

# Statistics Release



Department of  
**Health, Social Services  
and Public Safety**

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AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta  
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin  
an Fowk Siccar**

03 September 2009

## Northern Ireland Waiting Lists – June 2009

This statistics release gives details of the number of people waiting for either a first outpatient assessment, a selected diagnostic service or inpatient treatment at hospitals in Northern Ireland at the end of June 2009, the most recent quarter for which figures are available.

### Outpatients

#### Headline Totals<sup>1</sup> – Table 1

The number of patients waiting for a first outpatient appointment (including cancellations and deferrals) at the end of June 2009 stood at 74,000.

Over the quarter, comparing the end of June 2009 with the end of March 2009 (68,755), the total number has increased by 5,245 (+7.6%).

Over the year, comparing the end of June 2009 with the end of June 2008 (77,091), the total number waiting decreased by 3,091 (-4.0%).

**Table 1** Quarterly Outpatient Waiting Lists – June 2009<sup>1</sup>

	Quarter Ending June 2009	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter - previous year
<b>Total Waiting</b>	<b>74,000</b>	<b>+ 5245</b>	<b>-3,091</b>

Source: Departmental Return CH3 parts 1 & 2

<sup>1</sup> Refer to Technical Note 3.

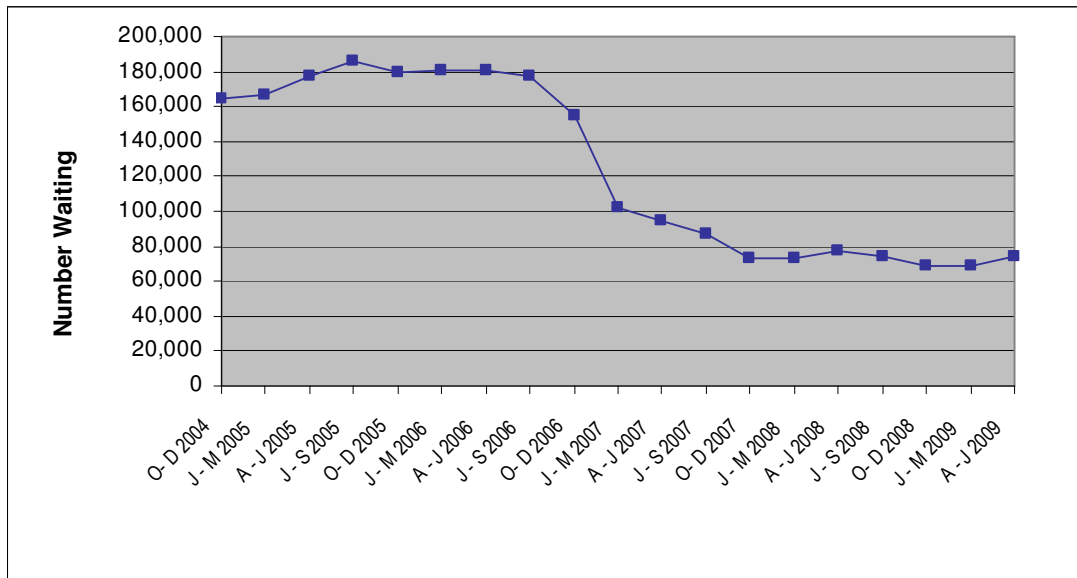
Detailed notes and definitions are provided in the Technical Notes.



## Trends

The total number of people waiting for a first outpatient appointment peaked in September 2005. There has been a downward trend since this peak and the outpatient waiting lists total has decreased in seven of the previous ten quarters.

**Figure 1 Outpatients Waiting for a First Appointment, Five Yearly Trends June 2004 – June 2009**



Source: Departmental Return CH3 parts 1 & 2.

## Outpatients Waiting More than 9 Weeks

The 2009/10 Priority For Action Target relating to Waiting Times for a first outpatient appointment states that ‘Trusts should ensure that, from April 2009, no patient waits longer than 9 weeks for a first outpatient appointment’. At the end of June 2009, the number of patients waiting more than 9 weeks for a first outpatient appointment was 1,127, 1.5% of the total waiting. Of this number, 446 were waiting more than 13 weeks.

**Table 2 Patients Waiting More than 9 Weeks<sup>2</sup> - June 2009**

	Quarter Ending June 2009	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter - previous year
<b>Total Waiting</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>+ 639</b>	<b>-7,101</b>

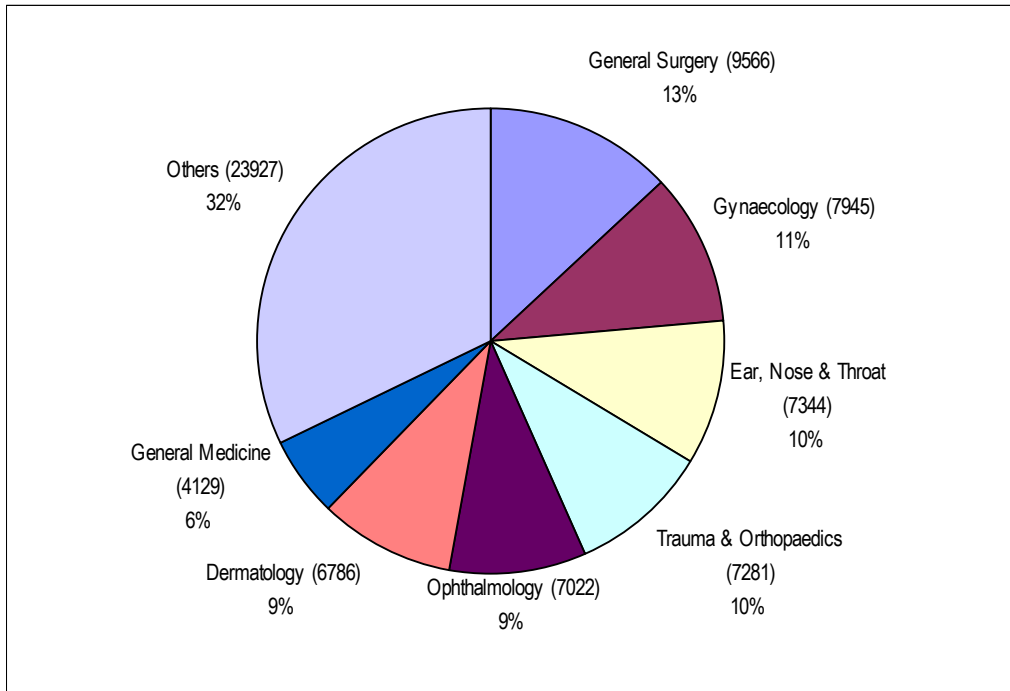
Source: Departmental Return CH3 parts 1 & 2.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to Technical Notes 3-6.

