

Statistics Release



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

An Roinn

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

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Northern Ireland Waiting Lists – March 2005

This statistics release gives details of the number of people waiting for inpatient or outpatient treatment at hospitals in Northern Ireland at the end of March 2005, the most recent quarter for which figures are available.

Inpatients

Headline Totals – Table 1

The total number of patients waiting to be admitted to hospitals in Northern Ireland at the end of March 2005 stood at 47,545.

Over the quarter, comparing the end of March 2005 with the end of December 2004 (49,250), the total number waiting has decreased by 1,705 (-3.5%).

Over the year, comparing the end of March 2005 with the end of March 2004 (49,975), the total number waiting decreased by 2,430 (-4.9%).

Table 1: Quarterly Waiting Lists – March 2005

Waiting for:	Quarter Ending March 2005	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter – previous year
Ordinary Admissions	18,906	-1,454	-3,502
Day case Admissions	28,639	-251	+ 1,072
Total Waiting	47,545	-1,705	-2,430

Source: CHI

Detailed notes and definitions are provided in the Technical Notes.



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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 47,545 people waiting for admission to hospital at the end of March 2005, 18,906 (39.8%) were waiting for ordinary admission and 28,639 (60.2%) were waiting for day case admission (Table 1).

Since the end of December 2004, the number of cases waiting for ordinary admission has decreased by 1,454 (-7.1%) and the number waiting for day case admission has decreased by 251 (-0.9%).

In comparison with March 2004, the number of cases waiting for ordinary admission has decreased by 3,502 (-15.6%) and the number waiting for day case admission has increased by 1,072 (3.9%).

Excess Waiters¹ – Table 2

In Northern Ireland, inpatient excess waiters are defined as those having to wait 12 months or more for admission to the Cardiac Surgery specialty and those having to wait 18 months or more to other specialties.

The number of excess waiters at the end of March 2005 stood at 782 or 1.6% of the total waiting.

Over the quarter, comparing the end of March 2005 with the end of December 2004, the number of excess waiters decreased by 1,599 (-67.2%).

Over the year, comparing the end of March 2005 with the end of March 2004, the number of excess waiters decreased by 2,834 (-78.4%).

Table 2 Excess Waiters¹ – March 2005

Waiting for:	Quarter Ending March 2005	Change compared with end of previous quarter	Change compared with end same quarter - previous year
Ordinary admissions	659	-1,235	-2,085
Day case admissions	123	-364	-749
Total Waiting	782	-1,599	-2,834

Source: CH1

¹ Refer to Technical Notes – point 7.

Peak Figures

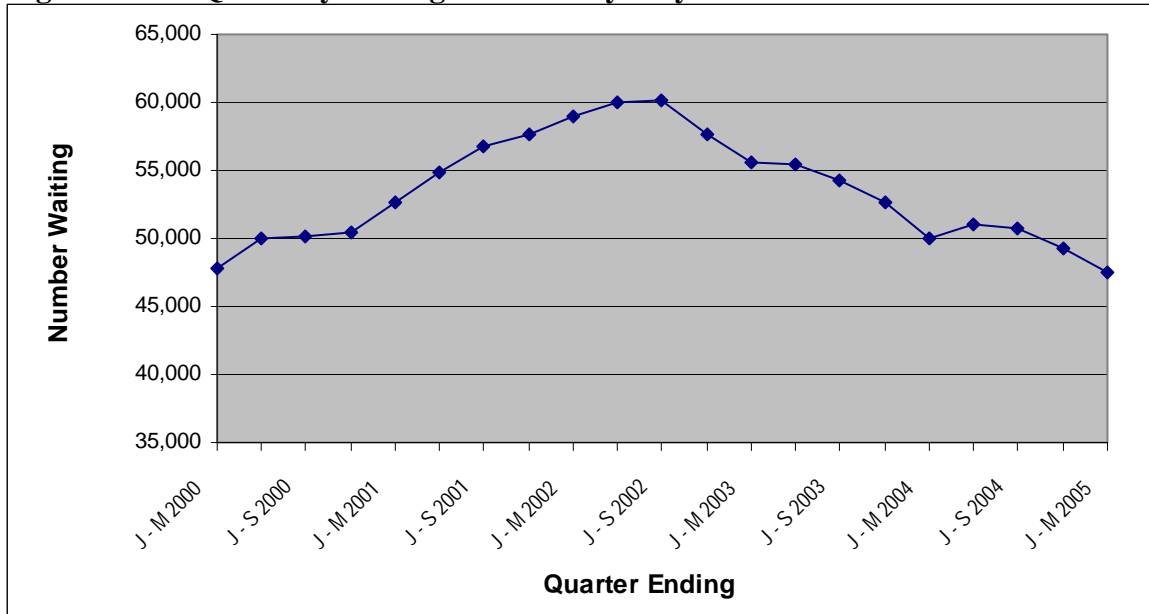
The end of March 2005 total of 47,545 on the inpatient waiting list represents a decrease of 12,645 (-21.0%) on the peak waiting list figure of 60,190 (end September 2002).

The number of excess waiters has fallen to 782 at the end of March 2005, and represents a decrease of 8,376 (-91.5%) on the peak figure of 9,158 recorded at the end of September 2002.

