



## Assessments by Community Occupational Therapists in Northern Ireland - 30 September 2006

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

13 December 2006

**Theme:**

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

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### **Main Findings**

#### **Persons Waiting for Assessment**

- At 30 September 2006, 8,665 people were waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists, an increase of 435 (5%) from the number waiting at the end of the previous quarter, and 804 (8%) 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 2006, 2,038 (24%) were priority cases and 6,627 (76%) were other cases.
- Since 30 June 2006, the number of priority cases waiting for assessment decreased by 315 (13%), and the number of other (non-priority) cases increased by 750 (13%).
- Over the last year from 30 September 2005, the number of priority cases waiting assessment decreased by 668 (25%), whilst the number of other cases decreased by 136 (2%).
- One quarter (25%) of priority cases and 36% of other cases had been waiting for assessment for 6 months or more at 30 September 2006.
- Since 30 June 2006, the proportion of priority cases waiting 6 months or more for assessment decreased by 4 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 30 September 2006.

### ***Referrals for Assessment***

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2006, there were 12,124 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, a increase of 960 (9%) from the previous quarter, and 202 (2%) more than the corresponding figure at 30 September 2005.
- During the quarter ending 30 September 2006, 16% of all referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were from GP's, 5% from NIHE, 51% from other HPSS sources, and 28% from other sources.
- Between 31 March 1997 and 30 September 2006, the average number of referrals for assessment increased by 6%, from 10,906 in 31 March 1997 to 11,512 at 30 September 2006.

### ***Assessments Commenced***

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2006, 9,325 assessments were commenced by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 1% (69) on the number commenced during the previous quarter, but 10% (824) more than the number commenced during the same quarter last year.
- Half (50%) of assessments in respect of priority cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 2 weeks of the referral, 17% in 2 weeks to 1 month, and 33% in 1 month or more. 67% of assessments in respect of other cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 3 months of the referral, 14% in 3 to 6 months, and 19% in 6 months or more.
- During the quarter ending 30 September 2006, Homefirst (1,133) had the highest number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases, whilst Causeway (304) had the lowest.
- Between 31 March 1997 and 30 September 2006, the average number of assessments commenced has increased by 23%, from 7,364 to 9,048

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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 2006	30 June 2006	30 September 2005		
Priority Cases	2,038	2,353	2,706	-315	-668
Other Cases	6,627	5,877	6,763	750	-136
All Persons Waiting	8,665	8,230	9,469	435	-804

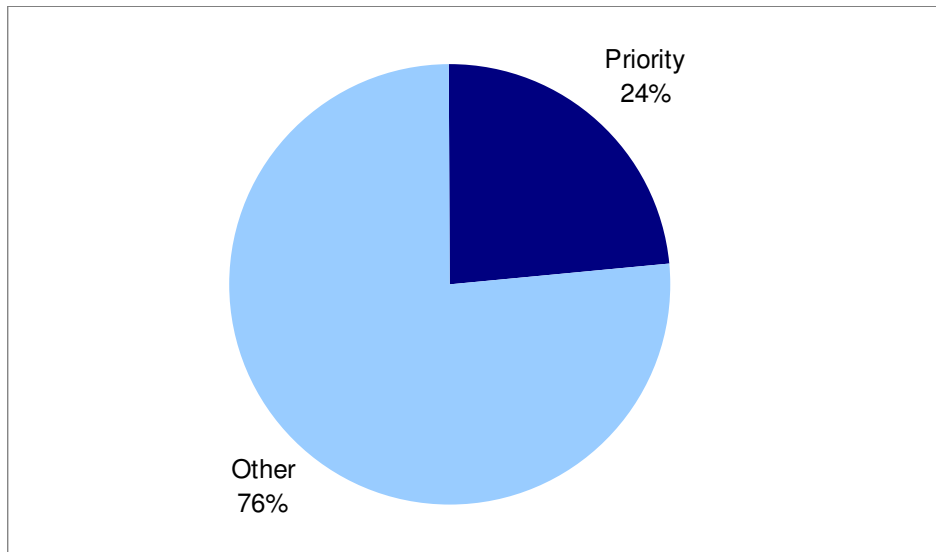
Source: CP4

- At 30 September 2006, 8,665 people were waiting for assessment by community occupational therapists, an increase of 435 (5%) from the number waiting at the end of the previous quarter, and 804 (8%) 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 2006, 2,038 (24%) were priority cases and 6,627 (76%) were other cases.
- Since 30 June 2006, the number of priority cases waiting for assessment decreased by 315 (13%), and the number of other (non-priority) cases increased by 750 (13%).
- Over the last year from 30 September 2005, the number of priority cases waiting assessment decreased by 668 (25%), whilst the number of other cases decreased by 136 (2%).

## Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

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**Figure A.1: Persons Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists, according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 30 September 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
	30 September 2006	30 June 2006	30 September 2005		
Under 1 month	652	721	679	-69	-27
1 month - under 3 months	532	521	726	11	-194
3 months - under 6 months	342	418	550	-76	-208
6 months and over	512	693	751	-181	-239
All Priority Cases	2,038	2,353	2,706	-315	-668

Source: CP4

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

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2006	30 June 2006	30 September 2005		
Under 1 month	1,199	1,230	1,102	-31	97
1 month - under 3 months	1,476	1,491	1,403	-15	73
3 months - under 6 months	1,582	1,158	1,760	424	-178
6 months and over	2,370	1,998	2,498	372	-128
All Other Cases	6,627	5,877	6,763	750	-136