## Outpatients Waiting by Specialty

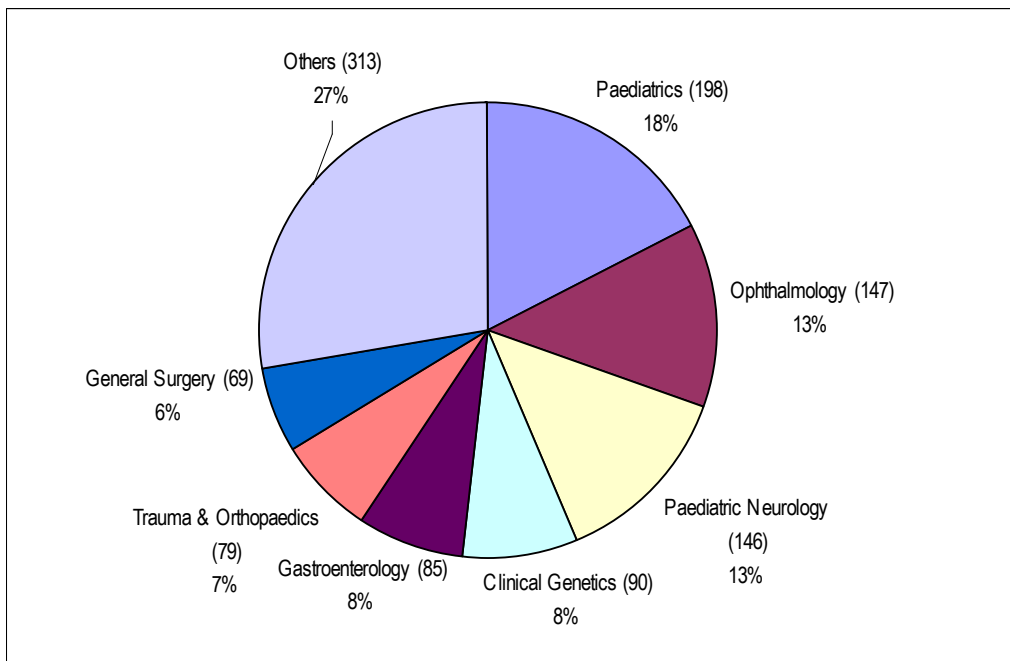
The majority of those waiting (68.0%) were within seven specialties: General Surgery; Gynaecology (Gynae); Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); Trauma & Orthopaedics; Ophthalmology; Dermatology and General Medicine (Figure 2a). Figures represent the total number waiting for their first outpatient appointment during the June 2009 quarter including those who have cancelled or missed a previous appointment.

**Figure 2a Outpatients – Total Waiters by Specialty at the end of June 2009**



Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2.

**Figure 2b Outpatients – Patients Waiting More than 9 Weeks by Specialty at the end of June 2009**



Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2.

## Outpatient Waiting Time by Specialty

Waiting times for outpatients by specialty are shown in Table 3. Overall 98.5% of those waiting for treatment were waiting less than 9 weeks.

**Table 3** Number of Patients Waiting for a First Appointment by Weeks Waiting and Specialty – June 2009

Specialty	Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Weeks Waiting					Total Number of Patients Waiting
	0-6	>6-9	>9-13	>13-26	26+	
General Surgery	8,005	1,492	68	1	0	9,566
Gynaecology	6,310	1,622	7	6	0	7,945
Ear, Nose & Throat	6,083	1,258	3	0	0	7,344
Trauma & Orthopaedics	5,688	1,514	68	11	0	7,281
Ophthalmology	5,394	1,481	112	33	2	7,022
Dermatology	5,695	1,087	4	0	0	6,786
General Medicine	3,457	660	12	0	0	4,129
Paediatrics	2,168	423	81	111	6	2,789
Cardiology	2,128	486	30	26	3	2,673
Neurology	1,707	435	0	0	0	2,142
Rheumatology	1,505	527	15	16	2	2,065
Urology	1,681	330	6	9	0	2,026
Oral Surgery	1,324	359	20	4	0	1,707
Gastroenterology	937	243	82	3	0	1,265
Pain Management	945	268	0	0	0	1,213
Geriatric Medicine	864	143	0	0	0	1,007
Restorative Dentistry	613	197	27	12	0	849
Plastic Surgery	707	140	0	0	0	847
Thoracic Medicine	672	155	0	0	0	827
Endocrinology	408	100	0	0	0	508
Other	3,089	573	146	117	84	4,009
<b>All Specialties</b>	<b>59,380</b>	<b>13,493</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>74,000</b>

Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2

## Outpatient Waiting Times by Provider Trust

Waiting times for outpatients by Trust are shown in Table 4.

**Table 4** Number of Patients Waiting for a First Appointment by Provider Trust and Weeks Waiting – June 2009 <sup>2</sup>

Provider Trust	Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Weeks Waiting					Total Number of Patients Waiting
	0-6	>6-9	>9-13	>13-26	26+	
Belfast	23,118	6,115	562	332	97	30,224
Northern	8,513	1,871	0	0	0	10,384
South Eastern	9,307	1,118	0	0	0	10,425
Southern	9,118	2,485	4	1	0	11,608
Western	9,324	1,904	115	16	0	11,359
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,380</b>	<b>13,493</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>74,000</b>

Source: Departmental Return CH3 Parts 1 & 2

<sup>2</sup>Refer to Technical Notes – points 3-6.

## Completed Outpatient Waits – June 2009

The number of completed outpatient waits, for patients treated within Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland, are shown in Table 5. A total of 122,109 patients attended a first outpatient appointment within Health Service hospitals during the June 2009 quarter.

**Table 5** Completed Outpatient Waits for First Appointment<sup>3</sup>

Quarter	Total Number of Completed Outpatient Waits
A - J 2006	103,615
J - S 2006	102,391
O- D 2006	115,747
<b>J - D 2006</b>	<b>426,814</b>
J - M 2007	120,388
A - J 2007	117,021
J - S 2007	112,484
O- D 2007	121,090
<b>J - D 2007</b>	<b>470,983</b>
J - M 2008	114,002
A - J 2008	122,364
J - S 2008	113,747
O- D 2008	123,117
<b>J - D 2008</b>	<b>473,230</b>
J - M 2009	122,379
A - J 2009	122,109

Source: Departmental Return QOAR

<sup>3</sup>Refer to Technical Note – point 7.

## Completed Outpatient Waits including Independent Sector Activity– June 2009

During the June 2009 quarter, a number of patients attended a first outpatient appointment, commissioned by the Health Service, within the Independent Sector. Estimates of the number of patients attending a first outpatient appointment within the Independent Sector have been provided by commissioning Trusts.

It is estimated that approximately 16,436 Health Service patients attended a first outpatient appointment, within the Independent Sector, during the quarter ending June 2009. When this number is combined with that for outpatients attending a first appointment in Health Service hospitals during the same period, it is estimated that approximately 138,545 outpatients attended a first appointment in Northern Ireland for an assessment commissioned by the Health Service.