Trends

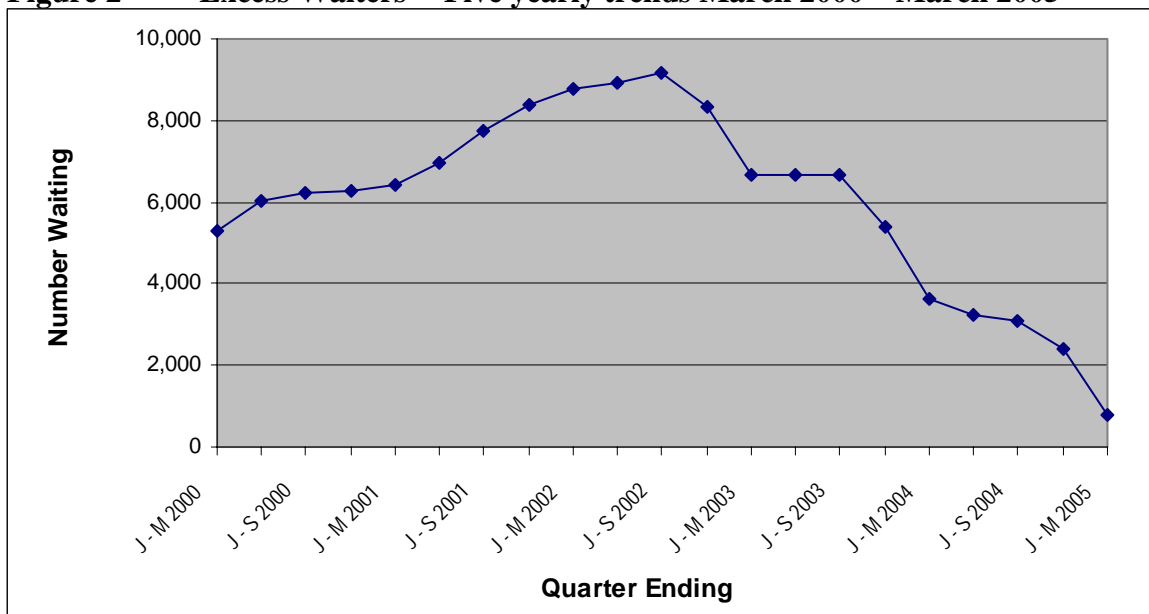
The total number of people waiting was on a generally upward trend from March 2000, and rose to peak in September 2002. The trend reversed and the total number of people waiting decreased between December 2002 and March 2004. The total number of people waiting increased slightly during the quarter ending June 2004, but has decreased in the last three quarters (Figure 1). Excess waiters have been on a downward trend since September 2002. (Figure 2).

Figure 1 Quarterly waiting lists – Five yearly trends March 2000 – March 2005



Source: CH1

Figure 2 Excess Waiters¹ - Five yearly trends March 2000 – March 2005



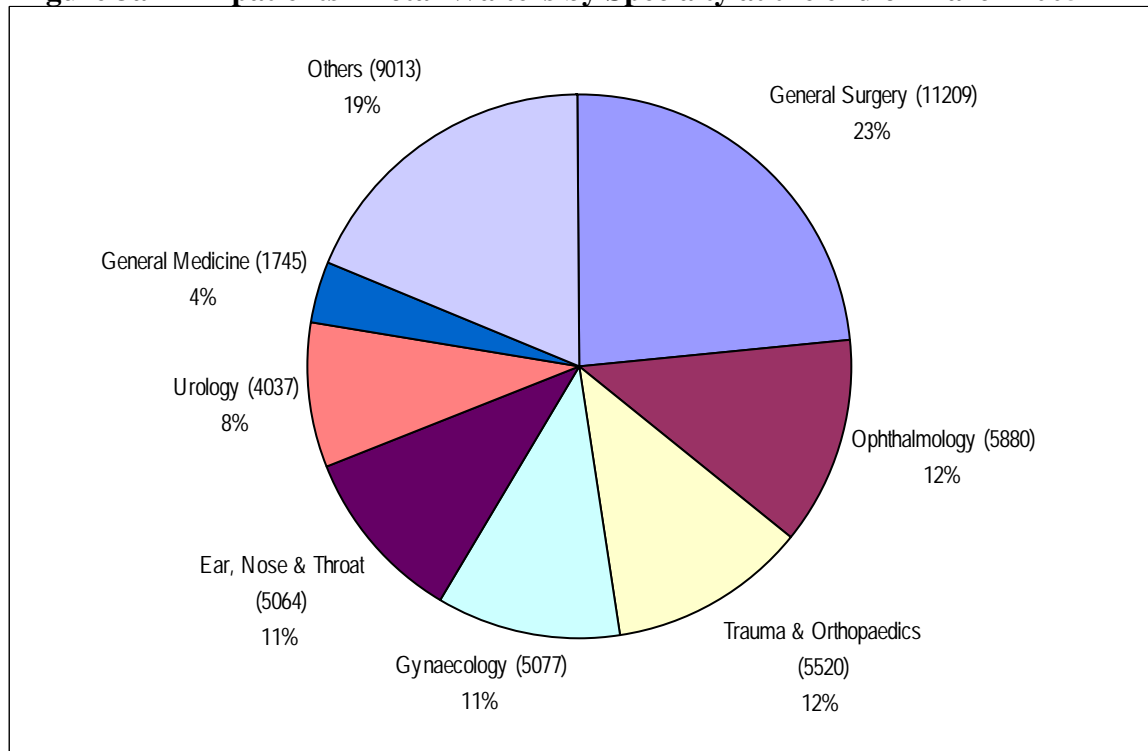
Source: CH1

¹ Refer to Technical Notes – point 7.