Source: CP4

## Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

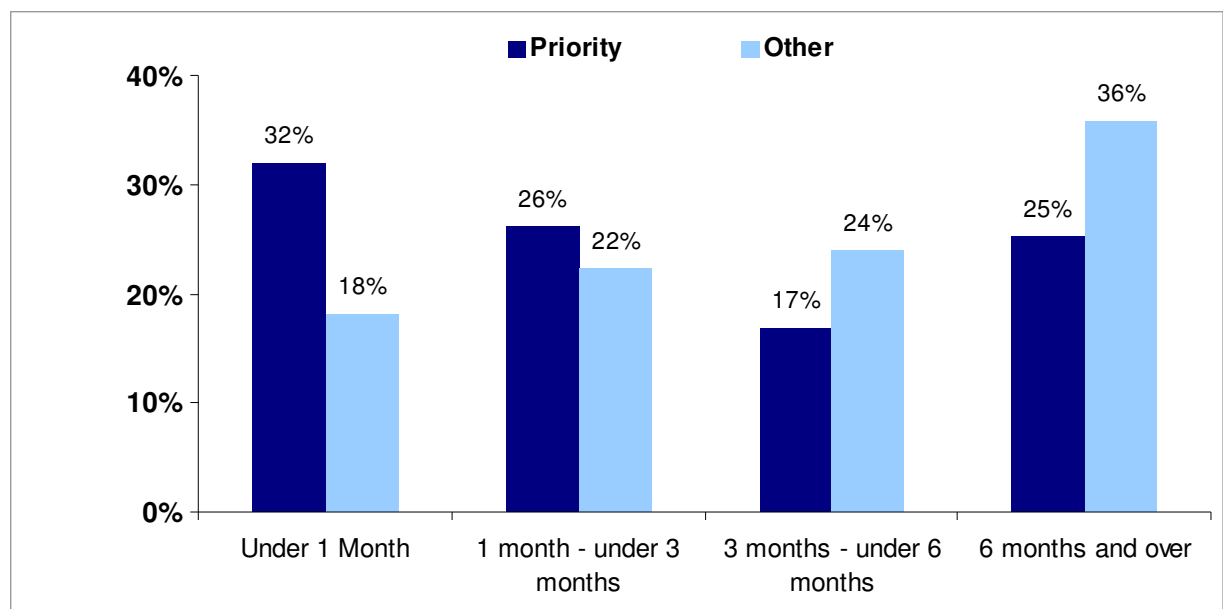
**Table A.2 (c): All Cases Waiting for Assessment by Time Waiting and Quarter**

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2006	30 June 2006	30 September 2005		
Under 1 month	1,851	1,951	1,781	-100	70
1 month - under 3 months	2,008	2,012	2,129	-4	-121
3 months - under 6 months	1,924	1,576	2,310	348	-386
6 months and over	2,882	2,691	3,249	191	-367
All Cases	8,665	8,230	9,469	435	-804

Source: CP4

- At 30 September 2006, over one third (33%) of all people waiting for assessment had been waiting for 6 months or more, similar to the previous quarter (33%) and the corresponding figure at 30 September 2005 (34%).
- Since the end of the previous quarter, the number of people waiting for assessment increased by 435, with the most significant increase in those waiting 3 - 6 months for assessment (348).

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



Source: CP4

- One quarter (25%) of priority cases and 36% of other cases had been waiting for assessment for 6 months or more at 30 September 2006.
- Since 30 June 2006, the proportion of priority cases waiting 6 months or more for assessment decreased by 4 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 30 September 2006**

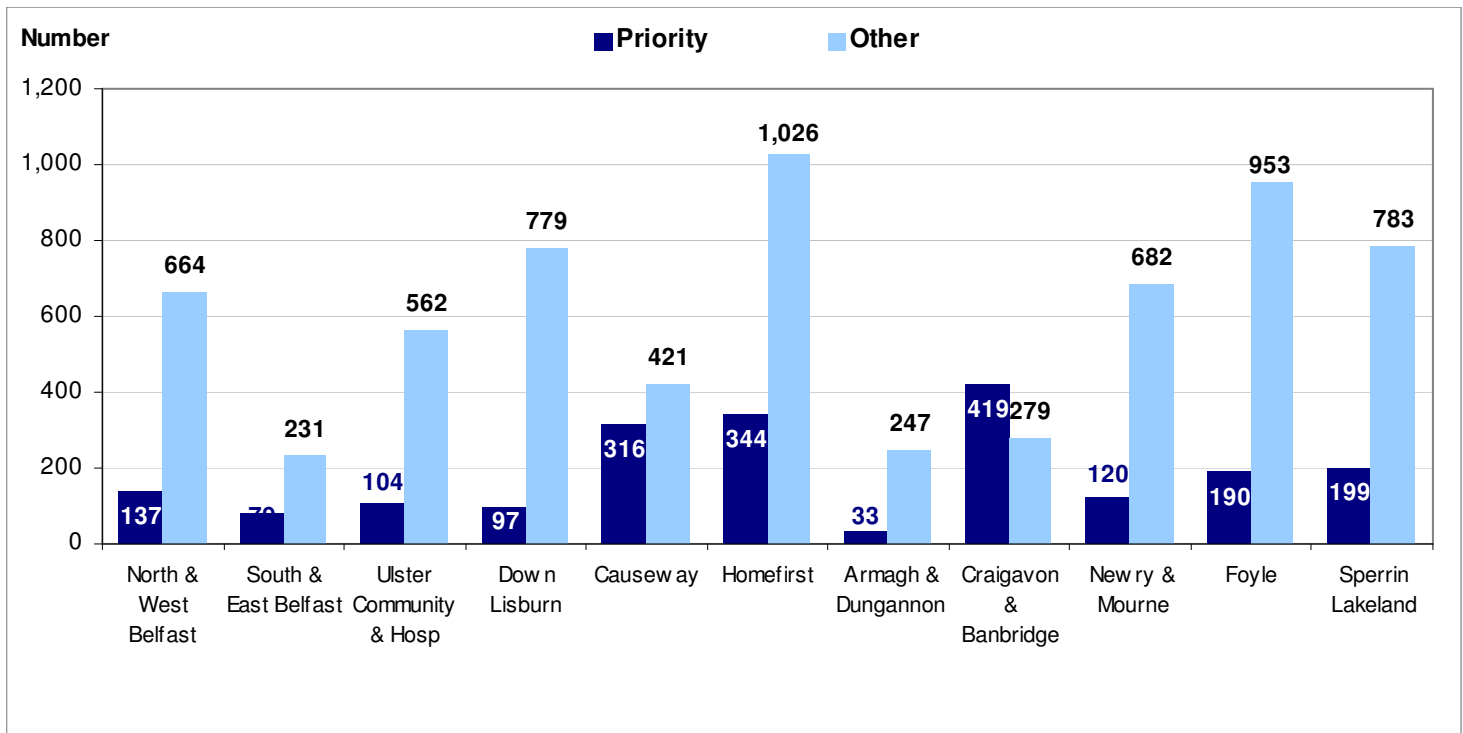
Trust	Priority Cases			Other Cases		
	Total Waiting	Number Waiting 6 Months or More	Percentage Waiting 6 Months or More	Total Waiting	Number Waiting 6 Months or More	Percentage Waiting 6 Months or More
North & West Belfast	137	0	0%	664	25	4%
South & East Belfast	79	0	0%	231	0	0%
Ulster Community & Hos	104	0	0%	562	44	8%
Down Lisburn	97	14	14%	779	363	47%
Causeway	316	132	42%	421	248	59%
Homefirst	344	108	31%	1,026	188	18%
Armagh & Dungannon	33	0	0%	247	50	20%
Craigavon & Banbridge	419	181	43%	279	121	43%
Newry & Mourne	120	24	20%	682	485	71%
Foyle	190	52	27%	953	327	34%
Sperrin Lakeland	199	1	1%	783	519	66%
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>2,038</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>6,627</b>	<b>2,370</b>	<b>36%</b>