**Table 6a Completed Outpatient Waits by Trust including Independent Sector Activity – June 2009<sup>4</sup>**

Provider Trust	Number of Completed Outpatient Waits within Health Service Hospitals <sup>P</sup>	Number of Completed Outpatient Waits in Independent Sector	Total Number of Completed Outpatient Waits Commissioned by Health Service
Belfast	48,793	3,883	52,676
Northern	15,906	3,036	18,942
South Eastern	20,441	4,408	24,849
Southern	17,812	1,330	19,142
Western	19,157	3,779	22,936
<b>Total Treated</b>	<b>122,109</b>	<b>16,436</b>	<b>138,545</b>

Source: Health and Social Care Trusts

<sup>4</sup>Refer to Technical Notes – points 7-9.

**P - Provisional**

## Completed Outpatient Waits including Independent Sector Activity, Quarter Ending 30 June 2008 – Quarter Ending 30 June 2009

Table 6b has been included to reflect the total completed outpatient waits in the Health Service for the past five quarters.

**Table 6b Completed Outpatient Waits by Trust Including Independent Sector Activity<sup>4</sup>, 30 June 2008 – 30 June 2009<sup>P</sup>**

Provider Trust	Total Number of Completed Outpatient Waits Commissioned by Health Service				
	30 June 2008	30 September 2008	31 December 2008	31 March 2009	30 June 2009 <sup>P</sup>
Belfast	46,805	46,185	50,377	51,238	52,676
Northern	18,426	18,015	19,549	19,633	18,942
South Eastern	21,155	20,153	25,158	22,744	24,849
Southern	19,413	17,948	18,712	19,229	19,142
Western	22,559	20,846	21,426	20,905	22,936
<b>Total</b>	<b>128,358</b>	<b>123,147</b>	<b>135,222</b>	<b>133,749</b>	<b>138,545</b>

Source: Health and Social Care Trusts

<sup>4</sup>Refer to Technical Notes – points 7- 9.

**P - Provisional**

## Diagnostic Services

Tables 7 -10 provide details of the number of people waiting for the 16 selected diagnostic services, carried out at hospitals in Northern Ireland, and covered by the maximum waiting time Ministerial target for 2009/10<sup>5</sup>.

### Headline Totals – Table 7

The total number of patients waiting for one of the 16 selected diagnostic services at hospitals in Northern Ireland at the end of June 2009 stood at 34,484, a increase of 1,521 (4.6%) on the position at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 (32,963) and an increase of 3,733 (12.1%) on the number waiting at the end of June 2008 (30,751).

**Table 7      Quarterly Diagnostic Services Waiting List – June 2009<sup>5</sup>**

<b>Diagnostic Service Category:</b>	<b>Number of Patients Waiting Quarter Ending June 2009</b>	<b>Change compared with the end of the previous quarter</b>	<b>Change compared with the same quarter previous year</b>
Imaging (excluding Interventional Imaging)	18,951	1,353	3,714
Physiological Measurement	6,384	86	699
Day case Endoscopy	9,149	82	-680
Other Endoscopy	0	0	0
<b>Total waiting for selected diagnostic tests</b>	<b>34,484</b>	<b>+ 1521</b>	<b>+ 3733</b>

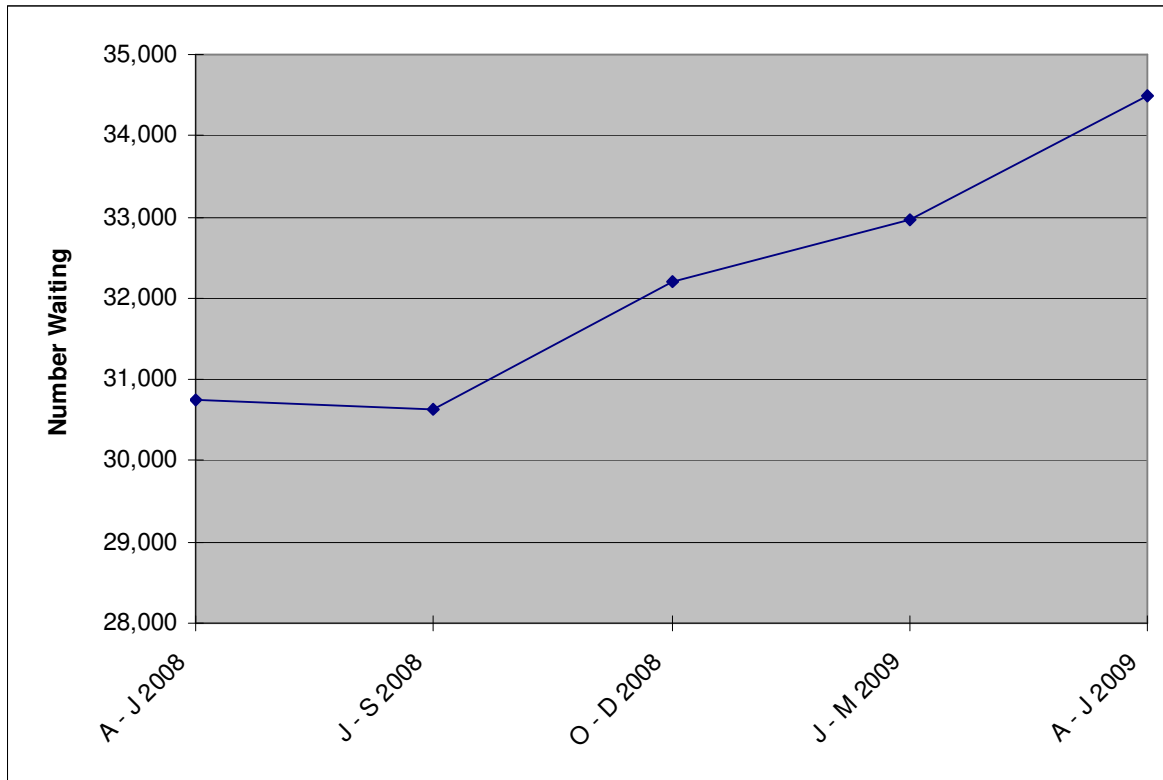
Source: Departmental Return SDR1

<sup>5</sup>Refer to Technical Notes – points 10-16.

## Trends

The total number of people waiting for diagnostic service has been on an upward trend over the last four quarters.

**Figure 3 Patients waiting for a Diagnostic Service, Five Quarterly Trends June 2008 – June 2009**



## Diagnostic Services Waiting over 9/13 Weeks<sup>5</sup>

The 2009/10 Ministerial target for diagnostic services states that from April 2009, no patient should wait longer than 9 weeks for one of the selected diagnostic tests (13 weeks for a day case endoscopy). There were 235 patients waiting over the target for the 16 selected diagnostic services.