Inpatients Waiting by Specialty

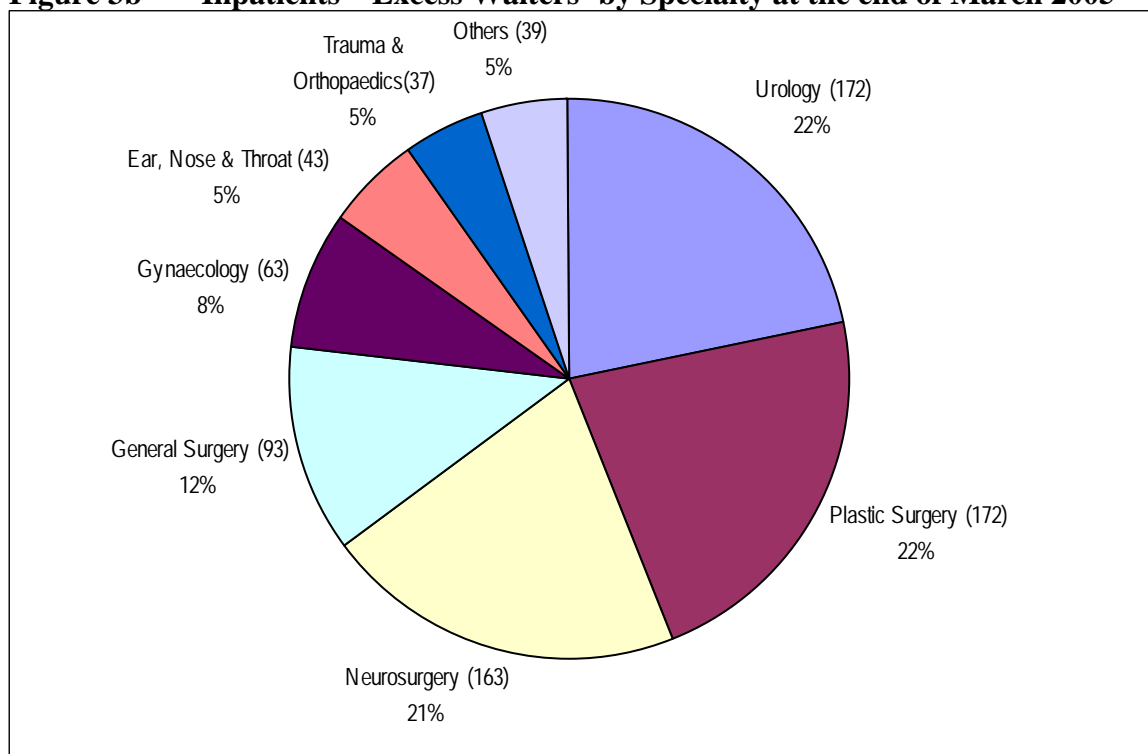
The overwhelming majority of those waiting (82%) were within seven specialties: General Surgery; Ophthalmology; Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (T&O); Gynaecology (Gynae); Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); Urology and General Medicine (Figure 3a). Figures for excess waiters are shown in Figure 3b.

Figure 3a Inpatients - Total Waiters by Specialty at the end of March 2005



Source: CH1

Figure 3b Inpatients – Excess Waiters¹ by Specialty at the end of March 2005



Source: CH1

¹ Refer to Technical Notes – point 7.

Inpatient Waiting Time by Specialty

Waiting times for inpatients by specialty are shown in Tables 3a and 3b. The proportion of those waiting less than 12 months ranged from 100% in a number of Specialities including Cardiac Surgery to 40.2% in Neurosurgery. Overall 91.5% of those waiting for admission were waiting less than 12 months. More than 99% of patients were waiting for treatment in the Acute Services Programme of Care.

Table 3a Number of Patients Waiting for Admission by Months Waiting and Specialty – March 2005

Specialty	Patients Waiting for Admission by Months Waiting									Total Number of Patients Awaiting Admission
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18 - 20	21 - 23	24 +	
General Surgery	5,969	2,385	1,160	790	507	305	30	15	48	11,209
Ophthalmology	2,597	1,680	699	520	284	96	3	1	0	5,880
Trauma & Orthopaedics	2,012	1,596	1,037	542	222	74	22	7	8	5,520
Gynaecology	2,487	1,097	646	440	219	125	23	12	28	5,077
Ear, Nose & Throat	2,333	1,158	565	468	374	123	11	19	13	5,064
Urology	1,729	865	549	345	238	139	27	22	123	4,037
General Medicine	1,382	273	63	25	2	0	0	0	0	1,745
Plastic Surgery	501	292	245	199	125	50	24	26	122	1,584
Cardiology	799	340	154	83	84	28	5	4	18	1,515
Gastroenterology	1,077	293	74	31	9	4	0	0	0	1,488
Paediatric Surgery	267	174	99	82	35	12	1	0	1	671
Oral Surgery	307	134	51	64	30	13	0	0	1	600
Pain Management	255	144	66	74	20	2	2	0	0	563
Rheumatology	353	80	31	16	2	0	0	0	0	482
Neurosurgery	51	45	27	31	31	35	15	11	137	383
Dermatology	264	62	9	13	0	0	0	0	0	348
Cardiac Surgery	152	58	38	6	0	0	0	0	0	254
Neurology	128	32	20	20	19	18	3	0	0	240
Paediatric Dentistry	85	24	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	117
Thoracic Surgery	53	14	8	20	15	6	0	0	0	116
Other	552	71	22	6	1	0	0	0	0	652
All Specialties	23,353	10,817	5,569	3,775	2,219	1,030	166	117	499	47,545

Table 3b Percentage of Patients Waiting for Admission by Months Waiting and Specialty – March 2005

