased by 35%, from 4,721 in 31 March 1998 to 6,389 in 30 September 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.

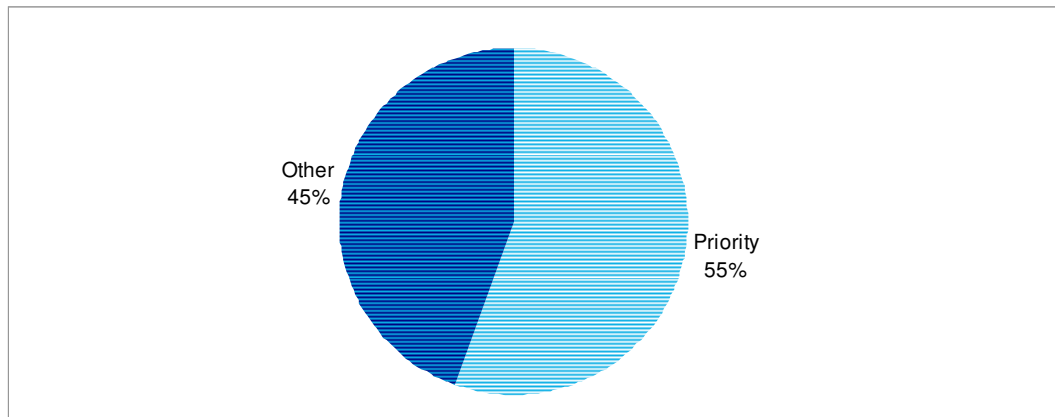
Table C.1: Number of Assessments Commenced by Quarter

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2007	30 June 2007	30 September 2006		
Priority Cases	5,479	5,761	5,615	-282	-136
Other Cases	4,397	4,744	3,710	-347	687
All Assessments Commenced	9,876	10,505	9,325	-629	551

Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2007, 9,876 assessments were commenced by community occupational therapists, 629 (6%) less than the number commenced during the previous quarter and 551 (6%) more than the number commenced during the same quarter last year.
- During the quarter ending 30 September 2007, a higher proportion of assessments commenced were designated priority cases (55%) than other cases (45%).
- Between the quarters ending 30 June 2007 and 30 September 2007, the number of priority case assessments commenced decreased by 282 (5%), from 5,761 in 30 June 2007 to 5,479 in 30 September 2007, and the number of other case assessments commenced decreased by 347 (7%), from 4,744 in 30 June 2007 to 4,397 in 30 September 2007.

Figure C.1: Assessments Commenced according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter ending 30 September 2007)



Source: CP4

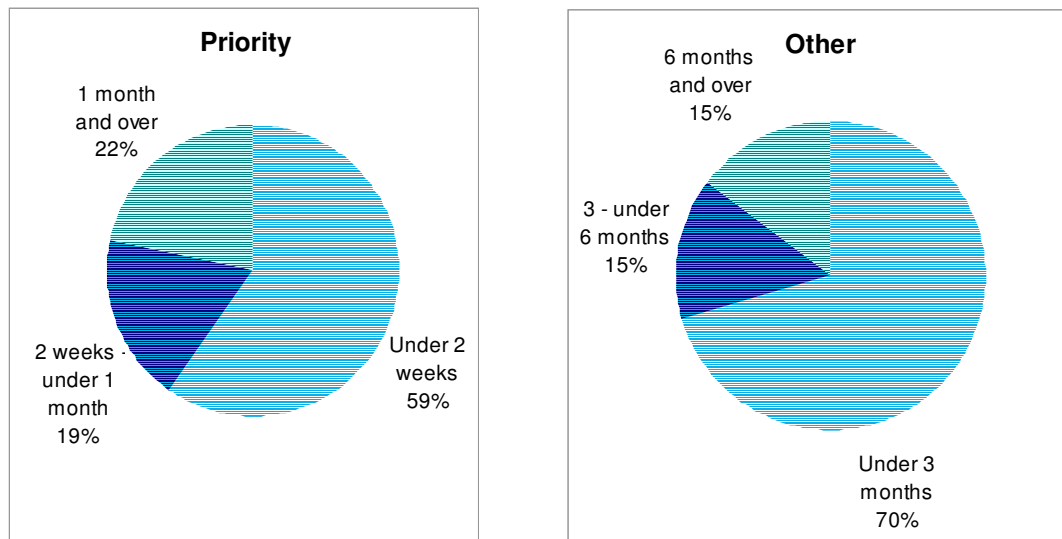
Section C: Assessments Commenced

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 30 September 2007)