**Table 8 Patients Waiting More than the Target - June 2009<sup>5</sup>**

Waiting Over Target Waiting Time:	Number of Patients Waiting Quarter Ending June 2009	Change compared with the end of the previous quarter	Change compared with the same quarter previous year
<b>Total</b>	235	+ 107	-2,428

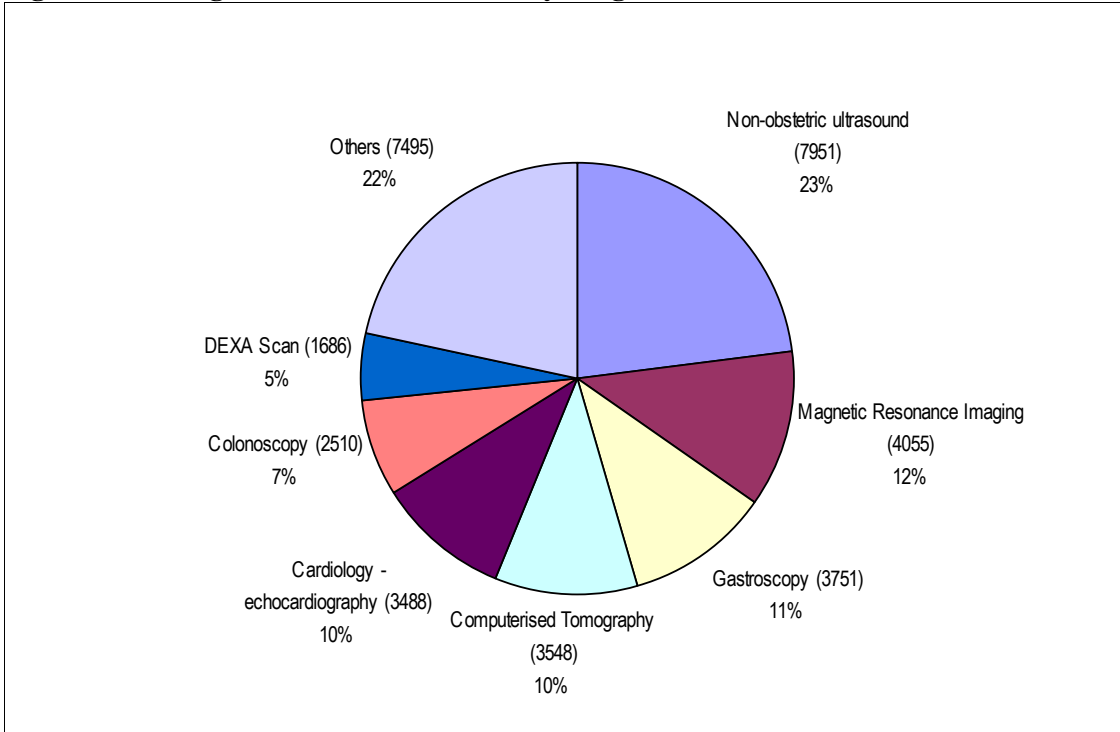
Source: Departmental Return SDR1

<sup>5</sup>Refer to Technical Notes – points 10-16.

## Patients Waiting by Diagnostic Service

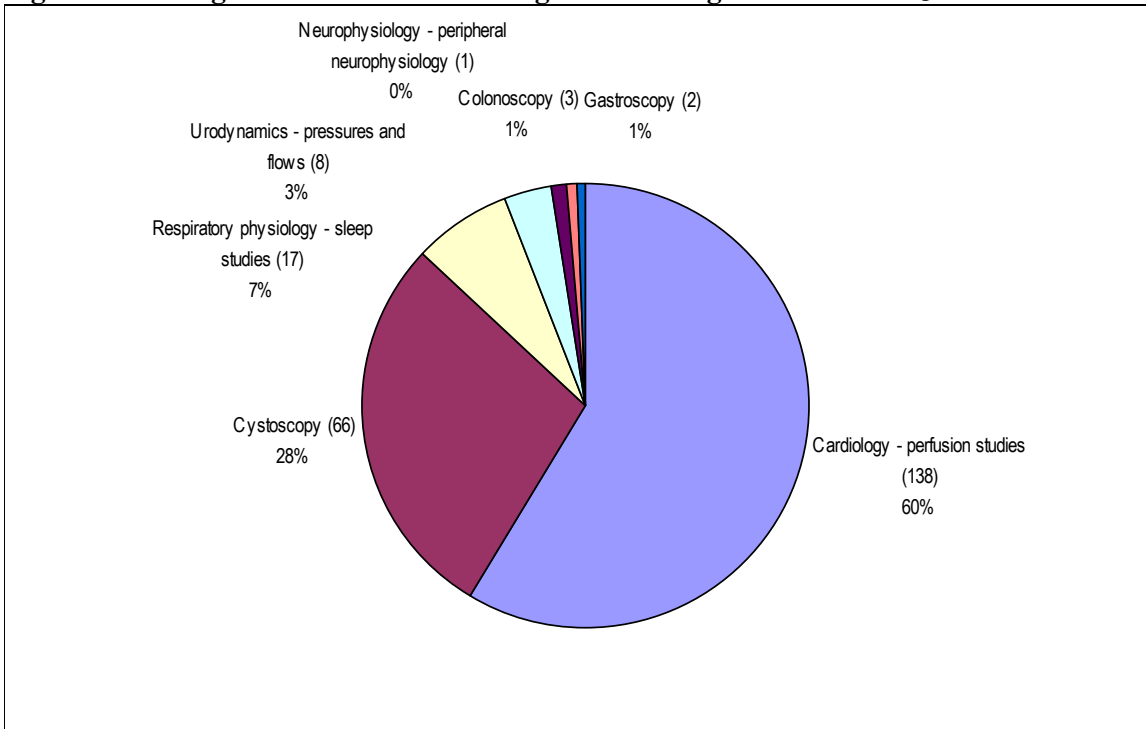
The majority of those waiting (78.0%) were within seven diagnostic services: Non-obstetric Ultrasound; Magnetic Resonance Imaging; Gastroscopy; Computerised Tomography; Echocardiology; Colonoscopy and DEXA scan (Figure 4a). Figures represent the total number waiting for a diagnostic service during the June 2009 quarter.

**Figure 4a Diagnostics – Total Waiters by Diagnostic Test at the end of June 2009**



Source: Departmental Return SDR1

**Figure 4b Diagnostics – Patients waiting over the target at the end of June 2009**



Source: Departmental Return SDR1

**Table 9 Diagnostic Services Waiting Times by Diagnostic Test and Weeks Waiting – June 2009<sup>5</sup>**

Diagnostic Test	Patients Waiting for a Diagnostic Test by Weeks Waiting						Total Number of Patients Waiting
	0 - 6	>6 - 9	>9 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	26 +	
Magnetic Resonance Imaging	3,337	718	0	0	0	0	4,055
Computerised Tomography	2,928	620	0	0	0	0	3,548
Non Obstetric Ultrasound	6,996	955	0	0	0	0	7,951
Barium Studies	957	68	0	0	0	0	1,025
DEXA Scan	1,446	240	0	0	0	0	1,686
Radio Nuclide Imaging	649	37	0	0	0	0	686
Audiology - Pure Tone	427	38	0	0	0	0	465
Cardiology - Echocardiography	2,887	601	0	0	0	0	3,488
Cardiology - Perfusion Studies	372	110	138	0	0	0	620
Neurophysiology - Peripheral Neurophysiology	787	183	1	0	0	0	971
Respiratory Physiology - Sleep Studies	307	51	8	8	1	0	375
Urodynamics - Pressures & Flows	368	89	8	0	0	0	465
Colonoscopy	1,481	520	506	3	0	0	2,510
Flexi sigmoidoscopy	821	332	290	0	0	0	1,443
Cystoscopy	866	286	227	47	8	11	1,445
Gastroscopy	2,338	767	644	1	1	0	3,751
<b>Total waiting for selected diagnostic tests</b>	<b>26,967</b>	<b>5,615</b>	<b>1,822</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>34,484</b>

Source: Departmental Return SDR1

<sup>5</sup>Refer to Technical Notes – points 10-16.