Source: CP4

- Across Trusts, Craigavon & Banbridge had the highest number of people waiting for assessment designated priority (419) and Homefirst had the highest number waiting assessment for other cases (1,026), whilst Armagh & Dungannon had the lowest (33) designated priority and South & East Belfast the lowest designated as other (231).
- At 30 September 2006, Craigavon & Banbridge had the highest proportion of priority cases (43%) waiting 6 months or more for assessment, and Newry & Mourne had the highest proportion of other cases (71%) 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 2006)**



Source: CP4

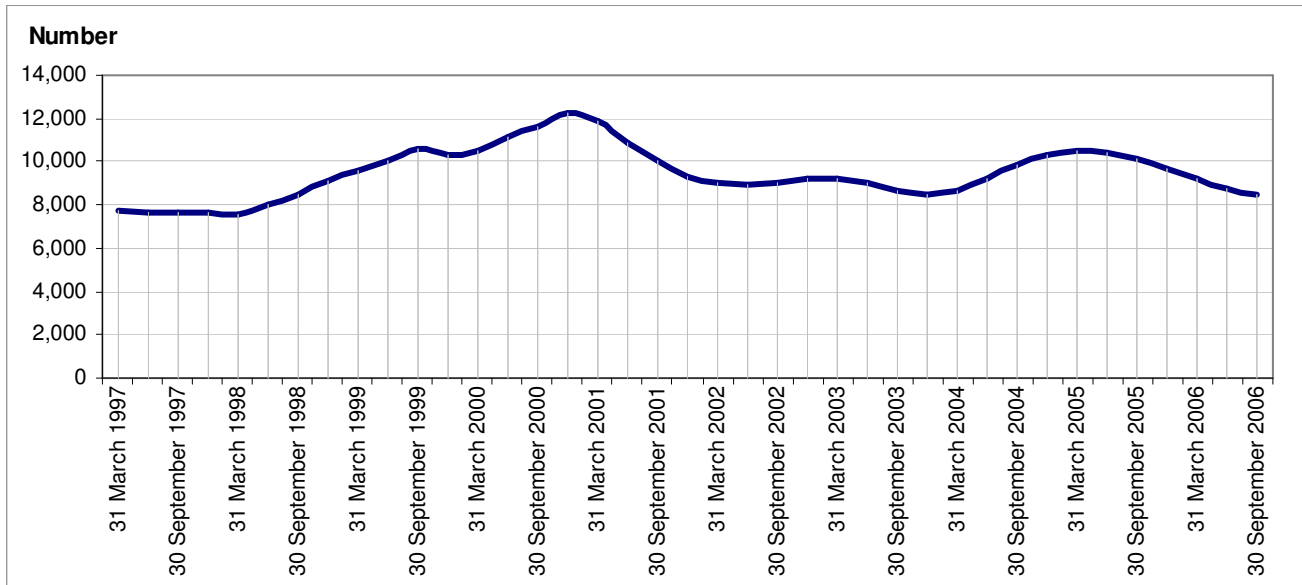
## Section A: Persons Waiting for Assessment

### Persons Waiting for Assessment Since 31 March 1997

The trends described in this section are based on the averages of figures for four quarters. For example, the figure for 30 September 2006 is based

on the average of the figures for the four quarters ending 30 September 2006.

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

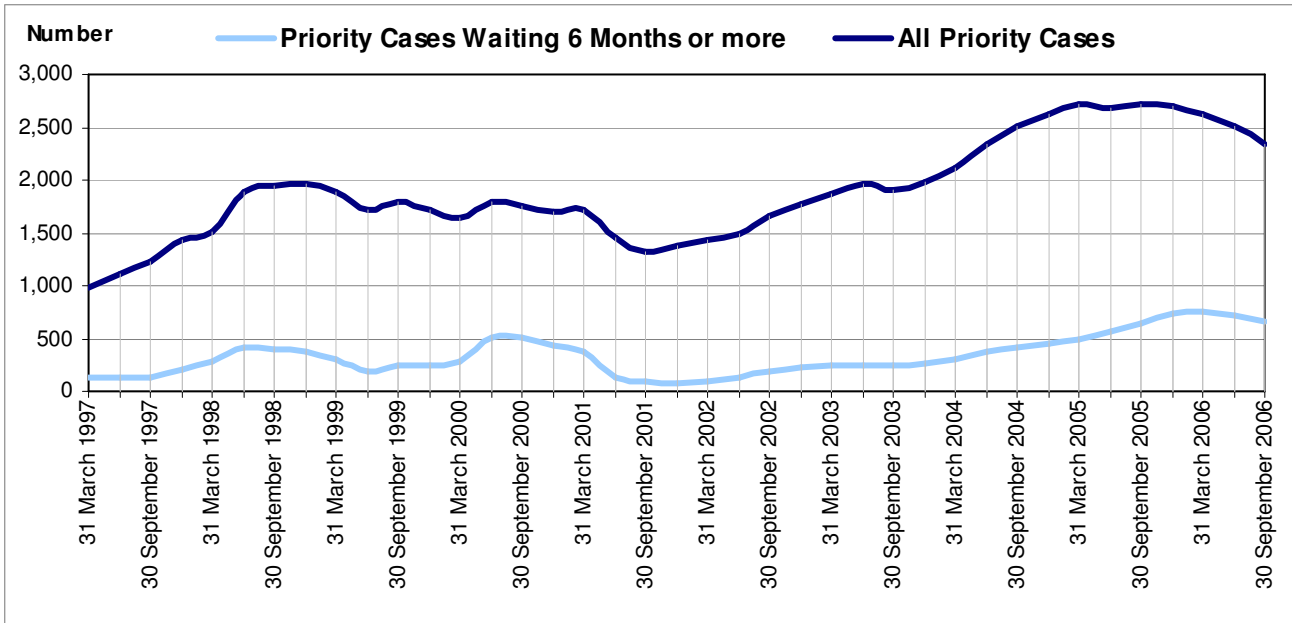


Source: CP4

- 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 30 September 2006.
- Between 31 March 1997 and 30 September 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

