

Complaints Report

Quarter 2, 2017/2018

(1 July 2017 to 30 September 2017)

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Overview

Successes	Priorities
 In quarter 2, the Patient Support & Complaints Team acknowledged receipt of 100% of complaints within the agreed standard for timeliness. There was a 15% decrease in complaints regarding appointments and admissions compared to quarter 1. There was a 20% reduction in the overall number of complaints received by the Bristol Heart Institute compared to quarter 1. 	 To increase divisional focus on ensuring timely complaints responses – in quarter 2, 83% of formal complaints and 65.8% of informal complaints were responded to within the agreed timeframe. To continue to focus on getting the tone and substance of response letters right. Quarter 2 saw a reduction in the number of dissatisfied responses to our complaints investigations (9.9% compared to 18.2% in the previous quarter).
Opportunities	Risks & Threats
 Work has commenced with the Patients Association to develop a toolkit for complaints investigations; this will be made available nationally and will be launched at a complaints conference hosted by UH Bristol in March 2018. The Trust's new complaints review panel met twice in quarter 2 (in October and November 2017 with the Divisions of Medicine and Diagnostics & Therapies respectively), including lay representation. Feedback from both sessions has been very positive; points of learning have been welcomed and embraced by the divisions. 	 The trend in complaints about appointment administration issues continued into quarter 2, with 45 complaints received in the quarter, compared to 46 in quarter 1. Although complaints about Bristol Eye Hospital remain lower than they were for much of the year prior to May 2017, there is an emerging pattern of monthly increases in complaints since that time which the division is monitoring closely. Complaints about 'attitude of nursing/midwifery staff' and 'clinical care (nursing/midwifery) both rose in quarter 2.

1. Complaints performance – Trust overview

The Board monitors three indicators of how well the Trust is doing in respect of complaints performance:

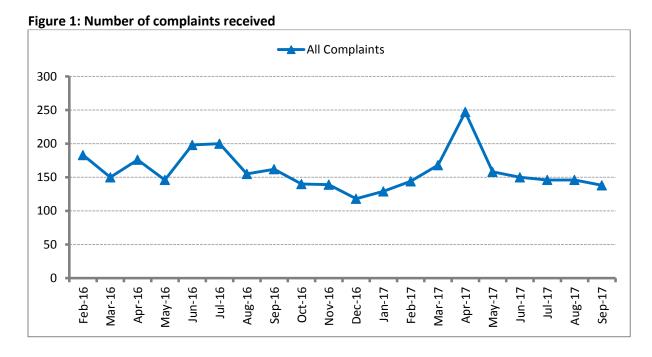
- Total complaints received;
- Proportion of complaints responded to within timescale; and
- Numbers of complainants who are dissatisfied with our response.

As complaints can be about inpatient stays, Emergency Department (ED) attendances, outpatient appointments, diagnostic tests, or matters indirectly linked to that, such as car parking, toilets, catering, portering, websites, call centres, etc., we now report complaints as a proportion of activity separately for inpatient, outpatient, ED and other. The data for this measure is shown later in this report at section 3.2.1.

1.1 Total complaints received

We received 430 complaints in Q2 of 2017/18. The total figure of 430 includes complaints received and managed via either formal or informal resolution (whichever has been agreed with the complainant)¹. This figure does not include concerns which may have been raised by patients and dealt with immediately by front line staff. The number of complaints received in Q2 represents a decrease of 22.5% compared to Q1 of 2017/18, the latter of which was particularly high at 555, due to a special cause variation in April 2017 (as reported in Q1). However, the Q2 total of 430 is also a decrease of 16.8% on the corresponding period one year previously.

Figure 1 shows the pattern of complaints received in the last 20 months, which is when the Trust commenced recording complaints on the Datix system. Figure 2 shows complaints dealt with via the formal investigation process compared to those dealt with via the informal investigation process, over the same period.



¹ Informal complaints are dealt with quickly via direct contact with the appropriate department, whereas formal complaints are dealt with by way of a formal investigation via the Division.

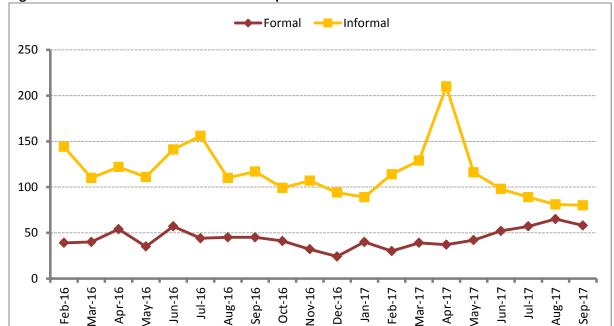


Figure 2: Numbers of formal v informal complaints

1.2 Complaints responses within agreed timescale

Whenever a complaint is managed through the formal resolution process, the Trust and the complainant agree a timescale within which we will investigate the complaint and write to the complainant with, or arrange a meeting to discuss, our findings. The timescale is agreed with the complainant upon receipt of the complaint and is usually 30 working days.

When a complaint is managed through the informal resolution process, the Trust and complainant also agree a timescale and this is usually 10 working days.

1.2.1 Formal Investigations

The Trust's target is to respond to at least 95% of complaints within the agreed timescale. The end point is measured as the date when the Trust's response is posted to the complainant. In Q2 of 2017/18, 83.0% of responses were posted within the agreed timescale, compared to 80.2% in Q1 2017/18, 86.0% in Q4 of 2016/17 and 88.1% during the same period one year previously. This represents 36 breaches out of 182 formal complaints which received a response during Q2 of 2017/18². Figure 3 shows the Trust's performance in responding to complaints since February 2016.

² Note that this will be a different figure to the number of complainants who *made* a complaint in that quarter.

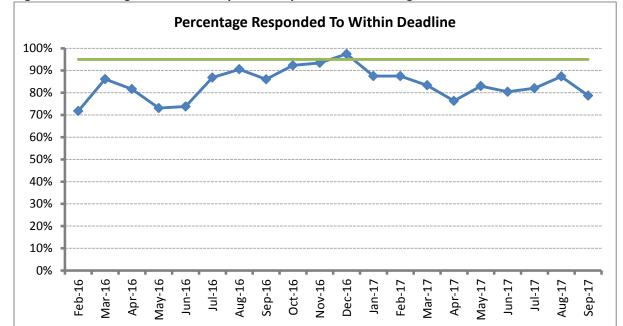


Figure 3: Percentage of formal complaints responded to within agreed timescale

1.2.2 Informal Investigations

In Q2 2017/18, the Trust received 250 complaints that were investigated via the informal process. During this period, 237 informal complaints were responded to and 65.8% of these (156 of 237) were resolved within the time agreed with the complainant.

1.3 Dissatisfied complaints

Reducing numbers of dissatisfied complainants was one of the Trust's corporate quality objectives for 2015/16, remained a priority throughout 2016/17 and will continue to be closely monitored in 2017/18. We are disappointed whenever anyone feels the need to complain about our services; but especially so if they are then dissatisfied with the quality of our investigation into and response to their concerns. For every complaint we receive, our aim is to identify whether and where we have made mistakes, to put things right if we can, and to learn as an organisation to that we do not make the same mistake again. Our target is that nobody should be dissatisfied with the quality of our response to their complaint³.

The way in which dissatisfied cases are reported is expressed as a percentage of the responses the Trust has sent out in any given month and our target is for less than 5% of complainants to be dissatisfied. This data is reported two months in arrears in order to capture the majority of cases where complainants tell us they were not happy with our response.

In Q2, by the cut-off point of mid-November 2017 (the date by which the dissatisfied data for July and August 2017 was finalised), 12 people had contacted us to say they were dissatisfied. This represents 9.9% of the 121 responses sent out during those months. Previously, in Q1, of a total of 132 responses sent out in the quarter, 24 had received a dissatisfied response at the point when monthly data was frozen for board reporting. This represented 18.2% of the responses sent out.

³ Please note that we differentiate this from complainants who may raise new issues or questions as a result of our response.

Figure 4 shows the percentage of complainants who were dissatisfied with aspects of our complaints response up until July 2017.