Waiting times for diagnostic services by Trust are shown in Table 10.

**Table 10 Diagnostic Services Waiting Times by Provider Trust – June 2009<sup>5</sup>**

<b>Diagnostic Test</b>	<b>Patients Waiting for a Diagnostic Test by Weeks Waiting</b>						<b>Total Number of Patients Waiting</b>
	<b>0 - 6</b>	<b>&gt;6 - 9</b>	<b>&gt;9 - 13</b>	<b>&gt;13 - 21</b>	<b>21- 26</b>	<b>26 +</b>	
Belfast	9,163	2,599	575	42	9	11	<b>12,399</b>
Northern	4,058	685	357	1	0	0	<b>5,101</b>
South Eastern	4,072	509	247	0	0	0	<b>4,828</b>
Southern	5,562	913	354	5	0	0	<b>6,834</b>
Western	4,112	909	289	11	1	0	<b>5,322</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,967</b>	<b>5,615</b>	<b>1,822</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>34,484</b>

Source: Departmental Return SDR1

<sup>5</sup>Refer to Technical Notes – points 10-16.

# Inpatients

## Headline Totals<sup>6</sup> – Table 11

The total number of patients waiting to be admitted to hospitals in Northern Ireland at the end of June 2009 stood at 32,342.

Over the quarter, comparing the end of June 2009 with the end of March 2009 (32,663), the total number waiting has decreased by 321 (-1.0%). Comparing the end of June 2009 with the end of June 2008 (36,073), the total number waiting has decreased by 3,731 (-10.3%).

**Table 11**      **Quarterly Inpatient Waiting Lists – June 2009**

<b>Waiting for:</b>	<b>Quarter Ending June 2009</b>	<b>Change compared with end of previous quarter</b>	<b>Change compared with end same quarter – previous year</b>
Ordinary Admissions	10,433	-72	-1,031
Day case Admissions	21,909	-249	-2,700
<b>Total Waiting</b>	<b>32,342</b>	<b>-321</b>	<b>-3,731</b>

Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>6</sup> Refer to technical notes – points 1&2 & 19-23.

## Numbers Waiting for Ordinary Admission and Day Case Treatment

People on the inpatient waiting list in Northern Ireland can be waiting for admission to hospital as day cases or as ordinary admissions.

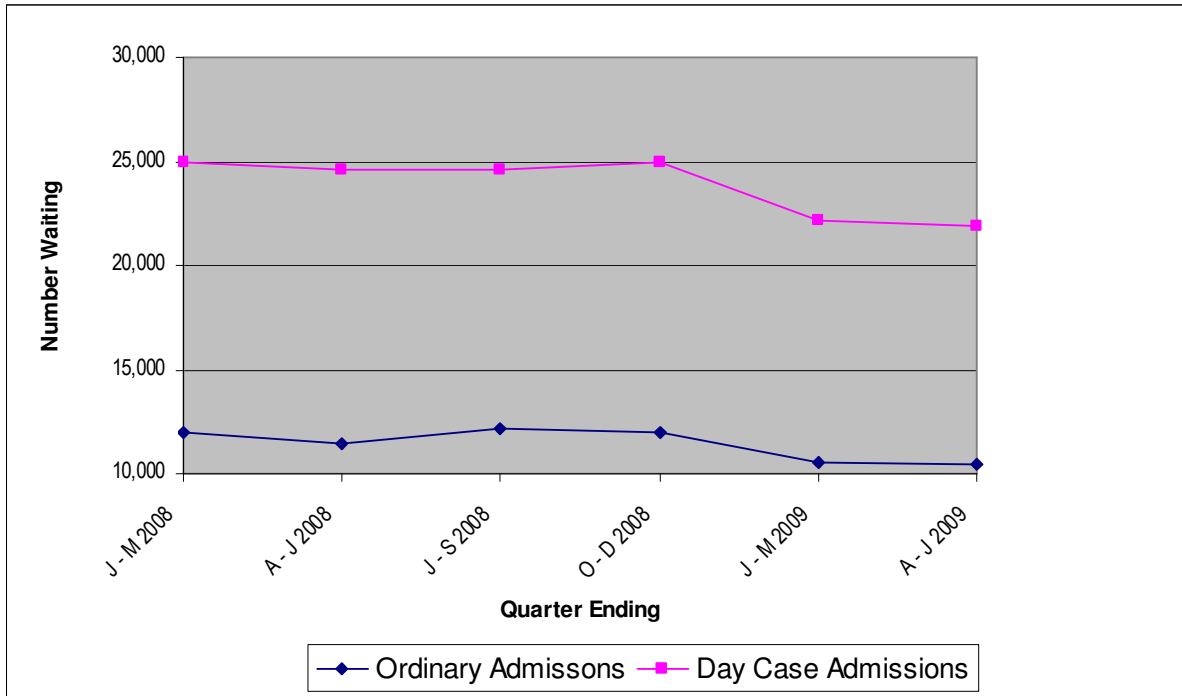
Of the 32,342 people waiting for admission to hospital at the end of June 2009, 10,433 (32.3%) were waiting for ordinary admission and 21,909 (67.7%) were waiting for day case admission (Table 11).

Since the end of March 2009, the number of cases waiting for ordinary admission has decreased by 72 (-0.7%) and the number waiting for day case admission has decreased by 249 (-1.1%). Compared with the end of June 2008, the number waiting for ordinary admission decreased by 1,031 (-9.0%) with the number waiting for day case admission decreased by 2,700 (-11.0%).

## Trends

The total number of patients waiting for both ordinary and day case admission has remained reasonably constant over March 2008 – December 2008, and shows a decrease over the last two quarters.

**Figure 5** Number of patients waiting for (i) Ordinary Admissions and (ii) Day case Admissions, Six Quarterly Trends March 2008 – June 2009



Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

## Ordinary Admission and Day Cases Waiting More Than 13 Weeks<sup>7</sup> – Table 12

The 2009/10 Priority for Action target relating to waiting times for inpatient treatment, states that from April 2009 no patient should wait longer than 13 weeks for inpatient or day case treatment.

At the end of June 2009, there were 1,116 patients waiting more than 13 weeks for inpatient treatment, of which 193 were waiting more than 21 weeks. Of the 1,116 patients waiting more than 13 weeks, 676 (60.6%) were awaiting ordinary admission and 440 (39.4%) were awaiting day case procedures.