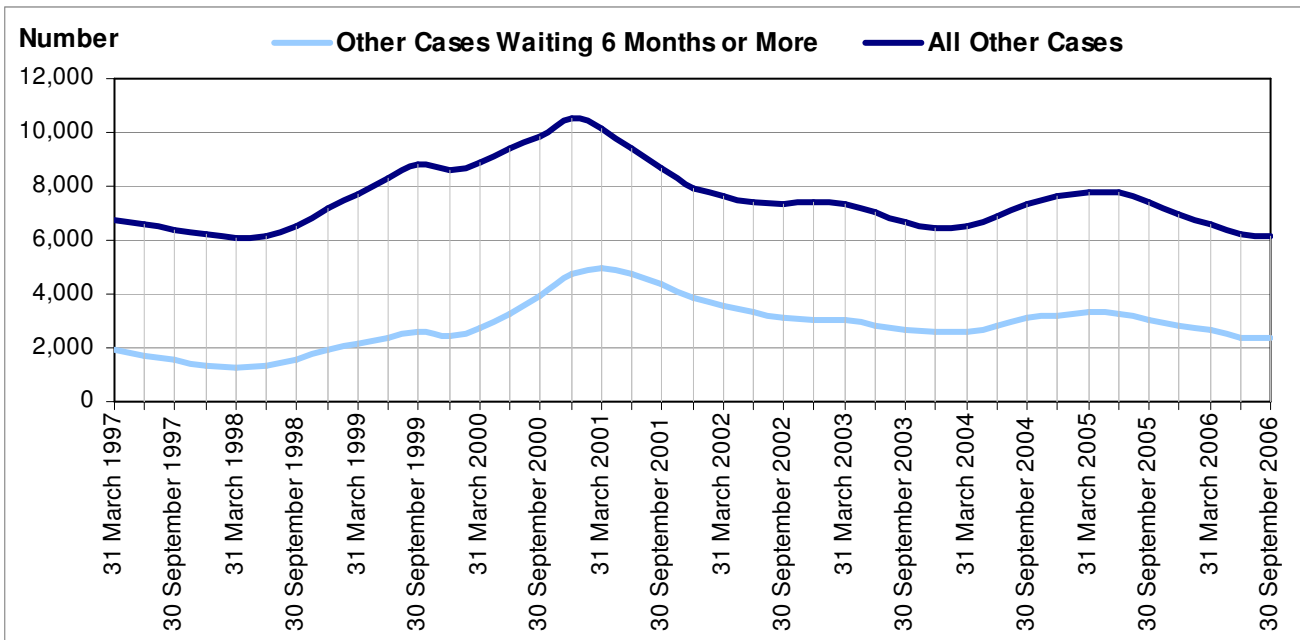
**Figure A.5: Priority Cases Waiting for Assessment by Community Occupational Therapists (31 March 1997 – 30 September 2006)**



Source: CP4

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

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



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 2006, is shown in Table B.1.

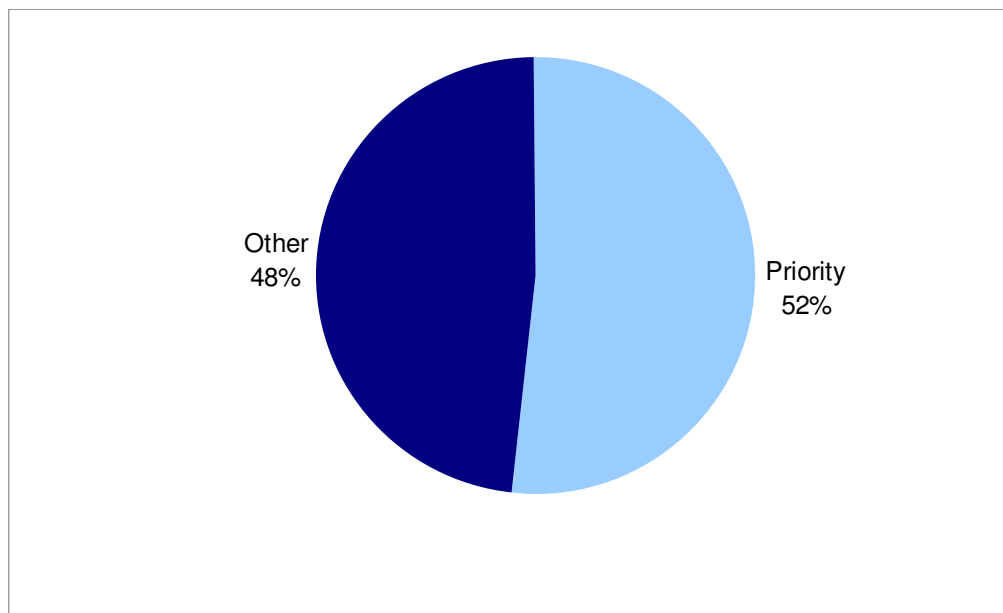
**Table B.1: Number of Referrals Received for Assessment by Quarter**

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2006	30 June 2006	30 September 2005		
Priority Cases	6,266	5,651	5,945	615	321
Other Cases	5,858	5,513	5,977	345	-119
All Referrals	12,124	11,164	11,922	960	202

Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2006, there were 12,124 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, a increase of 960 (9%) from the previous quarter, and 202 (2%) more than the corresponding figure at 30 September 2005.

**Figure B.1: Referrals according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 30 September 2006)**



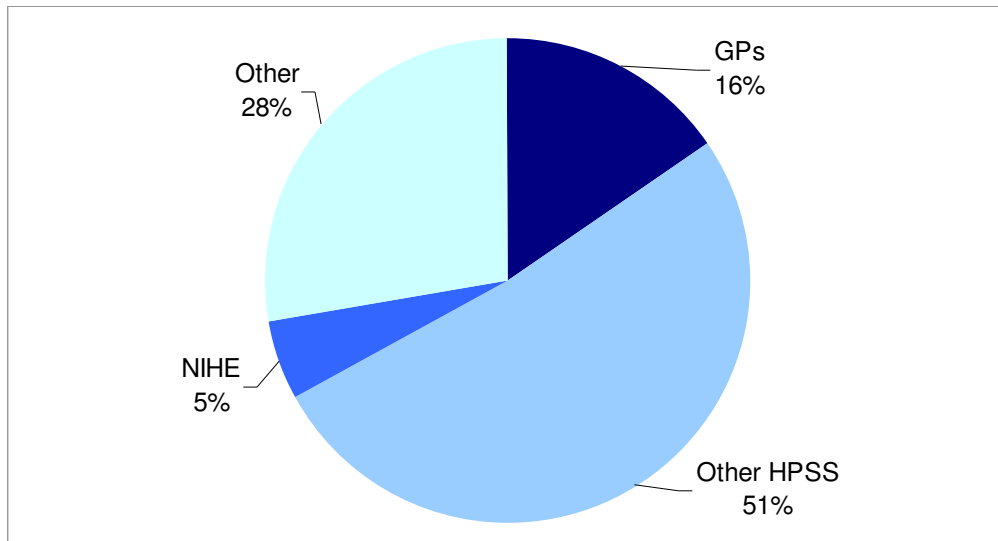
Source: CP4

- A slightly higher proportion of referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were in respect of priority cases (52%) than those designated other cases (48%).

