

11 August 2025

Paediatric OT Assessment Waiting Times

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding disabled children's Occupational Therapy (OT) services provided in your Health and Social Care Trust.

For the two periods 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024, and 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 (to date):

- 1. What was the average waiting time from referral to the Occupational Therapy service to the completion of a comprehensive assessment of a disabled child's needs by an Occupational Therapist?**

The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust OT Service does not collate this information.

Referrals to Children's OT Services are not 'disability' specific. A large number of children referred to Children's OT Services may not be registered as disabled or eligible for registration but are still eligible for OT assessment.

The OT Service would not have average timeframes from referral to completion of comprehensive assessment, as OT assessments are tailored and unique, reflecting the individuals clinical needs.

The information shared below relates to the average waiting time from referral to the initial assessment of a child's needs by an OT.

1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024:	50 weeks
1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 (to date):	56 weeks

As of the date of this request (31 July 2025):

- 2. How many disabled children are currently waiting for an OT assessment?**

Total number of children awaiting OT assessment: 583

- 3. What is the longest current waiting time from referral to assessment for a disabled child still on the waiting list?**

Longest wait on current waiting list: 61 weeks / 427 days