**Table 12 Patients Waiting More Than 13 Weeks<sup>7</sup> – June 2009**

<b>Waiting for:</b>	<b>Quarter Ending June 2009</b>	<b>Change compared with end of previous quarter</b>	<b>Change compared with end same quarter - previous year</b>
Ordinary Admissions	676	+ 408	-1,165
Day Case Admissions	440	+ 321	-2,385
<b>Total Waiting</b>	<b>1,116</b>	<b>+ 729</b>	<b>-3,550</b>

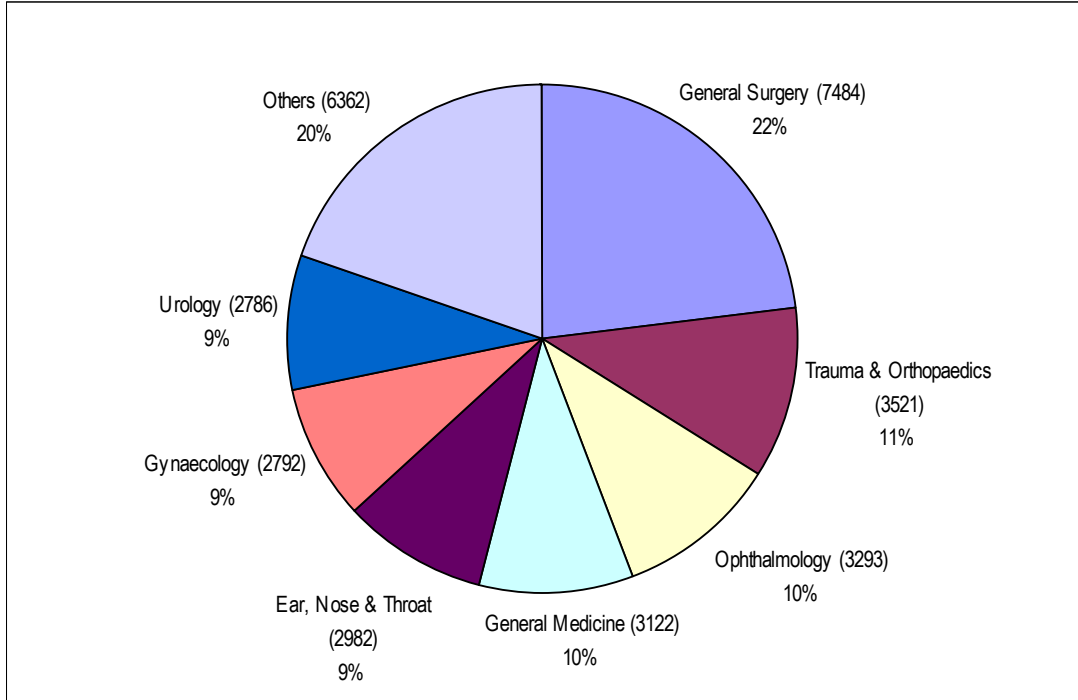
Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>7</sup> Refer to Technical Notes – points 1&2 and 17-23.

## Inpatients Waiting by Specialty

The overwhelming majority of those waiting (80%) were within seven specialties: General Surgery; Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (T&O); Ophthalmology; General Medicine; Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); Gynaecology (Gynae) and Urology (Figure 6a).

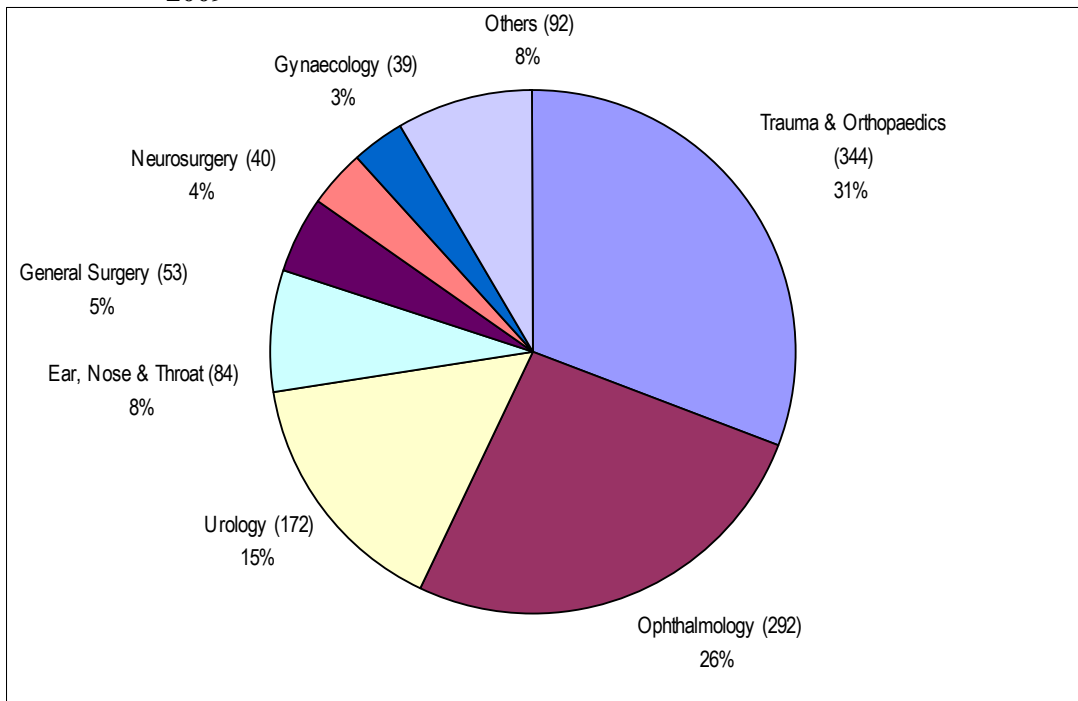
**Figure 6a Inpatients - Total Waiters by Specialty at the end of June 2009<sup>7</sup>**



Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>7</sup> Refer to Technical Notes – – points 1&2 and 17-23.

**Figure 6b Inpatients – Patients waiting more than 13 weeks by Specialty at the end of June 2009<sup>7</sup>**



Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>7</sup> Refer to Technical Notes – – points 1&2 and 17-23.

## Inpatient Waiting Time by Specialty

Waiting times for inpatients by specialty are shown in Table 13. Overall 96.5% of those waiting for admission were waiting 13 weeks or less. More than 99% of patients were waiting for treatment in the Acute Services Programme of Care.

**Table 13 Number of Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting and Specialty –June 2009<sup>7</sup>**

Specialty	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting					Total Number of Patients Awaiting Admission
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	26+	
General Surgery	4,629	2,802	48	1	4	7,484
Trauma & Orthopaedics	1,673	1,504	281	28	35	3,521
Ophthalmology	1,652	1,349	259	22	11	3,293
General Medicine	2,012	1,103	7	0	0	3,122
Ear, Nose & Throat	1,670	1,228	82	2	0	2,982
Gynaecology	1,744	1,009	38	0	1	2,792
Urology	1,694	920	119	22	31	2,786
Gastroenterology	892	735	0	0	0	1,627
Cardiology	561	324	27	1	0	913
Pain Management	314	359	11	0	0	684
Oral Surgery	344	227	0	0	0	571
Plastic Surgery	316	185	7	5	9	522
Dermatology	313	118	0	0	0	431
Rheumatology	167	187	0	0	0	354
General Practice (Other)	244	35	0	0	0	279
Cardiac Surgery	107	110	10	0	1	228
Neurosurgery	94	58	26	11	3	192
Paediatric Surgery	139	28	1	1	0	169
Nephrology	52	23	0	0	0	75
Paediatric Dentistry	28	18	5	5	0	56
Other	202	57	2	0	0	261
<b>All Specialties</b>	<b>18,847</b>	<b>12,379</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>32,342</b>

Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>7</sup> Refer to Technical Notes – points 1&2 and 17-23.