## Section B: Referrals for Assessment

### Source of Referrals for Assessment

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



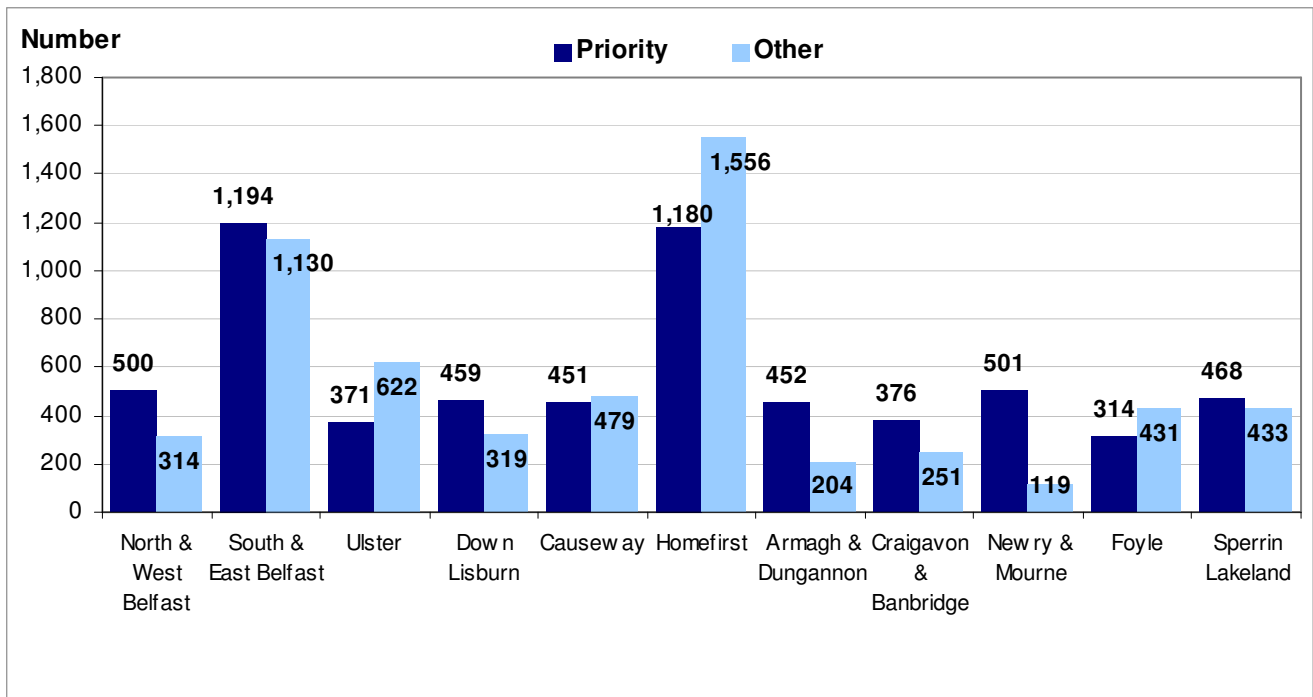
2006)

Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2006, 16% of all referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists were from GP's, 5% from NIHE, 51% from the other HPSS sources, 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 30 September 2006)**



Source: CP4

- South & East Belfast (1,194) had the highest number of priority case referrals for assessment by occupational therapists, whilst Foyle (314) had the lowest. In

terms of other case referrals for assessment, Homefirst (1,556) had the highest and Newry & Mourne (119) 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 2006	30 September 2005	30 September 2004	2005 - 2006	2004 - 2006
Priority Cases	24,011	24,393	24,369	-382	-358
Other Cases	22,036	23,053	23,014	-1,017	-978
All Referrals	46,047	47,446	47,383	-1,399	-1,336

Source: CP4

- During the year ending 30 September 2006, there were 46,047 referrals for assessment by community occupational therapists, 1,399 (3%) less than during year ending 30 September 2005, and 1,336 (3%) less than during the year ending 30 September 2004.
- Since 30 September 2004, the number of referrals for assessment designated as priority cases decreased by 358 (1%).

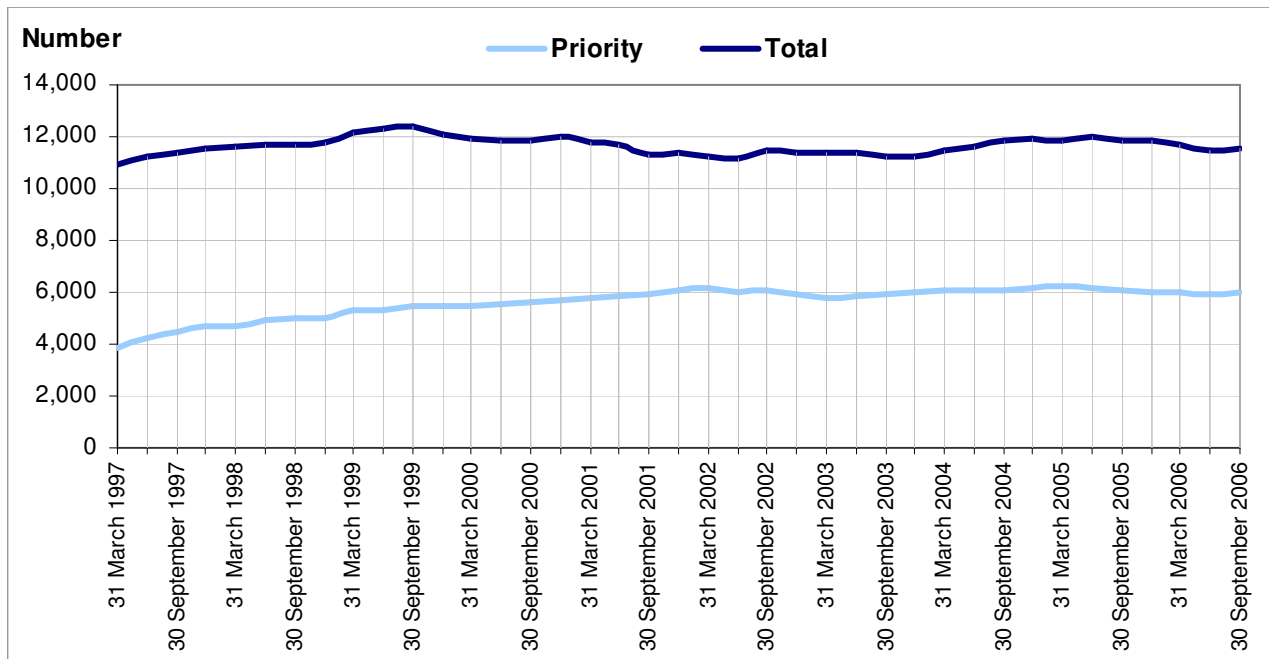
## Section B: Referrals for Assessment

### 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 2006)**



Source: CP4

- Between 31 March 1997 and 30 September 2006, the average number of referrals for assessment increased by 6%, from 10,906 in 31 March 1997 to 11,512 at 30 September 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 30 September 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.