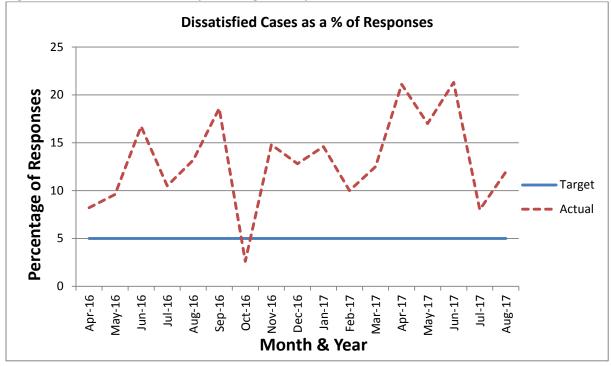


Figure 4: Dissatisfied cases as a percentage of responses

For each case where a complainant advises they are dissatisfied, the case is reviewed by a Patient Support and Complaints Officer, leading to one of the following courses of action, according to the complainant's preference:

- The lead Division is asked to reinvestigate the outstanding concerns and send a further response letter to the complainant addressing these issues;
- The lead Division is asked to reinvestigate the outstanding concerns and arrange to meet with the complainant to address these issues
- On rare occasions, a letter may be sent to the complainant advising that the Trust feels that
 it has already addressed all of the concerns raised and reminding the complainant that if
 they remain unhappy, they have the option of asking the Ombudsman to independently
 review their complaint. This option might be appropriate if, for example, if a complainant
 was disputing certain events that had been captured on CCTV and were therefore
 incontrovertible.

In the event that we do not have enough information to initiate the process outlined above, the allocated caseworker from the Patient Support and Complaints Team will contact the complainant to clarify which issues remain unresolved and, where possible, identify some specific questions that the complainant wishes to be answered. Following this, the process noted above would then be followed.

In all cases where a further written response is produced, the draft is reviewed by the Patient Support and Complaints Manager and by the Head of Quality (Patient Experience and Clinical Effectiveness) before sending it to an Executive Director for signing.

In the event that a complainant comes back to us again, having received two responses (whether in writing or by way of a meeting), the case will be escalated to an Executive Director (usually the Chief Nurse) to review. As part of the escalation, Divisions are asked to consider whether some form of independent input might assist with achieving resolution and to discuss this with the Executive Director.

All dissatisfied cases are now reviewed by the Patient Support and Complaints Manager and the Head of Quality (Patient Experience and Clinical Effectiveness) on a monthly basis and learning from this review is shared with the Divisions. Those reports are then shared with the Patient Experience Group for information each quarter.

2. Complaints themes - Trust overview

Every complaint received by the Trust is allocated to one of eight major categories, or themes. Table 1 provides a breakdown of complaints received in Q2 2017/18 compared to Q1. In Q2, complaints in most of the major categories/themes decreased, including appointments and admissions (decreased from 159 complaints to 136). There were only slight increases in complaints about access and information & support.

Table 1: Complaints by category/theme

Category/Theme	Number of complaints received in Q2 (2017/18)	Number of complaints received in Q1 (2017/18)
Appointments & Admissions	136 (31.6%) 🛡	159 (28.6% of total complaints) 🔨
Clinical Care	121 (28.1%) 🛡	129 (23.2%) 🔨
Attitude & Communication	107 (24.9%) 🛡	191 (34.4%) 🔨
Information & Support	25 (5.8%) 🛡	37 (6.7%) ↓
Facilities & Environment	17 (4%) 🛧	16 (2.9%) Ψ
Discharge/Transfer/Transport	15 (3.5%) 🛡	17 (3.1%) 🛧
Documentation	6 (1.4%) =	6 (1.1%) 🛧
Access	3 (0.7% of total complaints) 🛧	0 (0%) =
Total	430	555

Each complaint is also assigned to a more specific sub-category, for which there are over 100. Table 2 lists the ten most consistently reported sub-categories. In total, these sub-categories account for almost three quarters of the complaints received in Q2 (310/430).

Table 2: Complaints by sub-category

Sub-category	Number of complaints received in Q2 (2017/18)	Q1 (2017/18)	Q4 (2016/17)	Q3 (2016/17)
Cancelled/delayed appointments and operations	68 (9.3% decrease compared to Q1) Ψ	75	54	66
Clinical care (Medical/Surgical)	58 (17.1% decrease compared to Q1) Ψ	70	70	54
Appointment administration issues	45 (2.2% decrease compared to Q1) ↓	46	35	152
Clinical care (Nursing/Midwifery)	28 (55.6% increase compared to Q1) \uparrow	18	13	13

Attitude of medical staff	28 (3.4% decrease compared to Q1) ↓	29	27	14
Failure to answer telephones/failure to respond	25 (13.6% increase compared to Q1) \uparrow	22	22	24
Communication with patient/relative	18 (20% increase compared to Q1) \uparrow	15	20	25
Attitude of nursing/midwifery staff	16 (433.3% increase compared to Q1) \uparrow	3	4	5
Discharge arrangements	13 (30% increase compared to Q1) \uparrow	10	12	13
Lost/misplaced medical records and/or test results	11 =	11	5	9

Complaints about 'discharge arrangements' and 'lost medical notes and test results' have been included for the first time in Q2 as these two sub-categories have replaced 'transport' and 'attitude of administrative staff' in the list of most frequently reported complaints themes.

There were increases in Q2 in respect t of complaints received about 'clinical care (nursing/midwifery)' - from 18 in Q1 to 28 in Q2; and in complaints received about 'attitude of nursing/midwifery', from 3 in Q1 to 16 in Q2.

Complaints about 'clinical care (nursing/midwifery)' were received by all bed-holding Divisions: Women & Children – 12; Medicine – 9; Surgery – 5; and Specialised Services – 2.

Complaints about 'attitude of nursing/midwifery' were also received by all bed-holding Divisions: Medicine – 7; Surgery – 4; Women & Children – 3; and Specialised Services – 1.

In Q1, the number of complaints in respect of 'appointment administration issues' was flagged as a potential concern. This pattern was sustained in Q2, with only a 2% decrease compared to Q1.

In Q2, complaints in this sub-category were received by all clinical Divisions, as follows:

- Surgery 21
- Medicine 8
- Specialised Services 7
- Women & Children 5
- Diagnostics & Therapies 4

The complaints in this category were received by:

- Bristol Royal Infirmary 14
- Bristol Dental Hospital 12
- Bristol Heart Institute 7
- Bristol Eye Hospital 4
- Bristol Royal Hospital for Children 4
- St Michael's Hospital 3
- South Bristol Community Hospital 1

Figures 5, 6, and 7 show the four most commonly recorded sub-categories of complaint as detailed above, tracked since February 2016.

Figure 5: Cancelled or delayed appointments and operations

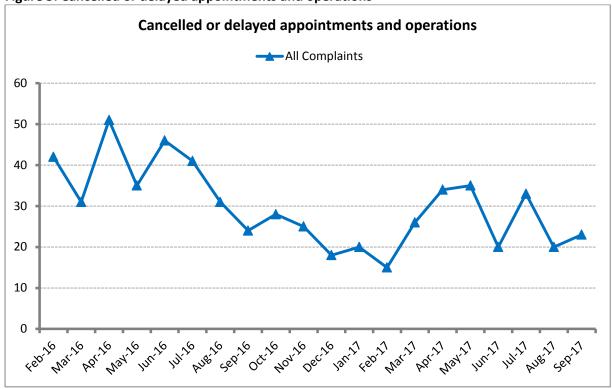
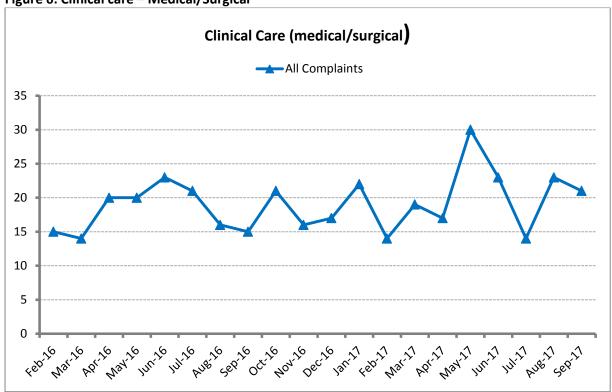


Figure 6: Clinical care - Medical/Surgical



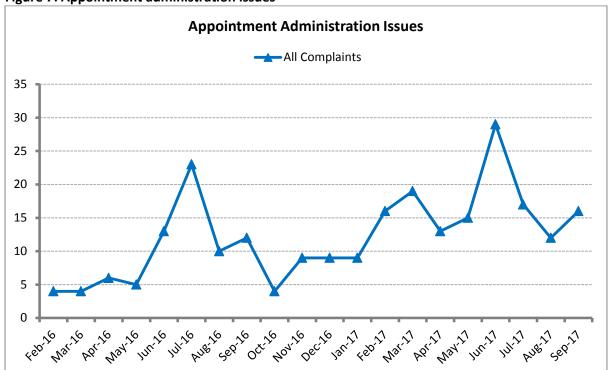


Figure 7: Appointment administration issues

3. Divisional Performance

3.1 Divisional analysis of complaints received

Table 3 provides an analysis of Q2 complaints performance by Division. In addition to providing an overall view, the table includes data for the three most common reasons why people complain: concerns about appointments and admissions; concerns about staff attitude and communication; and concerns about clinical care. Data for the Division of Trust Services is not included in this table but is summarised in section 3.1.6 of the report.