## Inpatient Waiting Times by Provider Trust

Waiting times for inpatients by Trust are shown in Table 14.

**Table 14 Number of Patients Waiting for Admission by Provider Trust and by Weeks Waiting – June 2009<sup>7</sup>**

Provider Trust	Patients Waiting for Admission by Weeks Waiting					Total Number of Patients Waiting
	0 - 6	>6 - 13	>13 - 21	>21 - 26	26+	
Belfast	6,782	5,142	685	90	93	12,792
Northern	3,107	1,851	15	0	0	4,973
South Eastern	2,758	1,328	0	0	0	4,086
Southern	2,751	2,088	19	0	0	4,858
Western	3,449	1,970	204	8	2	5,633
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,847</b>	<b>12,379</b>	<b>923</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>32,342</b>

Source: DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Times Dataset

<sup>7</sup> Refer to Technical Notes – points 1&2 and 17-23.

## Completed Inpatient Waits – June 2009

The number of completed inpatient waits, for patients treated within Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland are shown in Table 15. A total of 47,103 inpatients were admitted to Health Service hospitals during the June 2009 quarter.

**Table 15 Completed Inpatient Waits<sup>8</sup>**

Quarter	Total Number of Completed Inpatient Waits <sup>P</sup>
A - J 2006	43,981
J - S 2006	41,377
O - D 2006	46,111
<b>J - D 2006</b>	<b>177,300</b>
J - M 2007	46,173
A - J 2007	46,022
J - S 2007	43,640
O - D 2007	46,492
<b>J - D 2007</b>	<b>182,327</b>
J - M 2008	45,145
A - J 2008	48,576
J - S 2008	44,609
O - D 2008	47,712
<b>J - D 2008</b>	<b>186,042</b>
J - M 2009	47,095
A - J 2009	47,103

Source: Hospital Inpatient System

<sup>8</sup> Refer to Technical Notes – point 24.

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## Completed Inpatient Waits including Independent Sector Activity – June 2009

During the June 2009 quarter, a number of patients received inpatient treatment commissioned by the Health Service, within the Independent Sector. Estimates of the number of patients admitted for inpatient treatment within the Independent Sector have been provided by the commissioning Trust.

It is estimated that approximately 6,683 Health Service patients were treated within the Independent Sector during the quarter ending June 2009. When this number is combined with that for inpatients admitted to Health Service hospitals during the quarter, it is estimated that approximately 53,786 inpatients were admitted to hospital in Northern Ireland for treatment commissioned by the Health Service.

**Table 16a Completed Inpatient Waits by Trust including Independent Sector Activity – June 2009<sup>9</sup>**

Provider Trust	Number of Completed Inpatient Waits within Health Service Hospitals <sup>P</sup>	Number of Completed Inpatient Waits in Independent Sector	Total Number of Completed Inpatient Waits Commissioned by Health Service
Belfast	19,910	2,558	22,468
Northern	6,490	843	7,333
South Eastern	7,112	1,398	8,510
Southern	6,593	738	7,331
Western	6,998	1,146	8,144
<b>Total Treated</b>	<b>47,103</b>	<b>6,683</b>	<b>53,786</b>

Source: Health and Social Care Trusts

<sup>9</sup> Refer to Technical Notes – points 24-26.

**P - Provisional**

## Completed Inpatient Waits including Independent Sector Activity, Quarter Ending 30 June 2008 – Quarter Ending 30 June 2009

Table 16b has been included to reflect the total completed inpatient waits for Health Service patients for the past five quarters.

**Table 16b Completed Inpatient Waits by Trust Including Independent Sector Activity<sup>9</sup>, 30 June 2008 – 30 June 2009<sup>P</sup>**

Provider Trust	Total Number of Completed Inpatient Waits Commissioned by Health Service				
	30 June 2008	30 September 2008	31 December 2008	31 March 2009	30 June 2009 <sup>P</sup>
Belfast	20,785	19,766	21,357	21,640	22,468
Northern	6,921	6,403	6,308	7,229	7,333
South Eastern	7,736	7,316	8,090	7,941	8,510
Southern	7,116	7,272	8,123	7,684	7,331
Western	8,235	7,518	8,553	9,011	8,144
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,793</b>	<b>48,275</b>	<b>52,431</b>	<b>53,505</b>	<b>53,786</b>

Source: Health and Social Care Trusts

<sup>9</sup> Refer to Technical Notes – points 24-26.

**P - Provisional**

## Technical Notes

1. The sources for the data contained in this release are the Departmental Returns CH3, Quarterly Outpatient Activity Return (QOAR), SDR1, DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Time Dataset and Hospital Inpatient System Dataset. These returns collect information from Health and Social Care Trusts on a quarterly basis.
2. Trust based information (CH3, QOAR, SDR1, DHSSPS Inpatient Waiting Time Dataset, and Hospital Inpatients System Dataset) returns include all patients living outside Northern Ireland and all privately funded patients waiting for treatment in Health Service hospitals in Northern Ireland.
3. Outpatient waiters are defined as patients still waiting for their first outpatient appointment at the end of the quarter. An outpatient appointment is to enable a patient to see a consultant, a member of his firm or locum for such a member, in respect of one referral. Waiting time for a first outpatient appointment begins on the date the HSC Trust receives a referral for a first appointment and ends on the date the patient attends a first outpatient appointment. Patients who cannot attend (CNA) have their waiting time adjusted to commence on the date they informed the HSC Trust they could not attend, while patients who do not attend (DNA) have their waiting time adjusted to commence on the date of the DNA.
4. For Tables 2, 3, 4 and Figure 2b, outpatient waiting time relates to the number of completed weeks a patient has been waiting for outpatient assessment. For example, a patient waiting exactly 6 weeks would be included in the 0-6 week timeband and a patient waiting exactly 6 weeks and 1 day would be included in the >6-9 (greater than 6 weeks but waiting no longer than 9 weeks) timeband.
5. The current ministerial target for outpatient waiting times states that from April 2009 no patient should wait longer than 9 weeks for a first outpatient appointment. Patients waiting 'more than 9 weeks' include all patients in the >9-13 and >13 week timebands. Patients waiting 'more than 13 weeks' include all patients in the >13 week timeband.
6. Due to technical difficulties it is not currently possible to accurately report on the total number of patients waiting for a first Integrated Clinical Assessment and Treatment Services (ICATS) appointment at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009.
7. Hospital Information Branch undertook a National Statistics consultation on proposals to replace Departmental returns CH2 and CH4 with data sourced from Hospital Inpatients System and Quarterly Outpatient Activity Return (QOAR) respectively. These proposals were subsequently endorsed by respondents to the consultation. The new methodology derives the total number of completed outpatient waits each quarter as the total number of attendances at a first outpatient appointment from the Quarterly Outpatient Activity Return. This methodology has been used to produce historical data for comparison. Data on length of time a patient waited for a first outpatient appointment is no longer collected by Hospital Information Branch.