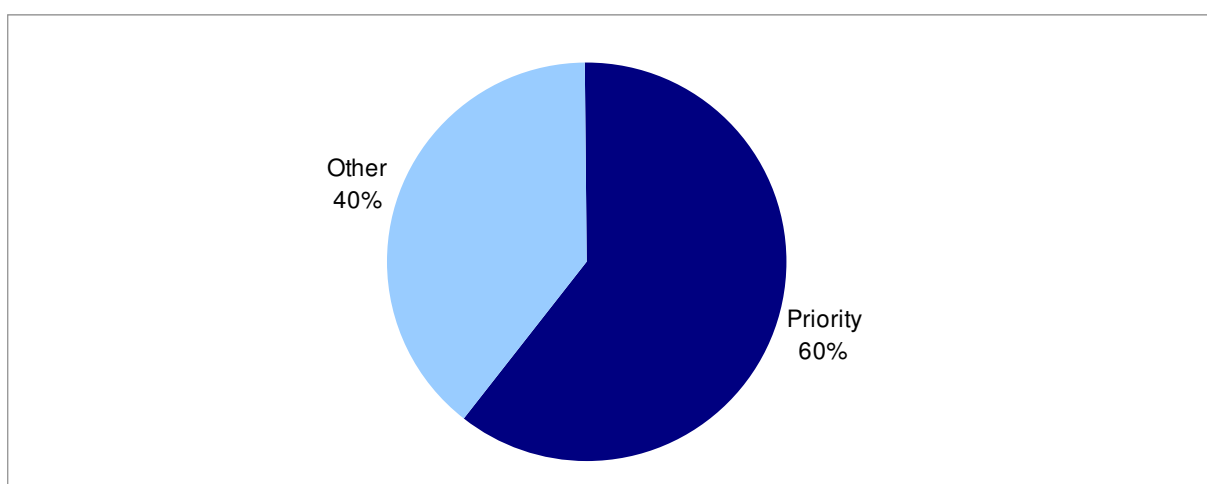
**Table C.1: Number of Assessments Commenced by Quarter**

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2006	30 June 2006	30 September 2005		
Priority Cases	5,615	5,417	4,834	198	781
Other Cases	3,710	3,977	3,667	-267	43
All Assessments Commenced	9,325	9,394	8,501	-69	824

Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2006, 9,325 assessments were commenced by community occupational therapists, a decrease of 1% (69) on the number commenced during the previous quarter, and 10% (824) less than the number commenced during the same quarter last year.
- Between the quarters ending 30 June 2006 and 30 September 2006, the number of priority case assessments commenced increased by 198 (4%), from 5,417 in 30 June 2006 to 5,615 in 30 September 2006, but the number of other case assessments commenced decreased by 267 (7%), from 3,977 in 30 June 2006 to 3,710 in 30 September 2006.
- During the quarter ending 30 September 2006, a higher proportion of assessments commenced were designated priority cases (60%) than other cases (40%).

**Figure C.1: Assessments Commenced according to Priority and Other Cases (Quarter Ending 30 September 2006)**



Source: CP4

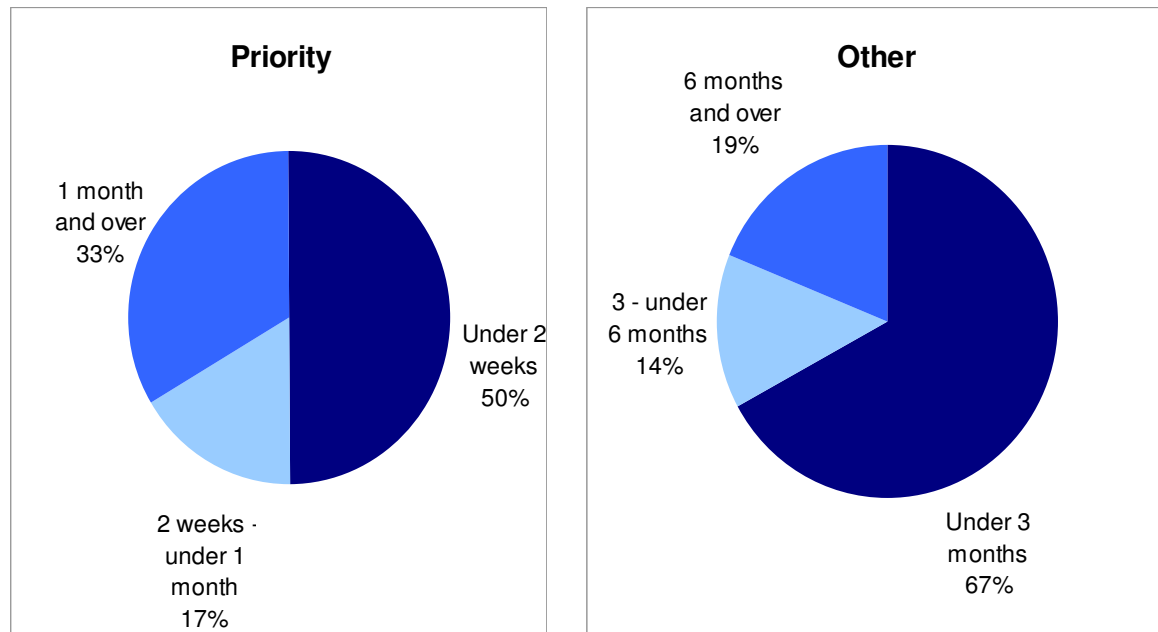
## Section C: Assessments Commenced

### Number of Assessments Commenced by Time from Referral (30 September 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 30 September 2006)**



Source: CP4

- Half (50%) of assessments in respect of priority cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 2 weeks of the referral, 17% in 2 weeks to 1 month, and 33% in 1 month or more. 67% of assessments in respect of other cases met the Charter Standard by commencing within 3 months of the referral, 14% in 3 to 6 months, and 19% 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**