Table 3	Surgery	Medicine	Specialised Services	Women & Children	Diagnostics & Therapies
Total number of	150 (175) 🗸	108 (102) 🔨	57 (70) ₩	74 (73) 🛧	18 (13) 🛧
complaints received Number of complaints about appointments and admissions	66 (94) 🗸	19 (13) 🔨	23 (31) ♥	22 (18) ^	6 (3) 1
Number of complaints about staff attitude and communication	29 (30) ♥	34 (27) 🔨	13 (9) 🔨	16 (19) 🛡	7 (1) 🔨
Number of complaints about clinical care	35 (36) 🛡	36 (42) ♥	15 (19) 🗸	31 (26) 🔨	4 (5) 🗸
Area where the most complaints have been received in Q4	Bristol Dental Hospital – 52 (79) Bristol Eye Hospital – 30 (25) Trauma & Orthopaedics – 11 (8) ENT – 13 (10) Lower GI – 4 (9) Upper GI – 8 (7)	Emergency Department (BRI) - 18 (28) Dermatology - 15 (9) Sleep Unit 7 (9) Ward A300 (AMU) - 5 (9) Ward A400 - 5 Ward A515 - 5 Ward A522 - 5	BHI (all) – 40 (50) BHI Outpatients – 18 (12) BHI Waiting List Office – 11 (8) Ward C708 – 2 (6) Appointments Dept (BHOC) – 3 (10)	Children's ED & Ward 39 (BRHC) – 6 (4) Gynaecology Outpatients (StMH) – 6 (6) Paediatric Orthopaedics – 6 (2) Central Delivery Suite (STMH) – 2 (6)	Radiology – 6 (4) Physiotherapy – 5 (3) Audiology – 2 (2)
Notable deteriorations compared to Q1	None	Dermatology – 15 (9)	BHI Outpatients – 18 (12)	None	Physiotherapy – 5 (3)
Notable improvements compared to Q1	None	Emergency Department – 18 (28)	BHI (all) – 40 (50) Appointments Dept (BHOC) – 3 (10)	Paediatric Orthopaedics – 6 (2)	None

3.1.1 Division of Surgery

In Q2, the Division of Surgery experienced a decrease of 14.5% in the total number of complaints received. There was a marked decrease in complaints about appointments and admissions (including cancelled or delayed appointments and operations), with 66 compared to 94 in Q1. Complaints about Bristol Dental Hospital also decreased from 79 in Q1 to 52 in Q2. Complaints about clinical care (nursing) and attitude of nursing staff both increased in Q2, as did complaints in respect of discharge arrangements. Although complaints about Bristol Eye Hospital remain lower than they were for much of the year prior to May 2017, there is an emerging pattern of monthly increases in complaints since that time which the division is monitoring closely.

Table 4: Complaints by category type

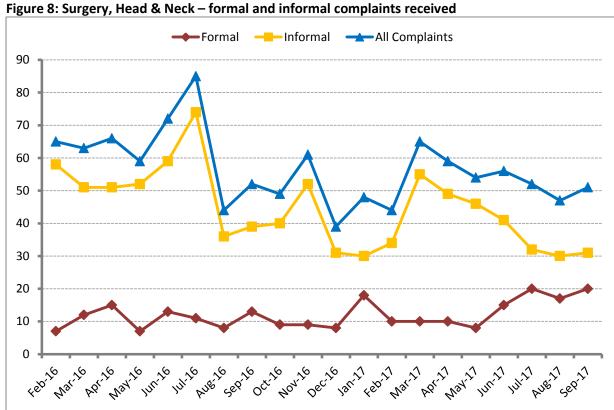
Category Type	Number and % of complaints received – Q2 2017/18	Number and % of complaints received – Q1 2017/18
Access	3 (2% of total complaints) 1	0 (0% of total complaints) =
Appointments & Admissions	66 (44%) 🗸	94 (53.7%) 🛧
Attitude & Communication	29 (19.3%) 🗸	30 (17.1%) ₩
Clinical Care	35 (23.3%) ₩	36 (20.6%) 🛧
Facilities & Environment	2 (1.3%) 🛧	1 (0.6%) 🗸
Information & Support	9 (6%) 🗸	11 (6.3%) 🗸
Discharge/Transfer/	5 (3.3%) 🛧	2 (1.1%) 🛧
Transport		
Documentation	1 = (0.7%)	1 (0.6%) =
Total	150	175

Table 5: Top sub-categories

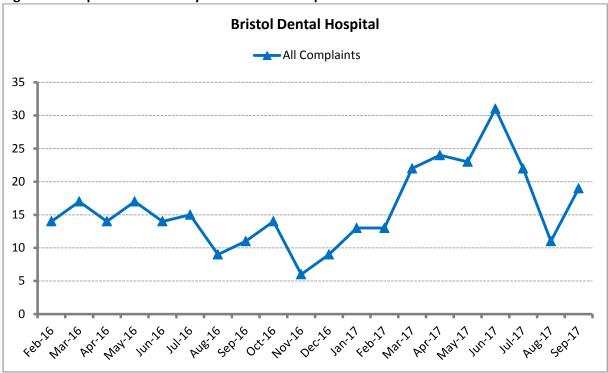
Category	Number of complaints received – Q2 2017/18	Number of complaints received – Q1 2017/18
Cancelled or delayed appointments and operations	39 ♥	42 1
Clinical care (medical/surgical)	21 🗸	22 🔨
Appointment administration issues	22 ₩	33 🔨
Clinical care (nursing)	5 🛧	2 🛧
Attitude of medical staff	8 ♥	9 ₩
Failure to answer telephones/ failure to respond	11 🛧	10 ^
Communication with patient/relative	3 =	3 ♥
Attitude of nursing staff	4 🛧	0 =
Discharge arrangements	5 🛧	1 ♥
Lost/misplaced medical records and/or test results	3 =	3 1

Table 6: Divisional response to concerns highlighted by Q2 data

Concern	Explanation	Action
In Q1, the Division reported that	We believe that the	Answer phones are on reception and
a significant proportion of	reduction in complaints in	in the patient access (outpatient
complaints about the BDH	Q2 is, at least in part, due	booking) team are closely monitored.
related to concerns about	to the positive actions	
telephone communications and	described in the Q1 report.	Administration teams are being
attitude of administrative staff.	We are continuing to	restructured - due to be completed
The Division was seeking to	monitor the telephone	in Q3. Two new operational staff
identify which telephone	numbers that are being	have also been appointed, providing
numbers were the source of the	used by patients so that	more support for the admin teams.
problem and customer training	any delays in responding	
was being arranged for	can be followed up.	Patient access (outpatient booking
administrative staff.		team) is being relaunched with a
	A complaints triage process	focus on team working and effective
Complaints about the Bristol	has also been put in place,	cross-cover, with the aim of
Dental Hospital (BDH) decreased	resulting in improvements	improving the overall performance.
from 79 in Q1 to 52 in Q2,	in the timeliness of	. (22)
however this still accounted for	responding to informal	A 'BDH the Voice' competition has
a third of all complaints received	complaints about BDH.	been held. The winner of the
by the Division in this period.	A	completion will use their voice to
The majority of BDH complaints	A specific issue has been	standardise all answerphone
were about Adult Restorative	identified regarding a member of staff not	messages within the BDH.
Dentistry (18), Administration Department 14), Child Dental	answering their	We are looking at various telephonic
Health (7) and Oral Surgery (7).	phone/messages. This has	solutions to improve the flow of calls
Treatti (7) and Oral Surgery (7).	been addressed and the	throughout the hospital.
Of the 52 complaints received,	performance of the staff	throughout the hospital.
19 related to cancelled or	member is being managed	A consultant-led task and finish
delayed appointments or	and monitored.	group met for the first time in
procedures; 12 related to		November, focussing on the
appointment administration		telephone communication pathway
issues and 9 were about failure		to help resolve patient concerns.
to answer telephones.		·
·		The organisational development
		team is supporting the BDH in
		designing a bespoke customer
		service package to improve the
		performance of the receptionists.
The number of complaints	No specific patterns or	Continue to monitor.
about the Ear Nose and Throat	trends have been	
service increased slightly from	identified.	
10 in Q1 to 13 in Q2. These were		
all received by ENT Outpatients		
at St Michael's Hospital and		
were mainly in respect of		
cancelled or delayed		
appointments and appointment		
administration issues.		