8. The number of patients that received an outpatient assessment, commissioned by the Health Service, in the Independent Sector is provided in Tables 6a and 6b. These figures have been provided for each transferring Health and Social Care Trust (Trust responsible for the patients waiting time). They are not National Statistics and they have not been validated by the Department, however they have been included to provide users with a comprehensive view of completed outpatient waits during each quarter.
9. The number of patients that received an outpatient assessment, commissioned by the Health Service, including those seen within the Independent Sector have been revised for the quarters ending June, September December 2008 and March 2009 to 128,358, 123,147, 135,222 and 133,749 respectively, due to amendments received from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.
10. The source for the diagnostic waiting time data is the Information Return SDR1. The data are not National Statistics and they have had limited validation by the Department, however they have been included to provide users with a comprehensive view of waiting times for the selected diagnostic services subject to the 2009/10 Ministerial target.
11. A diagnostic service provides an examination, test or procedure used to identify a person's disease or condition and which allows a medical diagnosis to be made.
12. The Ministerial target for diagnostic waiting times states that from April 2009, no patient should wait longer than 9 weeks for one of the selected diagnostic tests (13 weeks for a day case endoscopy). The 16 selected services are: Magnetic Resonance Imaging; Computerised Tomography; Non-Obstetric Ultrasound; Barium Studies; DEXA Scan; Radio-Nuclide Imaging; Pure Tone Audiometry; Echocardiography; Perfusion Studies; Peripheral Neurophysiology; Sleep Studies; Urodynamics Pressures and Flows; Colonoscopy; Flexi Sigmoidoscopy; Cystoscopy; Gastroscopy.
13. The diagnostic waiting time target relates to all tests with a diagnostic element. Included are tests that are part diagnostic and subsequently part therapeutic. A therapeutic procedure is defined as a procedure which involves actual treatment of a person's disease, condition or injury. Purely therapeutic procedures are excluded from the diagnostic waiting times target. Patients currently admitted to a hospital bed and waiting for an emergency procedure, patients waiting for a planned procedure and patients waiting for procedures as part of screening programme are also excluded from the waiting times target.
14. The waiting time for a diagnostic service commences on the date on which the referral for the service is received by the Health Care provider and stops on the date on which the test is performed. Patients who cannot attend (CNA) have their waiting time adjusted to commence on the date they informed the HSC Trust they could not attend, while patients who do not attend (DNA) have their waiting time adjusted to commence on the date of the DNA.
15. A number of the diagnostic services reported on the SDR 1 return are managed as either an ordinary admission or a day case. As such, they will be included in both the inpatient and diagnostic services waiting time figures. Due to the risk of multiple counting, these two sets of data should not be combined to give an estimate of the total number of patients waiting for either inpatient admission or a diagnostic service.
16. Waiting time statistics for day case endoscopies also include patients waiting for endoscopies that are managed as ordinary admissions.

17. For Tables 12, 13, 14 and Figure 6b, inpatient waiting time relates to the number of completed weeks a patient has been waiting for inpatient admission. For example, a patient waiting exactly 6 weeks would be included in the 0-6 week timeband and a patient waiting exactly 6 weeks and 1 day would be included in the >6-13 (greater than 6 weeks but waiting no longer than 13 weeks) timeband.
18. The current ministerial target for inpatient waiting times states that from April 2009 no patient should wait longer than 13 weeks for inpatient or day case treatment. Patients waiting 'more than 13 weeks' include all patients in the >13-21 and >21 week timebands. Patients waiting 'more than 21 weeks' include all patients in the >21 week timeband.
19. Inpatient waiting list data comprises the number of patients waiting for ordinary admission to hospital and the number of patients waiting for day case treatment.
20. Ordinary admissions include both (a) patients admitted electively with the expectation that they will remain in hospital for at least one night, and (b) non-elective admissions (e.g. emergency admissions). A patient who is admitted with either of the above intentions, but who leaves hospital for any reason without staying overnight, is still counted as an ordinary admission. Day cases are not included.
21. Day Cases are patients admitted electively during the course of a day with the intention of receiving care who do not require the use of a hospital bed overnight and who return home as scheduled. If this original intention is not fulfilled and the patient stays overnight, such a patient is counted as an ordinary admission.
22. The waiting list inpatient figures presented include people waiting to be admitted as inpatients either as day cases or ordinary admissions. They do not include:
  - Patients admitted as emergency cases;
  - Outpatients;
  - Patients undergoing a planned programme of treatment e.g. a series of admissions for chemotherapy;
  - Maternity (specialties 510 and 520);
  - Patients already in hospitals but included on other waiting lists;
  - Patients who are temporarily suspended from waiting lists.
23. Waiting time begins from the date the clinician decided to admit the patient. Patients subsequently offered a date but unable to attend have their waiting times calculated from the most recent date offered. These are known as CNA's (Could Not Attend) and are included in the total number waiting.
24. Following the National Statistics consultation outlined in point 7, the total number of completed inpatient waits each quarter are now sourced from Hospital Inpatients System. This methodology has been used to produce historical data for comparison. Data on length of time a patient waited for inpatient admission is no longer collected by Hospital Information Branch. Data for June 2008 – June 2009 are provisional.
25. The number of patients that received inpatient treatment, commissioned by the Health Service, in the Independent Sector are provided in Tables 16a and 16b. These figures have been provided for each transferring Health and Social Care Trust (Health Trust responsible for the patients waiting time). They are not National Statistics and they have not been validated by the Department, however they have been included to provide users with a comprehensive view of completed inpatient waits during each quarter.

26. The number of patients that received inpatient treatment, commissioned by the Health Service, has been revised for the quarter ending March 2009 to 53,505, due to an amendment received from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.
27. Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety policy is to publish revised figures with subsequent statistical releases unless it is decided that the magnitude of the change merits earlier notification.
28. Figures relating to the quarter ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 will be released on Thursday, 3rd December 2009.
29. For general enquiries about National Statistics, contact the National Statistics Public Service on

**020 7533 5888**

minicom: 01633 812399

E-mail: [info@statistics.gov.uk](mailto:info@statistics.gov.uk)

Fax: 01633 652747

Letters: room DG/18, Drummond Gate,  
LONDON SW1V 2QQ

You can also find National Statistics on the internet – Go to [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk).

**Additional Information**

Further information on waiting lists in Northern Ireland is available from:

Office Information Manager

Hospital Information Branch

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety

Annexe 2

Castle Buildings

Stormont

BT4 3SQ

E-mail: [statistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

Internet address: [http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/stats-hospital\\_community\\_statistics#waiting](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/stats-hospital_community_statistics#waiting)