	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2006	30 June 2006	30 September 2005		
Under 2 weeks	2,792	2,882	2,489	-90	303
2 weeks - under 1 month	942	860	910	82	32
1 month and over	1,881	1,675	1,435	206	446
All Priority Cases	5,615	5,417	4,834	198	781

Source: CP4

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

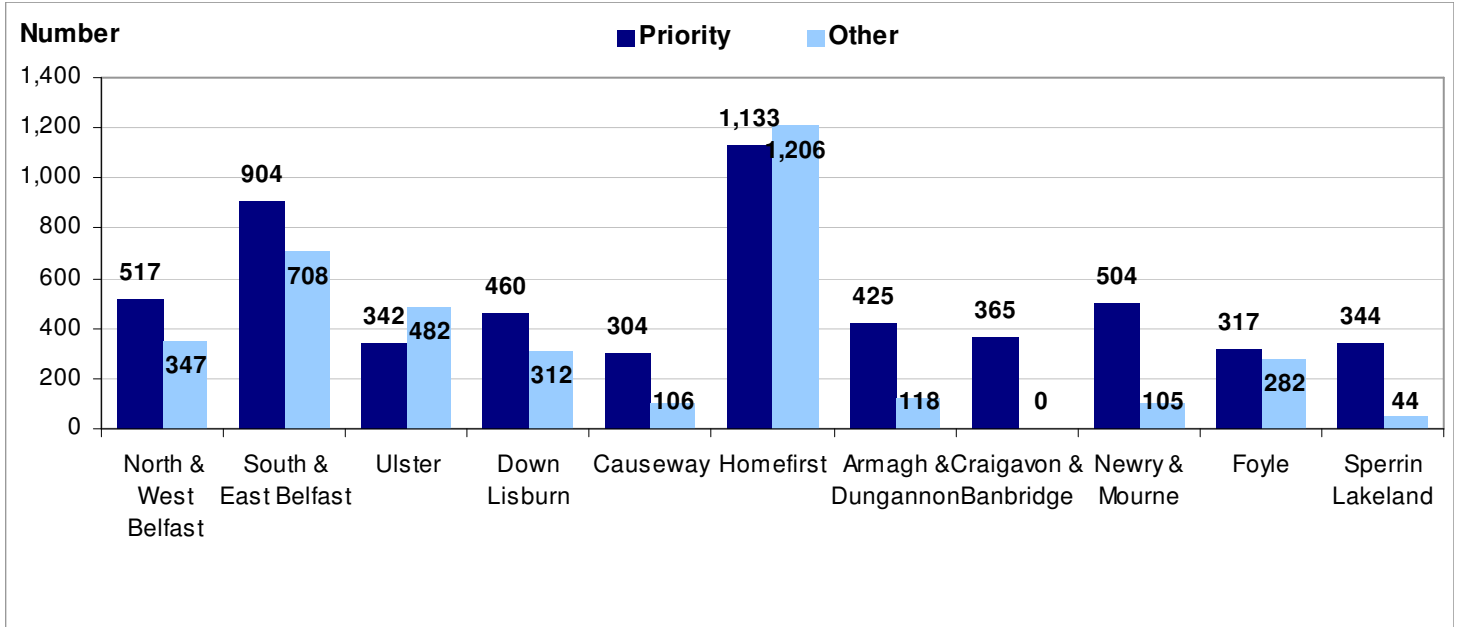
	Quarter Ending:			Quarterly Change	Annual Change
	30 September 2006	30 June 2006	30 September 2005		
Under 3 months	2,488	2,655	2,254	-167	234
3 months - under 6 months	520	543	392	-23	128
6 months and over	702	779	1,021	-77	-319
All Other Cases	3,710	3,977	3,667	-267	43

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 2006)



Source: CP4

- During the quarter ending 30 September 2006, Homefirst (1,133) had the highest number of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases, whilst Causeway (304) had the lowest.
- For the same period, Homefirst (1,206) 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 30 September 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	517	250	48%	347	113	33%
South & East Belfast	904	547	61%	708	624	88%
Ulster	342	209	61%	482	392	81%
Down Lisburn	460	200	43%	312	67	21%
Causeway	304	76	25%	106	26	25%
Homefirst	1,133	652	58%	1,206	1,041	86%
Armagh & Dungannon	425	344	81%	118	72	61%
Craigavon & Banbridge	365	212	58%	0	0	-
Newry & Mourne	504	140	28%	105	38	36%
Foyle	317	78	25%	282	102	36%
Sperrin Lakeland	344	84	24%	44	13	30%
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>5,615</b>	<b>2,792</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>3,710</b>	<b>2,488</b>	<b>67%</b>

Source: CP4

- Armagh & Dungannon (81%) had the highest proportion of assessments commenced in respect of priority cases within 2 weeks, whilst Sperrin Lakeland (24%) had the lowest.
- For non-priority (other) cases, South & East Belfast (88%) had the highest proportion of assessments commenced within 3 months, whilst Down Lisburn 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:		
	30 September 2006	30 September 2005	30 September 2004
Priority Cases	21,924	20,857	22,365
Other Cases	15,454	16,068	15,160
<b>All Assessments Commenced</b>	<b>37,378</b>	<b>36,925</b>	<b>37,525</b>

Source: CP4

- During the year ending 30 September 2006, 37,378 assessments commenced, 1% (453) more than the number commenced during year ending 30 September 2005, but 0.3% (147) less than the number commenced during the year ending 30 September 2004.
- Of the 37,378 assessments commenced during this period, the majority (59%) were in respect of priority cases.