Specialty	Patients Waiting for Admission by Months Waiting								
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18 - 20	21 - 23	24 +
General Surgery	53.3%	21.3%	10.3%	7.0%	4.5%	2.7%	0.3%	0.1%	0.4%
Ophthalmology	44.2%	28.6%	11.9%	8.8%	4.8%	1.6%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Trauma & Orthopaedics	36.4%	28.9%	18.8%	9.8%	4.0%	1.3%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%
Gynaecology	49.0%	21.6%	12.7%	8.7%	4.3%	2.5%	0.5%	0.2%	0.6%
Ear, Nose & Throat	46.1%	22.9%	11.2%	9.2%	7.4%	2.4%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%
Urology	42.8%	21.4%	13.6%	8.5%	5.9%	3.4%	0.7%	0.5%	3.0%
General Medicine	79.2%	15.6%	3.6%	1.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Plastic Surgery	31.6%	18.4%	15.5%	12.6%	7.9%	3.2%	1.5%	1.6%	7.7%
Cardiology	52.7%	22.4%	10.2%	5.5%	5.5%	1.8%	0.3%	0.3%	1.2%
Gastroenterology	72.4%	19.7%	5.0%	2.1%	0.6%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Paediatric Surgery	39.8%	25.9%	14.8%	12.2%	5.2%	1.8%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Oral Surgery	51.2%	22.3%	8.5%	10.7%	5.0%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Pain Management	45.3%	25.6%	11.7%	13.1%	3.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Rheumatology	73.2%	16.6%	6.4%	3.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Neurosurgery	13.3%	11.7%	7.0%	8.1%	8.1%	9.1%	3.9%	2.9%	35.8%
Dermatology	75.9%	17.8%	2.6%	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cardiac Surgery	59.8%	22.8%	15.0%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Neurology	53.3%	13.3%	8.3%	8.3%	7.9%	7.5%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Paediatric Dentistry	72.6%	20.5%	5.1%	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Thoracic Surgery	45.7%	12.1%	6.9%	17.2%	12.9%	5.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	84.7%	10.9%	3.4%	0.9%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
All Specialties	49.1%	22.8%	11.7%	7.9%	4.7%	2.2%	0.3%	0.2%	1.0%

Source: CH1

Completed Waits

Waiting times for completed inpatient waits are shown in Table 4. A total of 39,045 inpatients were admitted to hospital (excluding those who had previously refused an offer of admission) during the March 2005 quarter. 72.9% of patients received their treatment within 3 months of being placed on the waiting list and 94.6% received their treatment within 12 months.

Table 4 Completed Inpatient Waits

Quarter	Time Waiting in Months									Total
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18 - 20	21 - 23	24 +	
J - M 2002	74.9%	11.9%	4.7%	3.1%	2.3%	1.3%	0.7%	0.4%	0.8%	38,042
A - J 2002	74.4%	12.1%	5.3%	2.9%	2.1%	1.2%	0.6%	0.4%	0.9%	36,907
J - S 2002	72.6%	13.6%	5.2%	3.3%	1.9%	1.4%	0.8%	0.4%	0.8%	33,861
O - D 2002	73.6%	11.1%	5.8%	3.6%	2.3%	1.3%	0.8%	0.4%	1.0%	38,591
J - D 2002	73.9%	12.1%	5.3%	3.3%	2.1%	1.3%	0.7%	0.4%	0.9%	147,401
J - M 2003	73.6%	12.0%	4.6%	3.1%	2.2%	1.7%	0.9%	0.5%	1.3%	38,987
A - J 2003	73.9%	12.5%	5.2%	3.1%	2.0%	1.2%	0.7%	0.4%	1.0%	38,512
J - S 2003	71.9%	14.1%	5.2%	3.5%	1.7%	1.2%	0.7%	0.4%	1.1%	35,605
O - D 2003	72.7%	12.3%	5.4%	3.7%	2.0%	1.2%	0.9%	0.5%	1.5%	38,906
J - D 2003	73.0%	12.7%	5.1%	3.3%	2.0%	1.3%	0.8%	0.5%	1.2%	152,010
J - M 2004	74.4%	11.6%	4.8%	3.5%	1.9%	1.3%	0.6%	0.5%	1.3%	40,924
A - J 2004	74.6%	11.4%	5.9%	3.1%	1.9%	1.2%	0.6%	0.3%	0.9%	38,507
J - S 2004	73.1%	13.1%	5.5%	3.7%	1.9%	1.1%	0.7%	0.3%	0.7%	37,025
O - D 2004	73.4%	12.3%	5.5%	3.7%	2.3%	1.1%	0.7%	0.4%	0.7%	41,116
J - D 2004	73.9%	12.1%	5.4%	3.5%	2.0%	1.2%	0.7%	0.4%	0.9%	157,572
J - M 2005	72.9%	12.9%	4.9%	3.9%	1.9%	1.6%	0.8%	0.5%	0.7%	39,045

Source: CH2 Part 1

Monthly Inpatient Waiting Lists

The Department also collects monthly data on the size of the inpatient waiting list excluding private patients and non-NI residents. These figures are shown in Tables 5 and 6.

Table 5 Monthly Inpatient Waiting Lists

Month Ending	Admission Method		Total Waiting	Excess Waiters	
	Ordinary	Day Case		Number	% of Total
March 2004	21,965	27,069	49,034	3,597	7.3%
April 2004	22,143	27,965	50,108	3,490	7.0%
May 2004	21,873	28,120	49,993	3,451	6.9%
June 2004	21,621	28,383	50,004	3,197	6.4%
July 2004	21,737	28,883	50,620	3,266	6.5%
August 2004	21,422	28,873	50,295	3,163	6.3%
September 2004	20,942	28,877	49,819	3,084	6.2%
October 2004	20,505	28,777	49,282	2,800	5.7%
November 2004	19,947	28,127	48,074	2,465	5.1%
December 2004	19,996	28,288	48,284	2,375	4.9%
January 2005	19,211	28,357	47,568	1,940	4.1%
February 2005	18,658	27,913	46,571	1,374	3.0%
March 2005	18,294	27,944	46,238	767	1.7%

Source: CHA

The monthly waiting list figures have shown an overall decrease in the 3-month period since December 2004.

Patients resident in a Health Board Area may receive treatment in any of the four Health Boards. Table 6 shows the number of residents in each Health Board Area waiting for admission to hospitals in their own and other Health Board Areas.