Source: CP4

- Over half (60%) of assessments in respect of priority cases commenced within 2 weeks of the referral, 19% in 2 weeks to 1 month, and 22% in 1 month or more.
- Over two thirds (71%) of assessments in respect of other cases commenced within 3 months of the referral, 15% in 3 to 6 months, and 15% 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

<i>(a) Priority Cases</i>					
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2007	30 June 2007	30 September 2006		
Under 2 weeks	3,277	3,343	2,792	-66	485
2 weeks - under 1 month	1,019	952	942	67	77
1 month and over	1,183	1,466	1,881	-283	-698

Source: CP4

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

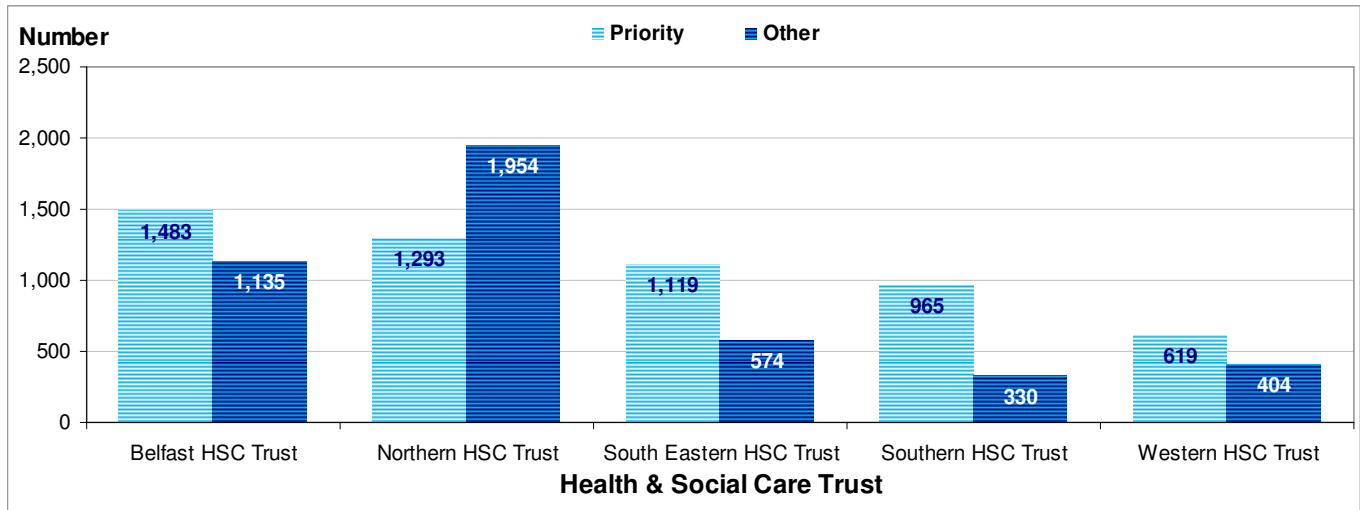
<i>(b) Other Cases</i>					
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2007	30 June 2007	30 September 2006		
Under 3 months	3,104	3,091	2,488	13	616
3 months - under 6 months	645	425	520	220	125
6 months and over	648	1,228	702	-580	-54

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 30 September 2007)



Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2007, the Belfast HSC Trust (1,483) had the highest number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases, whilst the Western HSC Trust (619) had the lowest.
- For the same period, the Northern HSC Trust (1,954) 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 30 September 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	1,483	873	59%	1,135	842	74%
Northern HSC Trust	1,293	831	64%	1,954	1,708	87%
South Eastern HSC Trust	1,119	658	59%	574	329	57%
Southern HSC Trust	965	675	70%	330	116	35%
Western HSC Trust	619	240	39%	404	109	27%
Northern Ireland	5,479	3,277	60%	4,397	3,104	71%

Source: CP4

- In respect of priority cases the proportions of assessments commencing within 2 weeks in HSC Trusts, ranged from 39% in the Western HSC Trust to 70% in the Southern HSC Trust.
- For non-priority (other) cases, the proportion of assessments commencing within 3 months ranged from 27% in the Western HSC Trust to 87% 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 30 September 2007, including a comparison with the previous two years.