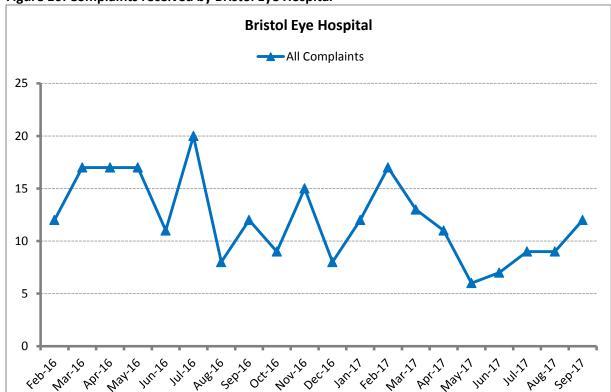


Figure 10: Complaints received by Bristol Eye Hospital

3.1.2 Division of Medicine

In Q2, the Division of Medicine received a similar amount of complaints as in Q1. There were increases in the number of complaints received in respect of appointments and admissions, information and support and discharge/transfer/transport. Complaints in respect of clinical care and facilities and environment both decreased.

Table 7: Complaints by category type

Category Type	Number and % of complaints	Number and % of complaints
	received – Q2 2017/18	received – Q1 2017/18
Access	0 (0% of total complaints) =	0 (0% of total complaints) =
Appointments & Admissions	19 (17.6%) 🛧	13 (12.7%) ₩
Attitude & Communication	34 (31.5%) 🛧	27 (26.5%) 🛧
Clinical Care	36 (33.3%) ♥	42 (41.2%) 🛧
Facilities & Environment	2 (1.9%) 🗸	4 (3.9%) ♥
Information & Support	7 (6.5%) 🛧	4 (3.9%) =
Discharge/Transfer/	9 (8.3%) 🛧	8 (7.8%) 🛧
Transport		
Documentation	1 (0.9%) ♥	4 (3.9%) 🔨
Total	108	102

Table 8: Top sub-categories

Category	Number of complaints received – Q2 2017/18	Number of complaints received – Q1 2017/18
Cancelled or delayed	9 🛧	5 ₩
appointments and operations		
Clinical care	19 ₩	26 🛧
(medical/surgical)		
Appointment	8 🛧	6 ₩
administration issues		
Clinical care (nursing)	9 🛧	7 🛧
Attitude of medical staff	12 =	12 🔨
Failure to answer	5 =	5 🛧
telephones/failure to		
respond		
Communication with	6 🛧	2 ₩
patient/relative		
Attitude of nursing staff	7 🛧	2 🔨
Discharge arrangements	8 🛧	3 ₩
Lost/misplaced medical records	3 ₩	4 🔨
and/or test results		

Table 9: Divisional response to concerns highlighted by Q2 data

Concern	Explanation	Action
The Dermatology service received 15 complaints in Q2, compared to 9 in Q1, with 7 of these being about appointment issues. A further 4 related to attitude and communication.	The Dermatology service now incorporates services at Weston and Taunton. A significant quality focus of the expanded service is therefore on ensuring effective communication.	Complaints relating to communication and access to appointments continue to be closely monitored, with prompt action taken where themes emerge.

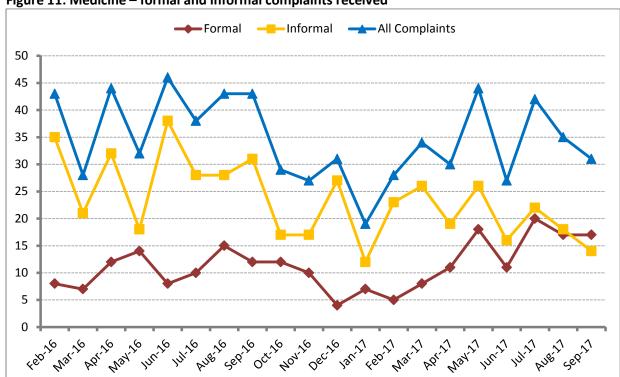
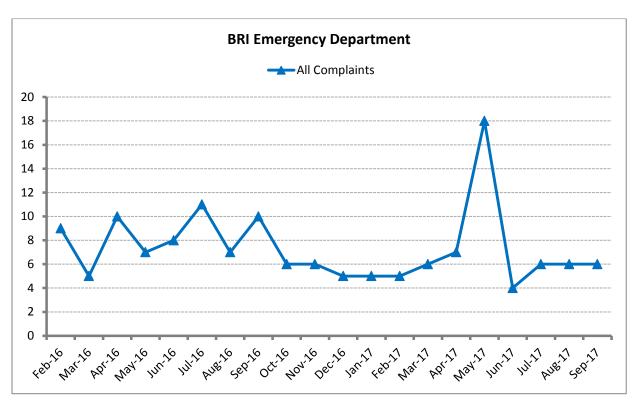


Figure 11: Medicine – formal and informal complaints received

Figure 12: Complaints received by BRI Emergency Department



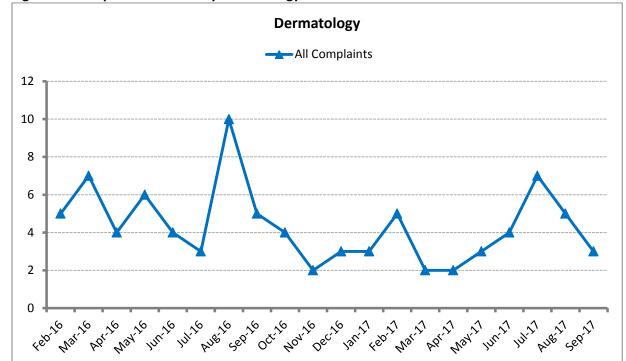


Figure 13: Complaints received by Dermatology

3.1.3 Division of Specialised Services

In Q2, the Division of Specialised Services saw a decrease in the total number of complaints received for the third consecutive quarter. The only category where the division experienced an increase in complaints was in relation to attitude and communication. The number of complaints about clinical care (medical surgical) was half the number received in Q1. Approximately two thirds of complaints received in Q2 were resolved via an informal investigation.

Table 10: Complaints by category type

Category Type	Number and % of complaints received – Q2 2017/18	Number and % of complaints received – Q1 2017/18
Access	0 (0% of total complaints) =	0 (0% of total complaints) =
Appointments & Admissions	23 (40.4%) 🛡	31 (44.3%) 🛧
Attitude & Communication	13 (22.8%) 🛧	9 (12.9%) 🗸
Clinical Care	15 (26.3%) ♥	19 (27.1%) 🗸
Facilities & Environment	2 (3.5%) ♥	3 (4.3%) 🔨
Information & Support	3 (5.3%) ♥	6 (8.6%) ♥
Discharge/Transfer/Transport	1 (1.8%)♥	2 (2.9%) 🗸
Documentation	0 (0%) =	0 (0%) =
Total	57	70

Table 11: Top sub-categories

Category	Number of complaints received – Q2 2017/18	Number of complaints received – Q1 2017/18
Cancelled or delayed	13 ♥	16 🛧
appointments and operations		
Clinical care	5 ₩	10 🛧
(medical/surgical)		
Appointment	7 ₩	11 🔨
administration issues		
Clinical care (nursing)	2 🏠	1 =
Attitude of medical staff	3 =	3 =
Failure to answer	5 =	5 ₩
telephone/failure to respond		
Communication with	3 🛧	1 ₩
patient/relative		
Attitude of nursing staff	1 🛧	0 🗸
Discharge arrangements	0 =	0 🗸
Lost/misplaced medical records and/or test results	4 🔨	3 🛧

Table 12: Divisional response to concerns highlighted by Q2 data

Table 12: Divisional response to concerns nighlighted by Q2 data				
Concern	Explanation	Action		
Of the 57 complaints received	Themes arising from	To address the backlogs in		
by the Division in Q2, 18 (32%)	complaints about the BHI OP	outpatient follow up clinics the		
were for the Bristol Heart	department in Q2 include	division has appointed additional		
Institute Outpatients	delays to outpatient follow	medical staff, increased the number		
Department. 8 of these 18	up appointments,	of clinics available, and reviewed all		
complaints were in respect of	communication of test	patients to ensure that all those on		
clinical care; 6 were about	results and responding to	the follow up list require face to face		
appointments and admissions;	telephone messages left.	follow up and to identify any high		
and the remaining 4 related to		risk patients to ensure that they are		
attitude and communication.		prioritised.		
		With respect to test results, work		
		has been undertaken to address		
		typing backlogs; the division is now		
		typing clinics letters within 7 days.		
		The Division has also volunteered to		
		undertake a pilot project which will		
		involve typing clinic letters on the		
		day of clinic, which will help further		
		with overall typing times.		
		There was a problem with staff		
		There was a problem with staff		
		sickness in the outpatient		
		administration team throughout Q2,		

but this has now resolved.