Table 6 Monthly Inpatient Waiting Lists by Board of Residence and Board of Treatment – March 2005

Board of Residence	Board of Treatment			
	EHSSB	NHSSB	SHSSB	WHSSB
Eastern	17,770	63	94	0
Northern	5,594	5,318	381	517
Southern	3,504	8	6,759	96
Western	983	36	61	5,054
Northern Ireland	27,851	5,425	7,295	5,667

Source: CHA

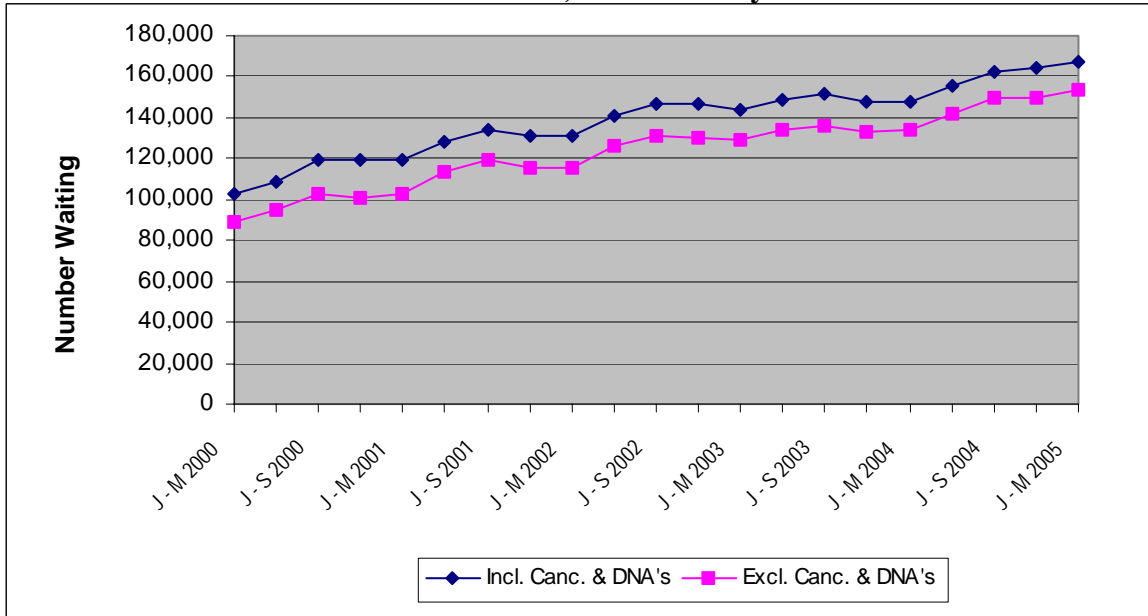
Outpatients

Headline Totals

The number of patients waiting for admission as outpatients (including cancellations and deferrals) at the end of March 2005 stood at 167,138 representing an increase of 2,508 (1.5%) over the quarter and an increase of 19,080 (12.9%) compared with the same quarter in the previous year.

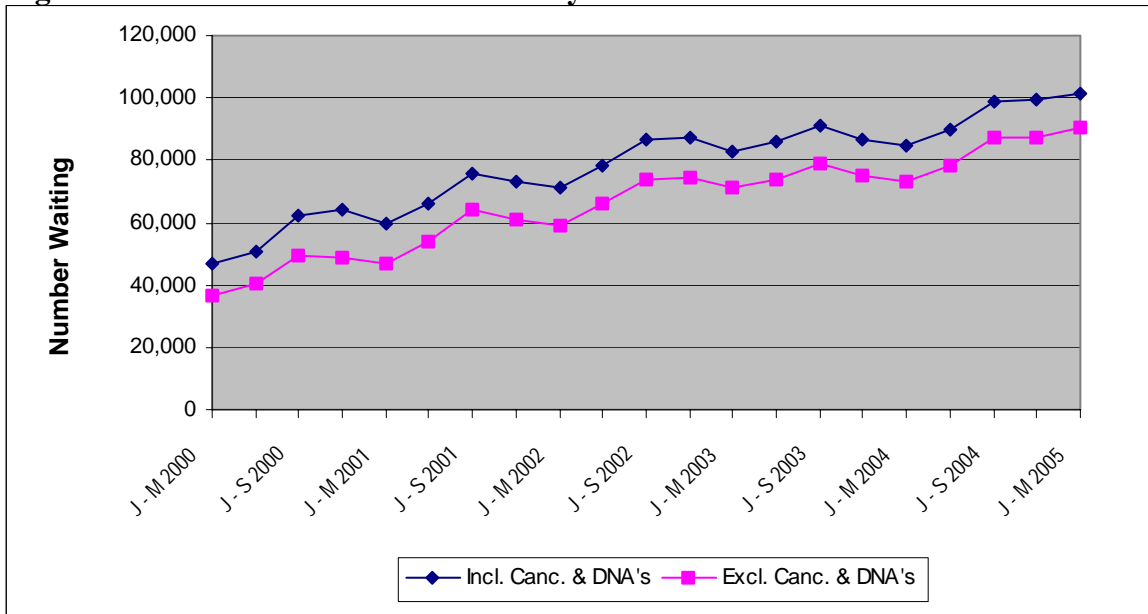
Corresponding quarterly and annual changes (excluding cancellations and deferrals) were +3.0% and +14.7% respectively. Figure 4 shows five yearly trends in the number of outpatients waiting for a first appointment, Figure 5 shows the same trends information for excess waiters (excess waiters are defined as patients waiting more than 3 months for a first outpatient appointment).

Figure 4 Outpatients Waiting for a First Appointment (including and excluding cancellations and deferrals) – Five Yearly Trends March 2000 – March 2005



Source: CH3 Parts 1 & 2.