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

	Year Ending:			Change Since 30 September 2006	Change Since 30 September 2005
	30 September 2007	30 September 2006	30 September 2005		
Priority Cases	22,375	21,924	20,857	451	1,518
Other Cases	18,627	15,454	16,068	3,173	2,559
All Assessments Commenced	41,002	37,378	36,925	3,624	4,077

Source: CP4

- During the year ending 30 September 2007, 41,002 assessments commenced, 10% (3,624) more than the number commenced during year ending 30 September 2006, and 11% (4,077) more than the number commenced during the year ending 30 September 2005.
- Of the 41,002 assessments commenced during this period, the majority (55%) were in respect of priority cases.

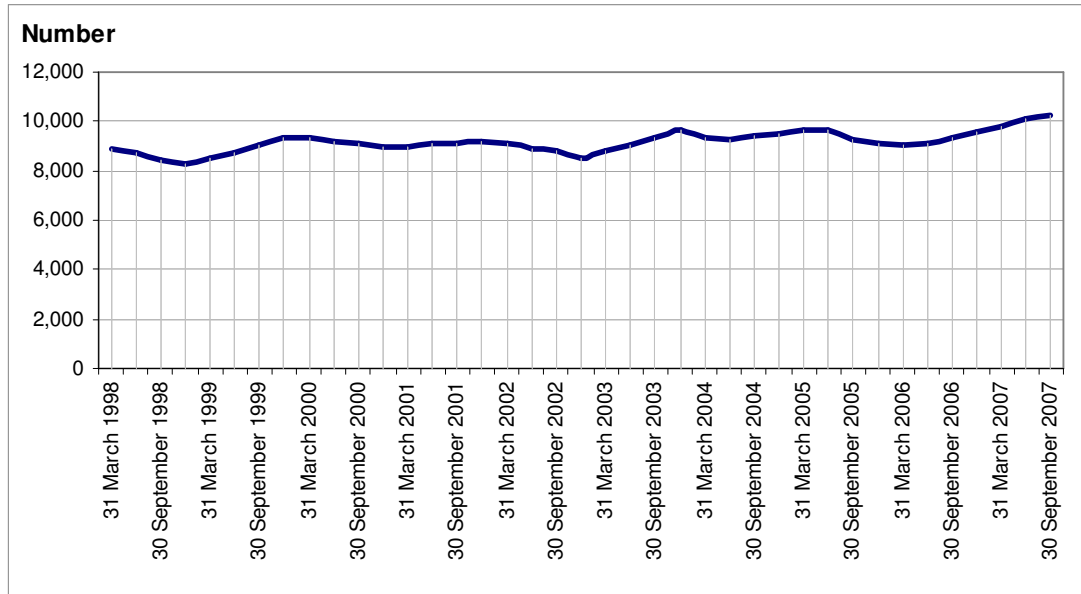
Section C: Assessments Commenced

Assessments Commenced Since 31 March 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 30 September 2007 is based on the

average number of referrals for the four quarters up to and including 30 September 2007 (31 December 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007 and 30 September 2007).

Figure C.4: Assessments Commenced (31 March 1998 - 30 September 2007)