Staff now have daily timetables which include checking and responding to voicemails.

There were also a number of complaints relating to procedures which are not funded by the NHS.

Clinicians in the division have been involved in the commission by evaluation process and have communicated the outcomes and information to patients and referring hospitals in order to manage expectations; however patients continue to highlight their concerns through the complaints process.

In Q1, the Division reported that they were working with Healthcare at Home to increase capacity for the delivery of chemotherapy. There were also plans in place to increase capacity in the Day Unit and to work with Diagnostics & Therapies to develop a service covering bank holidays.

In Q2, 10 complaints were received by the Chemo Day Unit/Outpatients department, an increase for the third consecutive quarter, although there was a reduction in complaints towards the end of the quarter. Of these 10 complaints, 4 were in respect of attitude and communication and 3 were about clinical care.

Of the 10 complaints received in Q2, 3 were related to delays in chemotherapy appointments.

There were no specific patterns in the remaining 7 cases, although they tended to reflect the challenges of delivering difficult and often complex information to patients and relatives and the need for patients to revisit questions at different points in their journey.

In addition to actions outlined in Q1, the unit has also launched a new way of running its service (booking to chair) which has increased the capacity for chemotherapy delivery. The number of patients waiting for chemotherapy has reduced significantly. The team will be working a new shift pattern in the new year which will further support an increase in the numbers of treatments the department can deliver across the working day.

One of the complaints raised concerns about the approach of a staff member which has since been addressed through supervision.

In respect of the complaints which pertained to delivering difficult and complex information, key components of these complaints will be used in the training delivered to staff both across the division and across the trust. Further to this, Clinical Nurse Specialist teams are increasing their follow up phone calls to facilitate the process of information giving following the provision of diagnosis to improve the opportunity for patients to ask questions or raise queries at an early stage.

In Q2, the Division received 11 complaints about the Bristol **Heart Institute Waiting List** Office.

Of these complaints, 9 were in respect of appointments and admissions and 2 were about attitude and communication.

Whilst the number of cancellations has decreased overall within cardiac services, the appointment and admissions complaints reflect delays to, or cancellation of, cardiac procedures during Q2. 2 complaints were received in relation to delays to responding to telephone messages left.

The division has commenced additional scheduling meetings to ensure scheduling reflects the bed availability within the critical care areas and so that teams can realistically and supportively manage patients' expectations. Further to this, letters have been reviewed to articulate more clearly the expected waiting times for procedures.

The number of complaints regarding unanswered telephones is reducing and reflects the recruitment and training of new staff within the team.

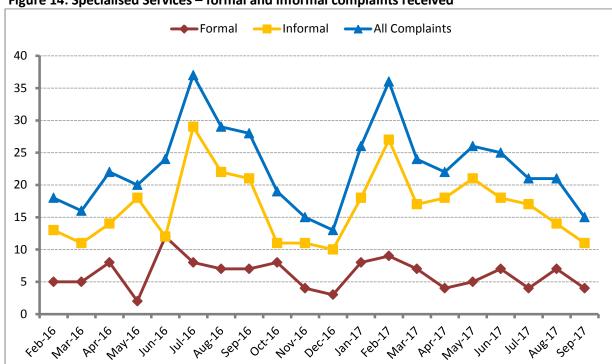


Figure 14: Specialised Services – formal and informal complaints received

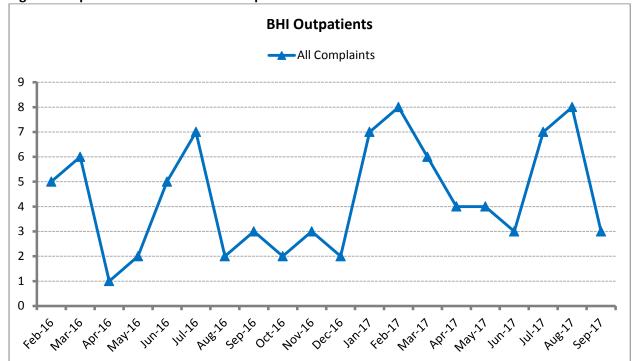


Figure 15: Specialised Services - BHI Outpatients

3.1.4 Division of Women's and Children's Services

The total number of complaints received by the Division remained similar for the third consecutive quarter, with a decrease in complaints in all categories with the exception of appointments and admissions and clinical care. This is the only division where the majority of complaints received in Q2 were resolved via the formal investigation process (42 formal compared to 32 informal).

Table 13: Complaints by category type

Category Type	Number and % of complaints	Number and % of complaints
	received – Q2 2017/18	received – Q1 2017/18
Access	0 (0% of total complaints) =	0 (0% of total complaints) =
Appointments & Admissions	22 (29.7%) 🛧	18 (24.7%) 🛧
Attitude & Communication	16 (21.6%) V	19 (26.1%) 🗸
Clinical Care	31 (41.9%) 🛧	26 (35.6%) ♥
Facilities & Environment	0 (0%) 🗸	2 (2.7%) 🛧
Information & Support	4 (5.4%) ♥	5 (6.8%) 🛧
Discharge/Transfer/Transport	0 (0%) 🗸	2 (2.7%) 🛧
Documentation	1 (1.4%) =	1 (1.4%) =
Total	74	73

Table 14: Top sub-categories

Category	Number of complaints received – Q2 2017/18	Number of complaints received – Q1 2017/18	
Cancelled or delayed appointments and operations	13 🔨	11 🔨	
Clinical care (medical/surgical)	12 ^	11 🗸	
Appointment administration issues	5 ^	4 ^	
Clinical care (nursing/midwifery)	12 ^	8 =	
Attitude of medical staff	4 ₩	5 ♥	
Failure to answer telephones /failure to respond	2 =	2 1	
Communication with patient/relative	4 ♥	8 1	
Attitude of nursing/midwifery	3 ↑	1 ₩	
Discharge arrangements	0 🗸	2 🏠	
Lost/misplaced medical records and/or test results	3 ♠	2 ₩	

Table 15: Divisional response to concerns highlighted by Q2 data

Concern	Explanation	Action
31 (42%) complaints	St Michael's	St Michael's
received by the Division in	In maternity and gynecology,	As part of the work of the Local
Q2 related to clinical care.	many of the complaints related to	Maternity System (LMS), the role of
Of these. 20 were received	very complex cases. On occasion,	an "after birth thoughts "service is
by the Bristol Royal	patients have not understood	being considered.
Hospital for Children and 11	what has happened to them;	
were received by St	complaints are sometimes arising	
Michael's Hospital.	in situations where what patients	
	really need is further clarification	
	about their care and treatment.	
	One complaint related to a	The medication error is being
	medication error on NICU and one	reviewed and investigated by the
	complaint in Midwifery related to	divisional patient safety team.
	a practice issue.	
		Maternity support workers in the
		community have been re-trained
		on testing urine.
Of the 74 complaints	St Michael's	St Michael's
received by the Division in	In gynaecology, complaints were	Process issues are being revisited
Q2, the highest numbers by	due to process issues, e.g. waiting	and aligned. Partial booking list is in

department were received in the following areas:

6 each for Children's Emergency Department; Paediatric Orthopaedics; Gynaecology Outpatients; and 5 for NICU.

7 for the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children Outpatients Department.

A total of 15 breaches of the formal response deadline were recorded for the Division in Q2. This represents more than a third of responses sent out by the Division during that period. 9 were responses from Bristol Royal Hospital for Children; the remaining 6 were from St Michael's Hospital.

times and lack of follow up. The unit has had a problem with gaps in the junior doctor rota, with consultants having to act down.

