

Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland: A Statistical Profile

2002 Edition

**Compiled and Edited
by
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FOREWORD

I am delighted to present this report which draws together wide ranging information relating to health and social care in Northern Ireland. Where data permit, changes over time are tracked and comparisons are made between the position in Northern Ireland with that existing in other countries. The evidence base used is information drawn largely from official data sources – administrative data systems and Government commissioned population surveys. Whilst some of the information has been published previously, the report includes new data and statistical analyses.

I am grateful to the staff in IAU who undertook the painstaking work required to produce such a comprehensive report. The document originated as an analytical overview of the Northern Ireland position in relation to the main drivers for health care that were identified in the recent review of long term health trends in the UK led by Sir Derek Wanless (2001). Additional work has been undertaken by my IAU colleagues to update and widen the scope of the report, particularly to include social care. I also wish to express my thanks to others who provided information and/or comment.

I trust that the analytical overview will be of value to a wide range of individuals and organisations. To this end the Profile is available (in colour) on our website <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/iau/index.html> and, for staff in the HPSS, it is also on the HPSS Web at <http://extranet.dhsspsni.gov.uk/>.

In order to monitor change over time, further editions of the report will be prepared periodically. These will draw upon any new sources of data, as well as existing sources. I should welcome therefore comments for deletions, additions or amendments to the document. My address is Annex 2, Castle Buildings, Belfast, BT4 3UD or, for e-mails, liz.mcwhirter@dhsspsni.gov.uk.

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