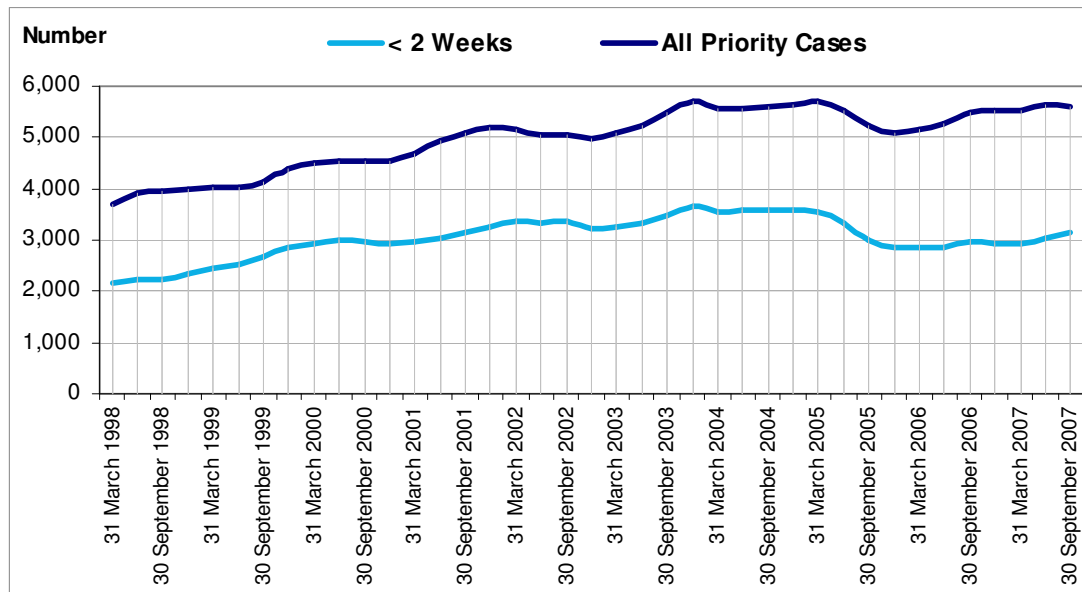


Source: CP4

- Between 31 March 1998 and 30 September 2007, the average number of assessments commenced has increased by 15%, from 8,878 to 10,251.

Section C: Assessments Commenced

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

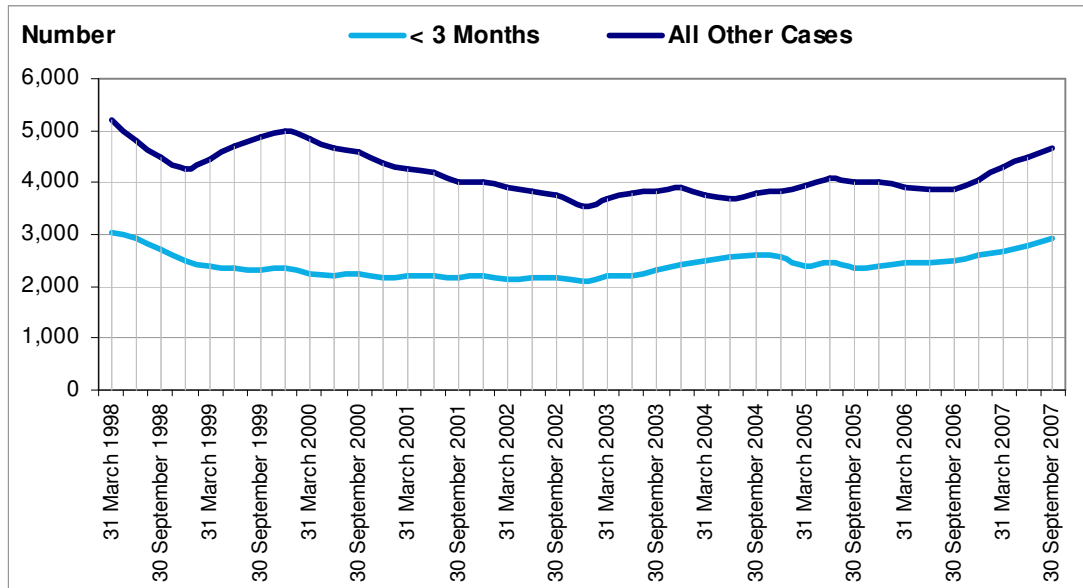


Source: CP4

- Since 31 March 1998, the average number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases, has increased by 52%, from 3,686 in 31 March 1998 to 5,594 in 30 September 2007.
- The average number of priority case assessments commenced within 2 weeks increased by 47%, from 2,145 in 31 March 1998 to 3,157 in 30 September 2007.

Section C: Assessments Commenced

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



Source: CP4

- Since 31 March 1998, the average number of assessments commenced in respect of other cases decreased by 10%, from 5,192 at 31 March 1998 to 4,657 at 30 September 2007.
- During the same period, the average number of other case assessments commenced within 3 months of referral, decreased by 3%, from 3,030 at 31 March 1998 to 2,945 at 30 September 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:

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

Community Information Branch
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