BRHC

Complaints received by the outpatient department and emergency department were mostly about waiting times and clinician attitude.

BRHC

The majority of the breaches were as a result of delays in getting clinician feedback on the complex clinical nature of the complaints.

the process of being revalidated.

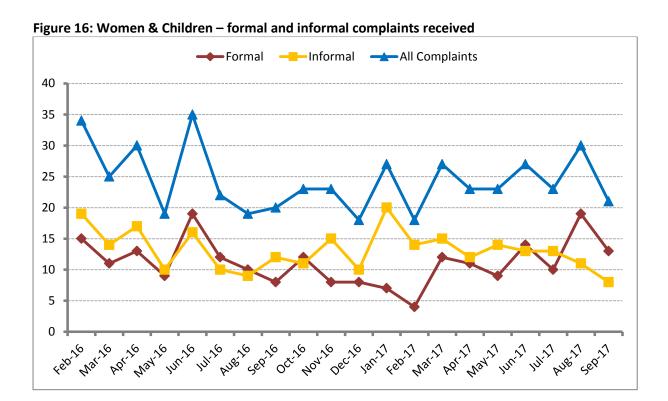
The unit is also to review family involvement at ward rounds.

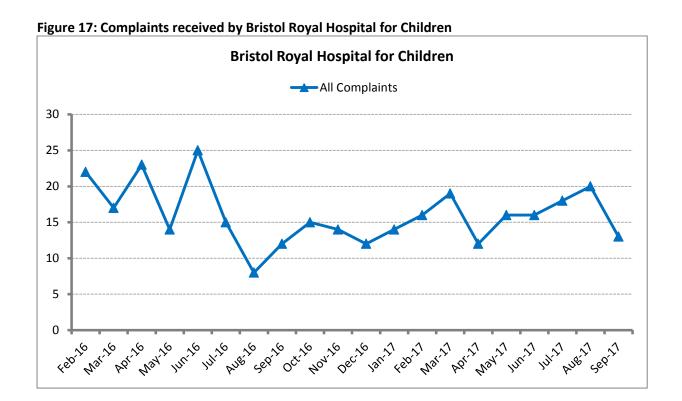
BRHC

The waiting times concern relates to an ongoing capacity issue which is the subject of a strategic review. Attitude concerns are dealt with through direct feedback from line managers.

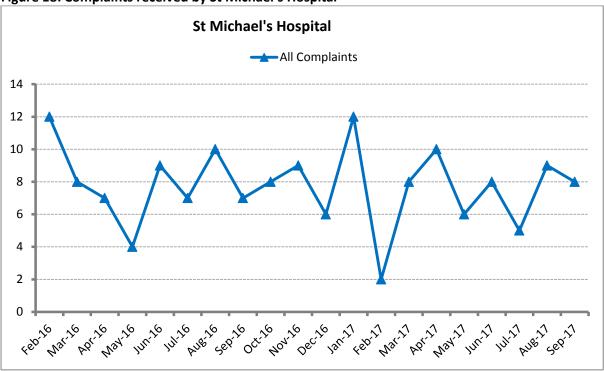
BRHC

Response times to complaints are discussed at the quality assurance committee; senior clinicians who are present at this meeting are expected to give feedback to their respective teams regarding the importance of timely responses to complaints and concerns.









3.1.5 Division of Diagnostics & Therapies

Complaints received by the Division of Diagnostics and Therapies increased from 13 in Q1 to 18 in Q2, with seven received being about attitude and communication and six about appointments and admissions. The Division continued its trend of resolving the majority of complaints via the informal complaints process.

Table 16: Complaints by category type

Category Type	Number and % of	Number and % of
	complaints received – Q2	complaints received – Q1
	2017/18	2017/18
Access	0 (0% of total complaints) =	0 (0% of total complaints) =
Appointments & Admissions	6 (33.3%) 🔨	3 (23.1%) ♥
Attitude & Communication	7 (38.9%) 🛧	1 (7.7%) ♥
Clinical Care	4 (22.2%) Ψ	5 (38.4%) 🛧
Facilities & Environment	0 (0%) 🗸	2 (15.4%) 🛧
Information & Support	0 (0%) 🗸	2 (15.4%) 🛧
Discharge/Transfer/Transport	0 (0%) =	0 (0%) 🗸
Documentation	1 (5.6%) 🛧	0 (0%) =
Total	18	13

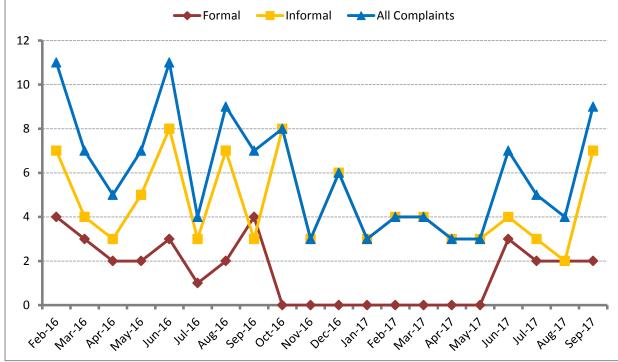
Table 17: Top sub-categories

Category	Number of complaints received – Q2 2017/18	Number of complaints received – Q1 2017/18
Cancelled or delayed appointments and operations	2 1	0 🗸
Clinical care (medical/surgical)	1 =	1 1
Appointment administration issues	4 🛧	2 =
Clinical care (nursing)	0 =	0 =
Attitude of medical staff	1 🛧	0 🗸
Failure to answer telephones /failure to respond	1 1	0 🗸
Communication with patient/relative	1 =	1 1
Attitude of nursing/midwifery	1 1	0 =
Discharge arrangements	0 =	0 =
Lost/misplaced medical records and/or test results	2 1	1 1

Table 18: Divisional response to concerns highlighted by Q2 data

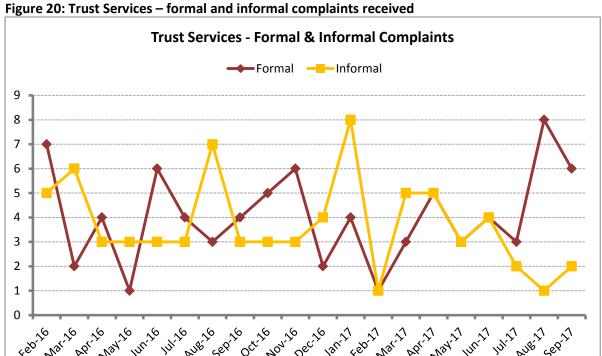
Concern Exp	olanation	Action
Of the 18 complaints received in Q2, 5 were received by the Physiotherapy service at Bristol Royal Infirmary, compared to 3 in Q1 and 2 in Q4 of 2016/17. 3	th levels of staff sickness and going recruitment during Q2 to difficulties in making cointments and mmunicating with the partment.	Admin review and project in place to simplify systems and train staff. A new phone system has been implemented, additional bank staff are now in place to answer calls, and the service is also looking to appoint to a permanent position.

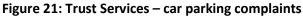
Figure 19: Diagnostics and Therapies – formal and informal complaints received

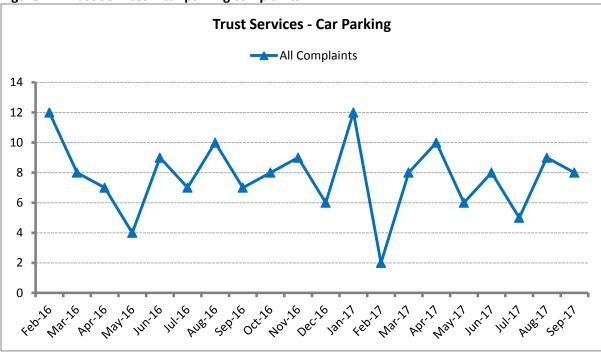


3.1.6 Division of Trust Services

The Division of Trust Services, which includes Facilities & Estates, received 23 complaints in Q2, compared to 121 in Q1. However there was a spike in Q1 when the Trust received over 100 complaints about security officers being asked to remove union jack badges from their uniforms (this was explained fully in the Q1 report). A comparison with the activity for this Division during a "normal" quarter would be the 32 complaints received in Q4 of 2016/17.