Figure 5 Excess Waiters² Five Yearly Trends March 2000 – March 2005



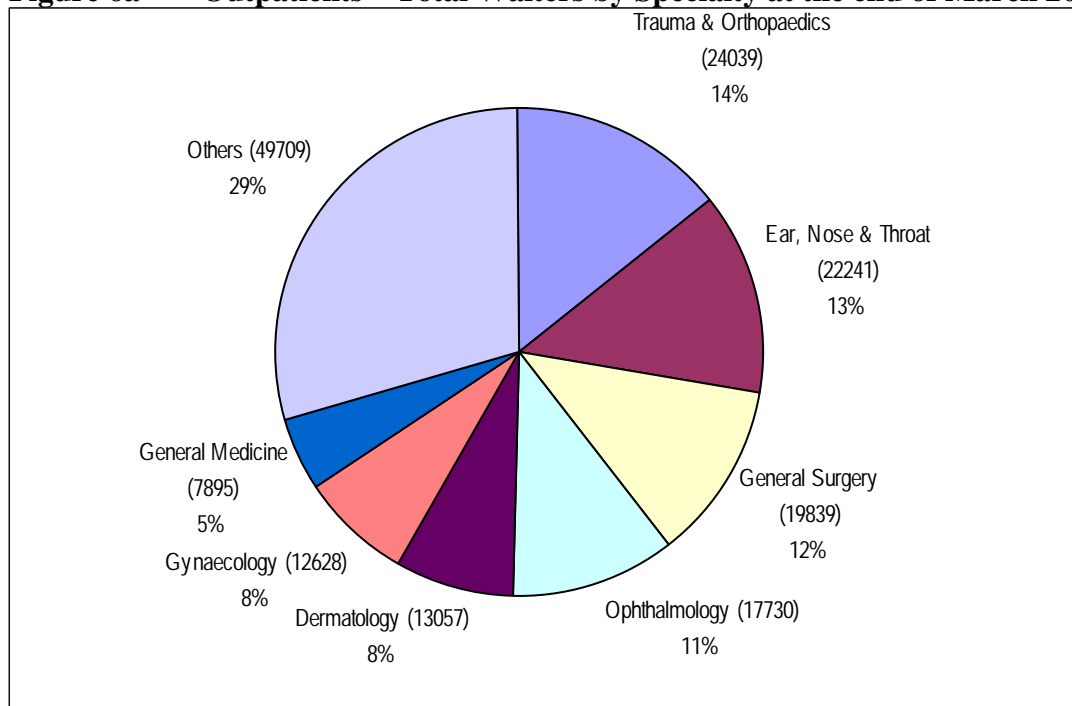
Source: CH3 Parts 1 & 2

² Refer to Technical Notes – Point 15.

Outpatients Waiting by Specialty

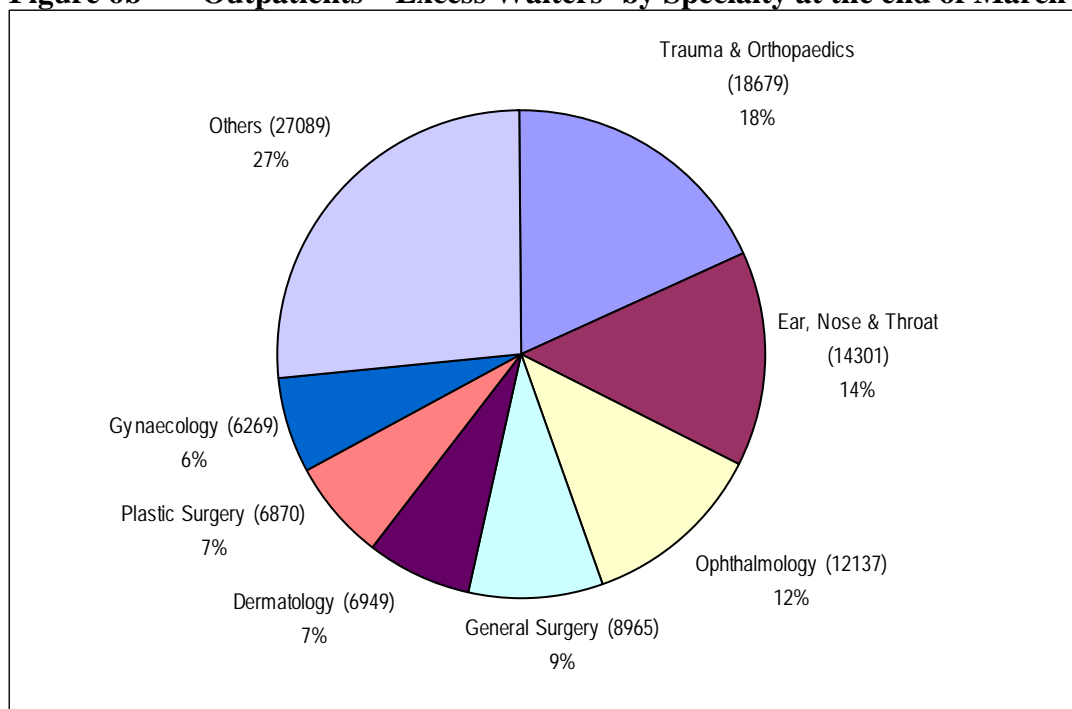
The majority of those waiting (71%) were within seven specialties: Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery (T&O); Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT); General Surgery; Ophthalmology; Dermatology, Gynaecology (Gynae) and General Medicine (Figure 6a). Figures for excess waiters are shown in Figure 6b. Figures represent the total number waiting for their first outpatient appointment including those who have cancelled or missed a previous appointment during the March 2005 quarter.

Figure 6a Outpatients – Total Waiters by Specialty at the end of March 2005



Source: CH3.

Figure 6b Outpatients – Excess Waiters² by Specialty at the end of March 2005



Source: CH3.

² Refer to Technical Notes – Point 15.

Outpatient Waiting Time by Specialty

Waiting times for outpatients by specialty are shown in Tables 7a and 7b. The proportion of those waiting less than 12 months ranged from 100% in a number of specialties including Genito-Urinary Medicine to 25.8% in Plastic Surgery. Overall four fifths (80.0%) of those waiting for treatment were waiting less than 12 months.