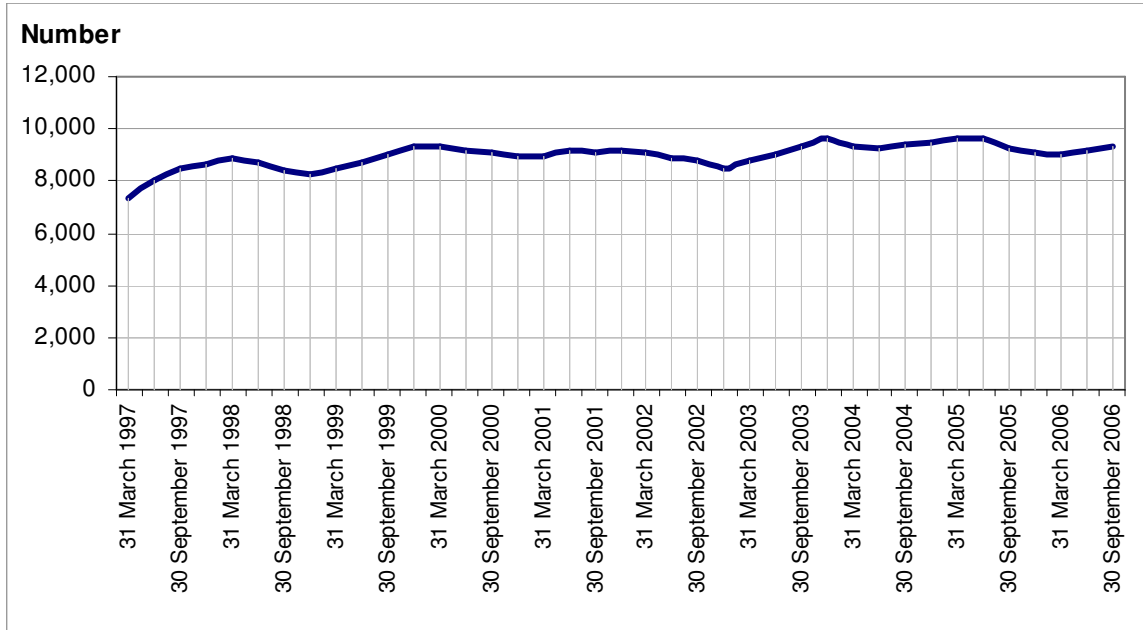
## Section C: Assessments Commenced

### 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 2006)**

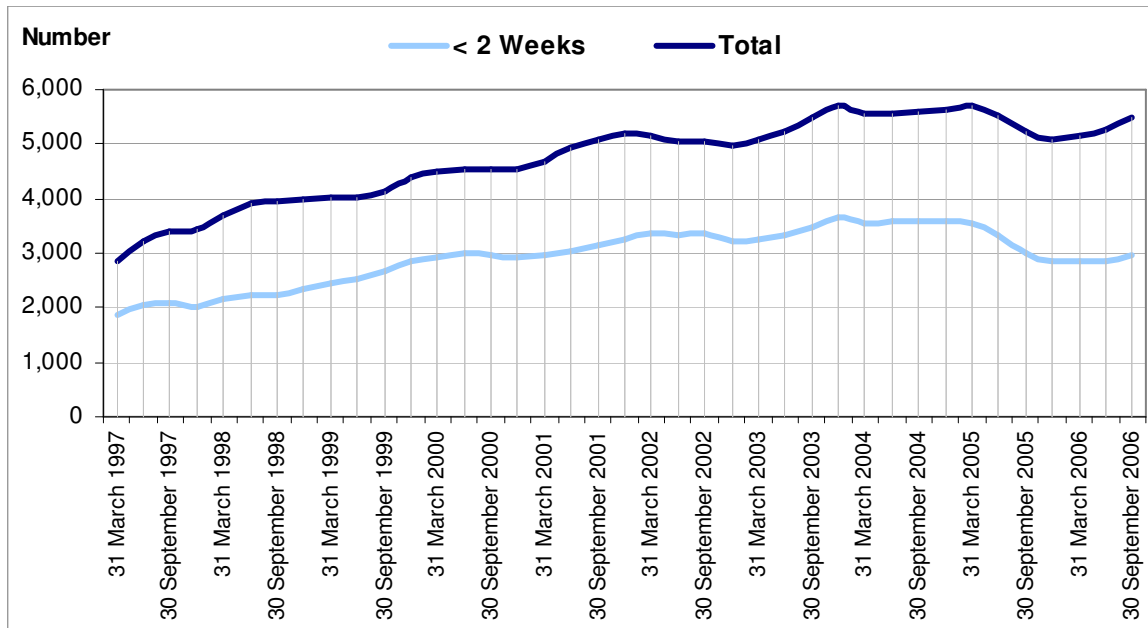


Source: CP4

- Between 31 March 1997 and 30 September 2006, the average number of assessments commenced has increased by 23%, from 7,364 to 9,048.

## Section C: Assessments Commenced

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

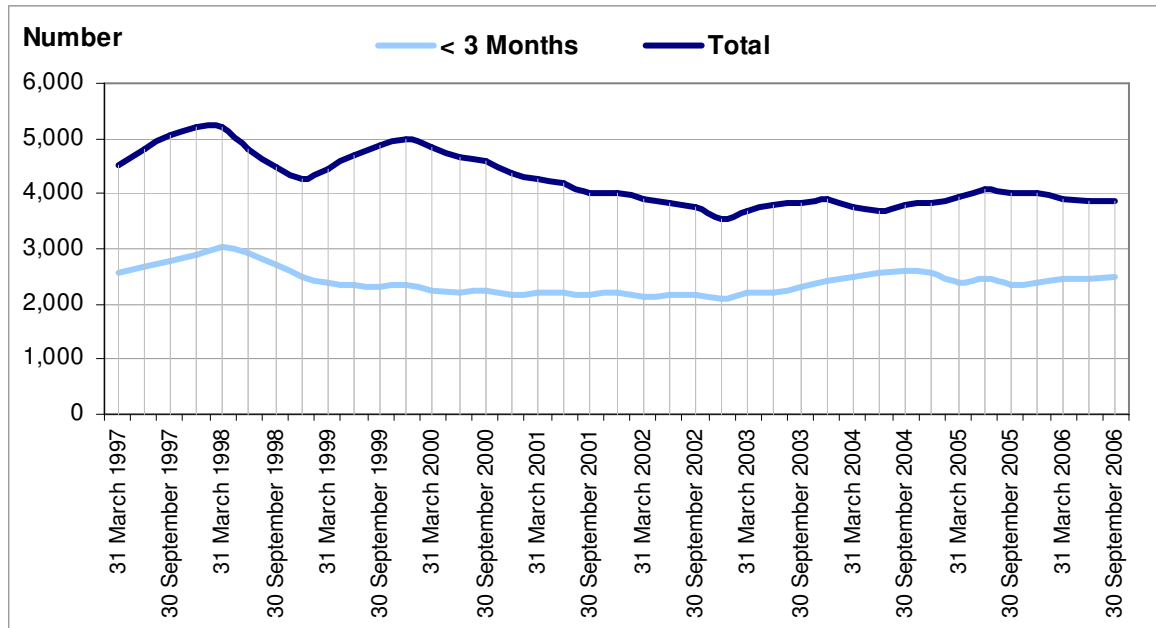


Source: CP4

- 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 30 September 2006. The average number of assessments commenced within 2 weeks increased by 53%, from 1,853 in 31 March 1997 to 2,846 in 30 September 2006.

## Section C: Assessments Commenced

**Figure C.6: Assessments Commenced in Respect of Other Cases (31 March 1997 – 30 September 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 30 September 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 31 December 2006 are expected to be released on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 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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