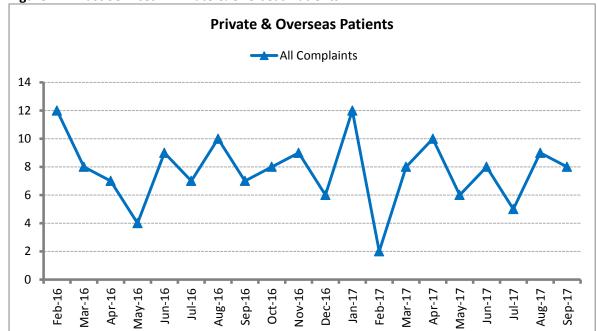


Figure 22: Trust Services – Private & Overseas Patients

3.2 Complaints by hospital site

Of those complaints with an identifiable site, the breakdown by hospital is as follows:

Table 19: Breakdown of complaints by hospital site

Hospital/Site	Number and % of	Number and % of
	complaints received in Q2	complaints received in Q1
	2017/18	2017/18
Bristol Royal Infirmary	180 ₩	279 (50.3%) 🛧
Bristol Dental Hospital	52 ₩	79 (14.2%) 🛧
Bristol Royal Hospital for Children	51 🛧	44 (7.9%) 🗸
Bristol Heart Institute	40 ₩	50 (9.0%) 🗸
St Michael's Hospital	39 ↑	37 (6.7%) 🛧
Bristol Eye Hospital	30 ♠	25 (4.5%) 🗸
Bristol Haematology & Oncology	20 ₩	21 (3.8%) =
Centre		
South Bristol Community Hospital	7 =	7 (1.3%) 🛧
Community Midwifery Services	1 ₩	3 (0.5%) 🛧
Central Health Clinic	3 =	3 (0.5%)
Southmead Hospital (UH Bristol	1 ♥	3 (0.5%) 🛧
services)		
Other Trust	1 ₩	2 (0.4%) 🛡
Community Dental Sites	1 =	1 (0.2%) =
Trust Headquarters	1 =	1 (0.2%) 🛧
Adult Audiology Service	1 1	0
(Community)		
Estates & Facilities Building	1 🛧	0
Off Trust Premises	1 1	0
TOTAL	430	555

3.2.1 Breakdown of complaints by inpatient/outpatient/ED status

In order to more clearly identify the number of complaints received by the type of service, Figures 23-27 below show data differentiating between inpatient, outpatient, Emergency Department and other complaints. The category of 'other' includes complaints about non-clinical areas, such as car parking, cashiers, administration departments, etc.

In Q2, 46.5% of complaints received were about outpatient services, 31% related to inpatient care, 6.3% were about emergency patients; and 16.3% fell into the category of 'other' (as explained above).

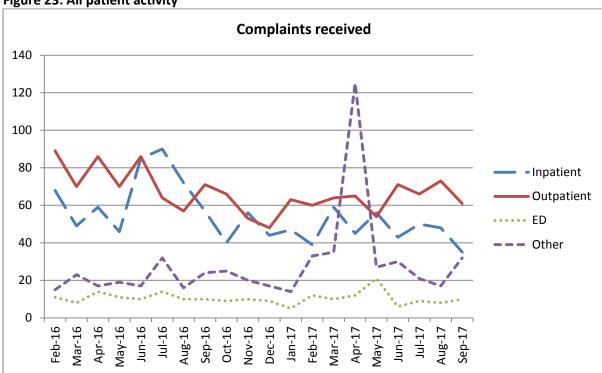
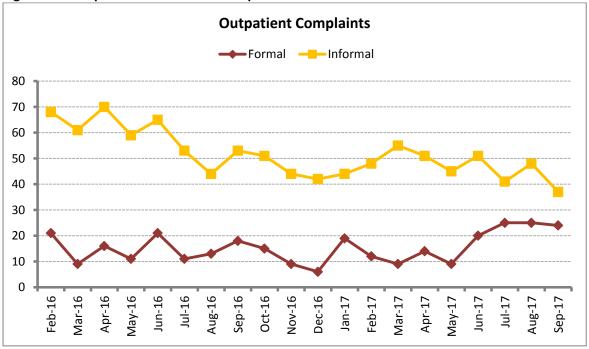


Figure 23: All patient activity

Figure 24: Complaints received from inpatients **Inpatient Complaints** Formal ——Informal 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 May-16 Feb-16 Apr-16 Jun-16 Nov-16 Mar-16 Jul-16 Aug-16 Sep-16 Oct-16 Sep-17 Jan-17 Feb-17





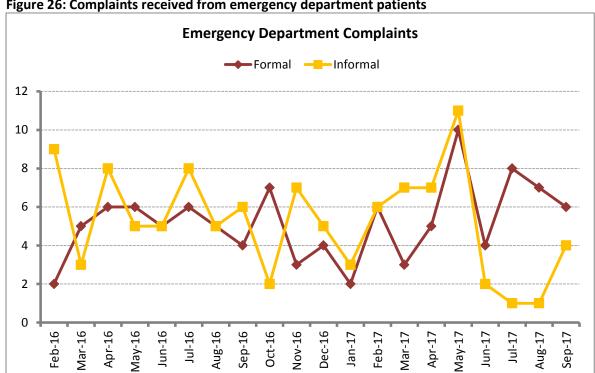


Figure 26: Complaints received from emergency department patients

Figure 27: Complaints received from other patients (not inpatient, outpatient or emergency patients)

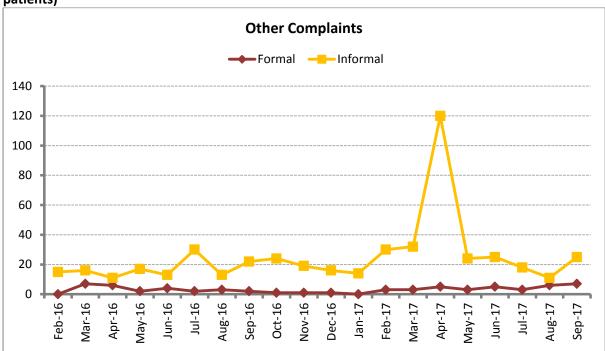


Table 20: Breakdown of Area Type

Complaints	Area Type				
Month	ED	Inpatient	Outpatient	Other	Grand Total
Apr-16	14	59	86	17	176
May-16	11	46	70	19	146
Jun-16	10	85	86	17	198
Jul-16	14	90	64	32	200
Aug-16	10	72	57	16	155
Sep-16	10	57	71	24	162
Oct-16	9	40	66	25	140
Nov-16	10	56	53	20	139
Dec-16	9	44	48	17	118
Jan-17	5	47	63	14	129
Feb-17	12	39	60	33	144
Mar-17	10	59	64	35	168
Apr-17	12	45	65	125	247
May-17	21	56	54	27	158
Jun-17	6	43	71	30	150
Jul-17	9	50	66	21	146
Aug-17	8	48	73	17	146
Sep-17	10	35	61	32	138
Grand Total	190	971	1,178	521	2,860

3.3 Complaints responded to within agreed timescale

All Divisions, with the exception of Diagnostics and Therapies, reported breaches in Q2, totalling 36, which is an increase on the 26 breaches recorded in Q1. The largest increase in breaches (when compared to Q1) was for the Division of Women & Children. Details of this increase are included in table 13 under section 3.1.4 of this report.

Table 21: Breakdown of breached deadlines

Division	Q2 (2017/18)	Q1 (2017/18)	Q4 (2016/17)	Q3 (2016/17)
Surgery	8 (14.3%)	6 (14.6%)	7 (14.3%)	1 (0.7%)
Medicine	5 (11.1%)	6 (22.2%)	4 (15.4%)	0 (0%)
Specialised Services	3 (12%)	6 (24%)	2 (6.4%)	4 (8.9%)
Women & Children	15 (38.5%)	6 (18.2%)	6 (24%)	3 (4.7%)
Diagnostics &	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Therapies				
Trust Services	5 (45.5%)	2 (50%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
All	36 breaches	26 breaches	19 breaches	8 breaches

(So, as an example, there were eight breaches of timescale in the division of Surgery in Q2, which constituted 14.3% of the complaint responses which were sent out by that division in Q2.)

Breaches of timescale were caused either by late receipt of draft responses from Divisions which did not allow adequate time for Executive review and sign-off; delays in processing by the Patient Support and Complaints Team; delays during the sign-off process itself; and/or responses being returned for amendment following Executive review. Table 22 shows a breakdown of where the delays occurred in Q2.