Table 7a Number of Patients Waiting for a First Appointment by Months Waiting and Specialty – March 2005

Specialty	Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Months Waiting									Total Number of Patients Awaiting Appointment
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18 - 20	21 - 23	24 +	
Trauma & Orthopaedics	5,360	3,986	3,552	2,380	1,706	1,187	1,046	897	3,925	24,039
Ear, Nose & Throat	7,940	4,830	3,162	2,117	1,524	908	561	473	726	22,241
General Surgery	10,874	4,357	2,279	1,235	489	265	143	112	85	19,839
Ophthalmology	5,593	3,945	2,422	1,871	1,285	989	658	350	617	17,730
Dermatology	6,108	2,555	1,585	899	439	311	328	249	583	13,057
Gynaecology	6,359	3,152	1,651	865	377	121	66	19	18	12,628
General Medicine	3,903	1,527	945	646	384	216	92	87	95	7,895
Plastic Surgery	672	477	438	363	304	220	248	214	4,606	7,542
Cardiology	2,527	1,450	668	455	132	32	32	34	155	5,485
Urology	1,293	847	671	500	449	272	186	160	395	4,773
Neurology	1,558	969	711	477	323	137	55	27	32	4,289
Rheumatology	1,141	778	578	482	350	183	94	49	62	3,717
Paediatrics	2,058	671	224	97	77	10	9	4	38	3,188
Mental Illness	2,326	462	201	56	33	7	9	5	50	3,149
Oral Surgery	975	419	304	246	189	116	74	84	617	3,024
Pain Management	647	438	344	264	187	84	90	89	323	2,466
Gastroenterology	759	318	179	91	65	5	2	0	0	1,419
Resorative Dentistry	262	240	117	87	36	44	60	31	357	1,234
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	521	312	150	68	56	24	20	16	57	1,224
Genito-Urinary Medicine	957	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	957
Other	4,046	1,765	772	281	164	56	23	23	112	7,242
All Specialties	65,879	33,498	20,953	13,480	8,569	5,187	3,796	2,923	12,853	167,138

Table 7b Percentage of Patients Waiting for a First Appointment by Months Waiting and Specialty – March 2005

Specialty	Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Months								
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18 - 20	21 - 23	24+
Trauma & Orthopaedics	22.3%	16.6%	14.8%	9.9%	7.1%	4.9%	4.4%	3.7%	16.3%
Ear, Nose & Throat	35.7%	21.7%	14.2%	9.5%	6.9%	4.1%	2.5%	2.1%	3.3%
General Surgery	54.8%	22.0%	11.5%	6.2%	2.5%	1.3%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%
Ophthalmology	31.5%	22.3%	13.7%	10.6%	7.2%	5.6%	3.7%	2.0%	3.5%
Dermatology	46.8%	19.6%	12.1%	6.9%	3.4%	2.4%	2.5%	1.9%	4.5%
Gynaecology	50.4%	25.0%	13.1%	6.8%	3.0%	1.0%	0.5%	0.2%	0.1%
General Medicine	49.4%	19.3%	12.0%	8.2%	4.9%	2.7%	1.2%	1.1%	1.2%
Plastic Surgery	8.9%	6.3%	5.8%	4.8%	4.0%	2.9%	3.3%	2.8%	61.1%
Cardiology	46.1%	26.4%	12.2%	8.3%	2.4%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	2.8%
Urology	27.1%	17.7%	14.1%	10.5%	9.4%	5.7%	3.9%	3.4%	8.3%
Neurology	36.3%	22.6%	16.6%	11.1%	7.5%	3.2%	1.3%	0.6%	0.7%
Rheumatology	30.7%	20.9%	15.6%	13.0%	9.4%	4.9%	2.5%	1.3%	1.7%
Paediatrics	64.6%	21.0%	7.0%	3.0%	2.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	1.2%
Mental Illness	73.9%	14.7%	6.4%	1.8%	1.0%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	1.6%
Oral Surgery	32.2%	13.9%	10.1%	8.1%	6.3%	3.8%	2.4%	2.8%	20.4%
Pain Management	26.2%	17.8%	13.9%	10.7%	7.6%	3.4%	3.6%	3.6%	13.1%
Gastroenterology	53.5%	22.4%	12.6%	6.4%	4.6%	0.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Resorative Dentistry	21.2%	19.4%	9.5%	7.1%	2.9%	3.6%	4.9%	2.5%	28.9%
Child & Adolescent Psychiatry	42.6%	25.5%	12.3%	5.6%	4.6%	2.0%	1.6%	1.3%	4.7%
Genito-Urinary Medicine	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	55.9%	24.4%	10.7%	3.9%	2.3%	0.8%	0.3%	0.3%	1.5%
All Specialties	39.4%	20.0%	12.5%	8.1%	5.1%	3.1%	2.3%	1.7%	7.7%

Source: CH3

Outpatient Waiting Time by Programme of Care

Waiting times for a first outpatient appointment by programme of care are shown in Table 8. The vast majority (96.5%) of patients were awaiting their first outpatient appointment in the Acute Services Programme of Care.

Table 8 Number of Patients Waiting for a First Appointment by Months Waiting and Programme of Care – March 2005

Programme of Care	Patients Waiting for an Appointment by Months Waiting									Total Number of Patients Awaiting Appointment
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18 - 20	21 - 23	24 +	
Acute Services	61,985	32,473	20,540	13,343	8,472	5,150	3,763	2,899	12,740	161,365
Elderly Care	958	179	53	11	6	5	2	1	6	1,221
Mental Health	2,893	810	356	125	91	31	31	23	107	4,467
Learning Disability	43	36	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	85
All POCs	65,879	33,498	20,953	13,480	8,569	5,187	3,796	2,923	12,853	167,138

Source: CH3

Outpatient Completed Waits

Waiting times for completed outpatient waits are shown in Table 9. During the March 2005 quarter a total of 86,944 outpatients attended their first appointment without having cancelled or missed a previous appointment. 68.4% of patients attended their first outpatient appointment within 3 months of being placed on the waiting list and 95.1% had their first outpatient appointment within 12 months.

