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Dermatology Waiting Times & Access

This request relates to access to NHS dermatology services and waiting times for patients with skin conditions. Comparable data across NHS Trusts/Boards to understand variation in waiting times and service pressure.

Please provide the following information for your Trust/Board, covering the last five financial years where available (2019/20 - 2024/25).

1. Dermatology Waiting Times and Access Indicators

For each financial year listed above, please provide:

- a.) Referral-to-Treatment (RTT) elective waiting-time indicators for dermatology services, if held:

Below information provided is specific to Dermatology New Patients only. Data extracted via encompass and validated by Activity Stats Team. Data is for Dermatology OP New Appointments only – RTT waiting time is based on Referral date to Appointment date for previous years March 2020 to March 2024.

Median RTT waiting time (in weeks) – MEDIAN

Specialty Description	March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024
DERMATOLOGY Red Flag	15 weeks	16 weeks	17 weeks	17 Weeks	19 Weeks
Specialty Description					
DERMATOLOGY Urgent	274 weeks	210 weeks	189 weeks	176 weeks	175 weeks
Specialty Description					
DERMATOLOGY Routine	354 weeks	317 weeks	285 weeks	246 weeks	202 weeks

Number of patients waiting over 18 weeks (at year-end) (New appointments)

- March 20/21- 1268
- March 21/22- 1540
- March 22/23- 2327
- March 23/24- 2129
- March 24/25- 2094

Number of patients waiting over 52 weeks (at year-end) (New appointments)

- March 20/21- 4414
- March 22/22- 5401
- March 22/23- 5937

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- March 23/24- 7286
- March 24/25- 8015

b.) Outpatient dermatology access, if held:

Median waiting time for a first outpatient dermatology appointment (in weeks)

- March 20/21- unable to retrieve accurate information for this financial year due to data migration.
- March 21/22- unable to retrieve accurate information for this financial year due to data migration.
- March 22/23- red flag (16 weeks) urgent (107 weeks) routine (220 weeks)
- March 23/24- red flag (19 weeks) urgent (116 weeks) routine (234 weeks)
- March 24/25- red flag (22 weeks) urgent (125 weeks) routine (286 weeks)

Total number of patients on the dermatology outpatient waiting list at year-end (new appointments)

- March 20/21- 5,682
- March 22/22- 6,941
- March 22/23- 8,264
- March 23/24- 9,415
- March 24/25- 10,109 (red flag 1268) (urgent 3886) (routine 4955)

Where possible, please indicate whether data are available broken down by:

- **New vs follow-up appointments**
- **Sub-specialties within dermatology (e.g. inflammatory skin disease, skin cancer, paediatric dermatology), if routinely recorded**

Not routinely recorded

2. Access to Dermatology Care and Capacity (If held)

*The service is unable to provide this information as it would take more than 18 hours to retrieve it.

For each year listed above, please provide:

- **The total number of consultant dermatologists employed by the Trust/Board (headcount or FTE, whichever is standard)**

For this year - 2026, the Belfast Trust can provide the following information:
Consultant Dermatologist FTE 2024 - 2026: 11.69 WTE

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- **Whether the Trust/Board commissions or provides specialist dermatology services beyond general dermatology (e.g. severe eczema, psoriasis, acne, or contact dermatitis clinics)**

For this year - 2026, Belfast Trust can provide the following information:

Mohs micrographic surgery is a specialist regional service commissioned by the Strategic Planning and Performance Group within Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

* This is exempt under the Section 12 of the FOI Act which relates to fee limit

Belfast Trust considers that the cost of retrieving the information would be above the 'Appropriate Limit', as defined by the Freedom of Information Act under Section 12. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit has been specified as £450 for public authorities such as Belfast Trust. This represents the cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.