Table 22: Reason for delay

Breach attributable to	Surgery	Medicine	Specialised Services	Women & Children	Diagnostics & Therapies	Trust Services
Division	5	Δ	3	14	0	5
Patient Support &	1	1	0	1	0	0
Complaints Team	1	_	0	1	0	U
•	2	0	0	0	0	0
Executives/sign-off	2	0	0	0	0	0
All	8	5	3	15	0	5

3.4 Outcome of formal complaints

In Q2 we responded to 182 formal complaints⁴. Tables 23 and 24 below show a breakdown, by Division, of how many cases were upheld, partly upheld or not upheld in Q2 of 2017/18 and Q1 of 2017/18.

Table 23: Outcome of formal complaints – Q2 2017/18

	Upheld	Partly Upheld	Not Upheld
Surgery	15 (26.8%)	26 (46.4%)	15 (26.8%)
Medicine	13 (28.9%)	25 (55.6%)	7 (15.5%)
Specialised Services	6 (24%)	17 (68%)	2 (8%)
Women & Children	9 (23.1%)	25 (64.1%)	5 (12.8%)
Diagnostics & Therapies	2 (33.3%)	2 (33.3%)	2 (33.3%)
Trust Services	2 (18.2%)	7 (63.6%)	2 (18.2%)
Total	47 (25.8%)	102 (56%)	33 (18.1%)

Table 24: Outcome of formal complaints – Q1 2017/18

	Upheld	Partly Upheld	Not Upheld
Surgery	6 (14.6%)	28 (68.3%)	7 (17.1%)
Medicine	6 (22.2%)	15 (55.6%)	6 (22.2%)
Specialised Services	3 (12%)	17 (68%)	5 (20%)
Women & Children	7 (21.2%)	21 (63.6%)	5 (15.2%)
Diagnostics & Therapies	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Trust Services	1 (20%)	3 (60%)	1 (20%)
Total	24 (18.2%)	84 (63.6%)	24 (18.2%)

⁴ Note: this is different to the number of formal complaints we *received* in the quarter

4. Information, advice and support

In addition to dealing with complaints, the Patient Support and Complaints Team is also responsible for providing patients, relatives and carers with help and support, including:

- Non-clinical information and advice;
- A contact point for patients who wish to feedback a compliment or general information about the Trust's services;
- Support for patients with additional support needs and their families/carers; and
- Signposting to other services and organisations.

In Q2, the team dealt with 183 such enquiries, compared to 174 in Q1. These enquiries can be categorised as:

- 147 requests for advice and information (138 in Q1)
- 31 compliments (34 in Q1)⁵
- 4 requests for support (2 in Q1)

Table 21 below shows a breakdown of the 183 requests for advice, information and support dealt with by the team in Q1.

Table 25: Enquiries by category

Enquiries in Q2 2017/18 Category Hospital information request 25 Information about patient 24 21 Medical records requested 19 Signposting Appointments administration issues 8 8 Clinical care 6 Clinical information request Admissions arrangements 6 **Employment and volunteering** 4 3 Invoicing 3 Personal property 2 Accommodation enquiry Communication 2 Benefits and social care 2 2 Car parking Expenses claim 2 Failure to answer phone/respond 2 Travel arrangements 1 Translating & Interpreting 1 Cleanliness (internal) 1 1 Medication incorrect/not received Aids and appliances 1 Delayed response 1 1 **Emotional support**

-

⁵ This figure includes compliments added directly to the Datix system by Divisions.

Transfer arrangements	1
Availability of wheelchairs	1
Freedom of information request	1
Total	151

In addition to the enquiries detailed above, in Q2 the Patient Support and Complaints team recorded 151 enquiries that did not proceed (compared with 203 in Q1). This is where someone contacts the department to make a complaint or enquiry but does not leave enough information to enable the team to carry out an investigation, or they subsequently decide that they no longer wish to proceed with the complaint.

Including complaints, requests for information or advice, requests for support, compliments and cases that did not proceed, the Patient Support and Complaints Team dealt with a total of 764 separate enquiries in Q2 2017/18.

5. Acknowledgement of complaints by the Patient Support and Complaints Team

One of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) used to monitor the performance of the Patient Support and Complaints Team is the length of time between receipt of a complaint and sending an acknowledgement.

The Trust's Complaints and Concerns Policy states that when the Patient Support and Complaints Team reviews a complaint following receipt:

- a risk assessment will be carried out;
- agreement will be reached with the complainant about how we will proceed with their complaint and a timescale for doing so;
- The appropriate paperwork will be produced and sent to the Divisional Complaints Coordinator for investigation; and
- An acknowledgement letter confirming how the complaint will be managed will be sent to the complainant.

The NHS Complaints Procedure (2009) states that complaints must be acknowledged within three working days. This is also a requirement of the NHS Constitution. The Trust's own policy states that complaints made in writing (including emails) will be acknowledged within three working days and that complaints made orally (via the telephone or in person) will be acknowledged within two working days.

In Q2, 186 complaints were received in writing (email, letter or complaint form) and 244 were received verbally (51 in person via drop-in service and 193 by telephone). Of the 430 complaints received in Q2, 100% met the Trust's standard of being acknowledged within two working days (verbal) and three working days (written).

6. PHSO cases

During Q2, the Trust was advised of new Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) interest in three complaints. During the same period, four existing cases were closed and one existing case remains ongoing. Of the four cases closed, one was partly upheld by the PHSO.

Table 26: Complaints opened by the PHSO in Q2

Case Number	Complainant (patient unless stated)	On behalf of (patient)	Date complaint received by Trust [and date notified by PHSO]	Site	Department	Division
3438	SC	SC	05/09/2016	STMH	Fetal Medicine	Women &
			[17/07/2017]		Unit	Children
Complain	t file and medica	records sent to	o PHSO on 21/0	7/2017. A	dvised by PHSO on	12/10/2017 of
the scope	of their investiga	ation. Currently	pending furthe	r contact	from the PHSO.	
2096	SA	ZH	16/06/2016	STMH	Gynaecology	Women &
			[21/09/2017]		Outpatients	Children
Details requested by PHSO sent to them on 28/09/2017 – they initially only requested certain documentation rather than the usual complaint file and medical records. On 02/10/2017, the PHSO						

Details requested by PHSO sent to them on 28/09/2017 – they initially only requested certain documentation rather than the usual complaint file and medical records. On 02/10/2017, the PHSO advised us they would not be taking the case any further, however the patient had asked them to review their decision. The PHSO confirmed that we could close our file and that they would notify us if we needed to re-open it following their review.

1380	SD	DD	26/04/2016	STMH	Ear, Nose &	Surgery
			[23/08/2017]		Throat	

The PHSO initially advised that they were investigating this matter and explaining the scope of their investigation. They subsequently requested documentation (complaint file and medical records), which were sent to them on 13/11/2017. Currently pending further contact from the PHSO.

Table 27: Complaints ongoing with the PHSO during Q2

Case Number	Complainant (patient unless stated)	On behalf of (patient)	Date complaint received by Trust [and date notified by PHSO]	Site	Department	Division
679	LH		02/03/2016 [09/05/2017]	BEH	Outpatients	Surgery

Copy of complaint file and medical records sent to the PHSO.

Contacted by PHSO to advise us that they intend to investigate. Further information subsequently requested by the PHSO and provided by the Trust. Awaiting PHSO's draft report.

Table 28: Complaints formally closed by the PHSO in Q2

Case Number	Complainant (patient unless stated)	On behalf of (patient)	Date complaint received by Trust [and date notified by PHSO]	Site	Department	Division
2096	SA	ZH	16/06/2016 [21/09/2017]	STMH	Gynaecology Outpatients	Women & Children

Details requested by PHSO were sent to them on 28/09/2017 – they initially only requested certain documentation rather than the usual complaint file and medical records. On 02/10/2017, the PHSO advised us they would not be taking the case any further, however the patient had asked them to

review their decision. The PHSO confirmed that we could close our file and that they would notify us if we needed to re-open it following their review. **Not upheld**.

4537	EB	MB	10/11/2016	BRI	Ward A515	Medicine
			[25/05/2017]			

PHSO's final report received 30/08/2017. They found following failings:

- A failure to provide pain relief to patient for a short period; and
- A failure to contact the family when his condition deteriorated.

PHSO recommended that within four weeks of the date of their report, the Trust should write to the patient's family to apologise for the failings identified in the report and to apologise for the impact this had.

This recommendation was carried out and on 12/10/2017. The PHSO confirmed that the Trust had fully complied with their recommendations and that the case was closed. **Partly upheld**.

Surgery							
her action and							
the case is closed. Not upheld.							
Specialised							
Services							
Specialise							

Final report received from PHSO 02/11/2017 advising that they are taking no further action and the case is closed. **Not upheld**.