Table 9 Completed Outpatient Waits for First Appointment⁵

Quarter	Time Waiting in Months									Total
	0 - 2	3 - 5	6 - 8	9 - 11	12 - 14	15 - 17	18 - 20	21 - 23	24 +	
J - M 2002	72.4%	17.0%	5.5%	2.9%	0.9%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	85,856
A - J 2002	74.9%	15.3%	4.9%	2.5%	0.9%	0.5%	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%	82,282
J - S 2002	71.0%	18.5%	5.1%	2.7%	1.3%	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	79,986
O - D 2002	70.2%	17.9%	6.1%	2.7%	1.3%	0.7%	0.4%	0.3%	0.6%	88,056
J - D 2002	72.1%	17.2%	5.4%	2.7%	1.1%	0.6%	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%	336,180
J - M 2003	70.0%	17.2%	5.6%	2.8%	1.5%	0.9%	0.5%	0.4%	1.2%	85,054
A - J 2003	72.1%	15.8%	5.8%	2.8%	1.4%	0.8%	0.4%	0.3%	0.7%	84,963
J - S 2003	69.5%	18.4%	5.7%	2.5%	1.5%	0.7%	0.5%	0.3%	0.9%	80,128
O - D 2003	69.6%	17.9%	5.6%	2.6%	1.7%	0.8%	0.5%	0.4%	0.9%	88,711
J - D 2003	70.3%	17.3%	5.7%	2.7%	1.5%	0.8%	0.5%	0.3%	0.9%	338,856
J - M 2004	69.8%	17.1%	5.2%	2.9%	1.7%	1.3%	0.6%	0.4%	1.1%	91,496
A - J 2004	71.7%	16.0%	5.5%	2.7%	1.7%	0.9%	0.6%	0.3%	0.6%	87,852
J - S 2004	70.2%	18.2%	5.4%	2.6%	1.4%	0.8%	0.4%	0.3%	0.6%	83,414
O - D 2004	68.6%	17.5%	7.1%	2.7%	1.5%	0.9%	0.7%	0.4%	0.8%	91,046
J - D 2004	70.1%	17.2%	5.8%	2.7%	1.6%	1.0%	0.6%	0.3%	0.8%	353,808
J - M 2005	68.4%	16.4%	7.0%	3.3%	1.7%	1.3%	0.6%	0.4%	0.9%	86,944

Source: CH4 Part 1

⁵ Refer to Technical Notes – point 18.

Technical Notes

1. Unless otherwise stated hospitals and patients mentioned in this release refer only to HPSS hospitals and patients.
2. The sources for the data contained in this release are the Charter Monitoring Returns CH1, CH2, CH3 and CH4. These returns collect information from Hospital Trusts on a quarterly basis. The CHA return collects information from Health Boards on a monthly basis.
3. There is a fundamental difference in coverage between Board based and Trust based information. Board based (CHA) returns exclude all patients living outside Northern Ireland and all privately funded patients waiting for treatment in Health Service hospitals.
4. Apart from Tables 5 and 6, figures include all privately funded patients waiting for treatment in Health Service hospitals and those patients who are resident outside Northern Ireland.
5. Greenpark Healthcare HSS Trust now provide inpatient waiting list figures in the Neurology, Rehabilitation, Pain Management and Child & Adolescent Psychiatry specialties. Figures for quarter ending March 2005 have been included in the inpatient waiting list figures shown in Tables 1 and 2, Figures 1 and 2 and Table 3a.
6. Altnagelvin Group HSS Trust now provide inpatient waiting list figures in the Pain Management specialty. These figures have been included in the inpatient waiting list figures shown in Tables 1 and 2, Figures 1 and 2, and Table 3a.
7. In Northern Ireland, inpatient excess waiters are defined as those having to wait 12 months or more for admission to the Cardiac Surgery specialty and those having to wait 18 months or more to other specialties.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. The 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.
11. Outpatient waiting list figures presented do not include maternity specialties 510 and 520.
12. 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 self-deferred cases and are included in the total waiting.

13. The source for the monthly waiting list figures is the monthly CHA return. The monthly figures presented here are produced from an ad-hoc reporting system which does not go through the more stringent validation processes which produce the quarterly figures. For this reason and the fact that the two sets of figures are run-off at different points in time mean that there may be anomalies when comparing the monthly figures with the quarterly figures.
14. Health Board residents included in Table 6 are not always assigned a Health Board of treatment as some patients may be waiting for admission to a hospital outside Northern Ireland.
15. For outpatients, excess waiters are defined as those having to wait more than 3 months for a first outpatient appointment.
16. The number of people awaiting an initial outpatient assessment at 31st December 2004 has been revised from 164,672 to 164,630. This is due to amendments being received from South & East Belfast HSS Trust, Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust and Sperrin Lakeland HSS Trust.
17. The Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust returned additional information not previously submitted for outpatients waiting in the Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery, Plastic Surgery and General Medicine specialties at 31st March 2005.
18. Due to reasons beyond the control of the Trust, United Hospitals HSS Trust has been unable to produce CH4 data for all quarters between December 2001 and March 2005. This Trust has provided estimated totals for these quarters and estimates for each time band have been calculated. These new estimates for the missing data for the United Group of Hospitals have been included in the data shown in Table 9. When CH4 data becomes available these estimates will be recast.
19. Outpatients 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.
20. 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.
21. Figures relating to the quarter ending June 2005 will be released on Thursday, 1st September 2005.
22. 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

Fax: 01633 652747

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

You can also find National Statistics on the internet – Go to <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 3UD

Internet address: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/stats&research/order.asp#waiting>