

Section 29 statistical return

Financial year 2004-2005 – 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005

1. During the 2004-2005 financial year, 590 cases have been referred to CHRE for consideration under Section 29 of the NHS Reform and Health Professions Act 2002. Chart 1 shows the distribution of cases referred by the nine regulatory bodies. The majority of cases were referred by the General Medical Council (217), the Nursing and Midwifery Council (170) and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (71).
2. Chart 2 shows the average number of days taken for each of the bodies to send the determinations to CHRE after the hearing has finished. The overall average from all of the bodies is 3.7 days. This figure has remained fairly static throughout the year, although the NMC have achieved the greatest reduction in these figures since the beginning of the year. Chart 13 shows the time taken by each regulatory body to send us determinations on a month to month basis.
3. Once the determinations have been received these have been considered by the first officer, the Fitness to Practise Manager or Fitness to Practise Officer, within 1.8 days on average and by the second officer, usually the Director, within an average of 1.5 further days.
4. Most cases (476 of the 590 cases) have been closed without further information being requested. However, further information about cases (transcripts/exhibits) has been requested from each of the regulators on at least one occasion. Chart 3 shows the average number of days taken for each of the bodies to send the transcripts and exhibits to CHRE after they have been requested. Thirty-three cases have been considered at case meetings of Council members.
5. The outcome of our consideration is summarised in relation to individual regulatory bodies in charts 4 to 10, with comparisons made against each body in charts 11 and 12. Five cases from the GMC, one from the GDC, one from the HPC, and one from the NMC have been referred to the High Court during this period. One of the cases from the GMC was subsequently withdrawn after the doctor agreed to give a formal undertaking.
6. Chart 14 shows the number of cases considered by CHRE each month since September 2003. There was a substantial increase in the number of cases in the second half of 2004 but it is interesting to note that the number of cases in the first two months of 2005 is only slightly higher than the first two months of 2004, whereas the figures for March have doubled since 2004.

Chart 1

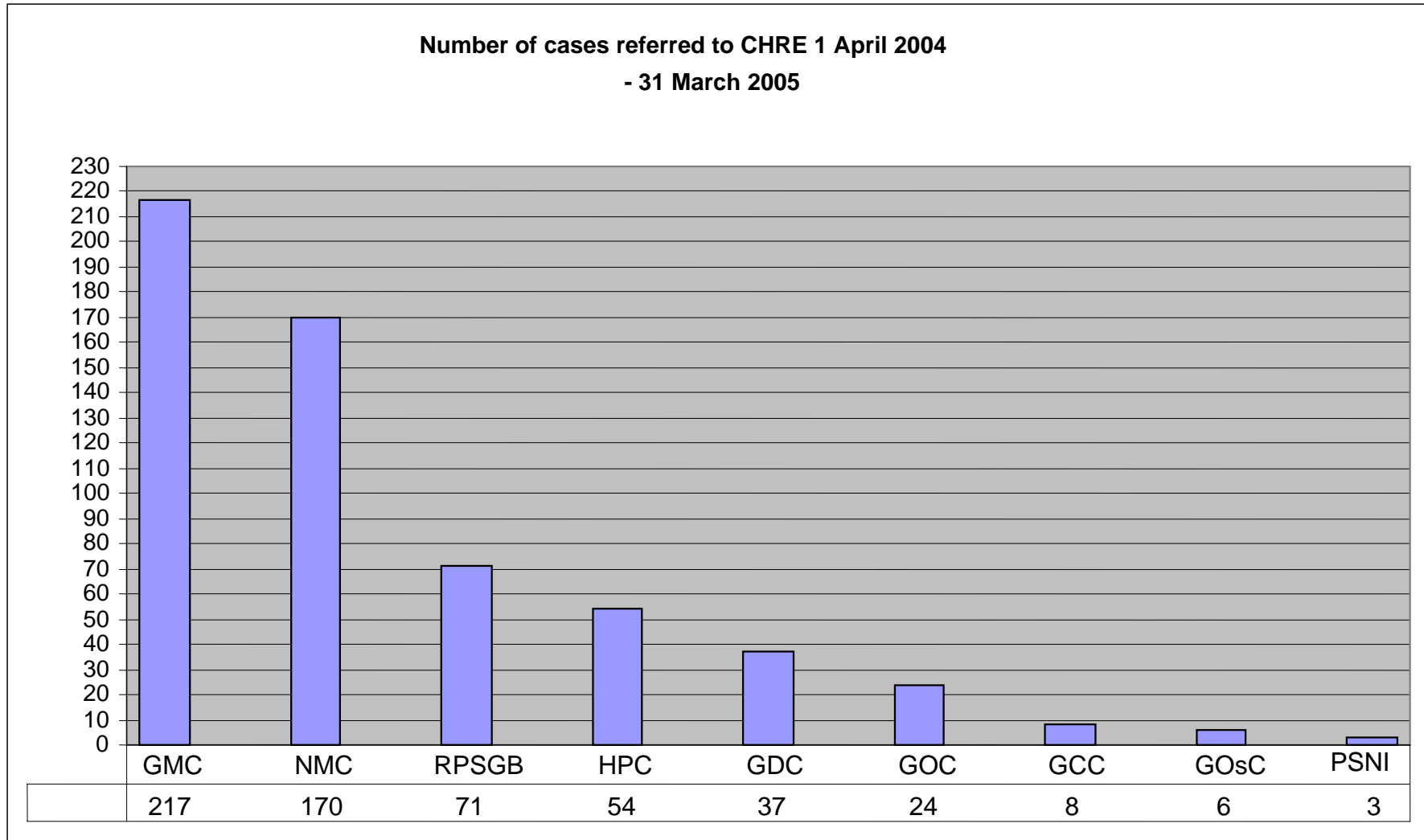


Chart 2

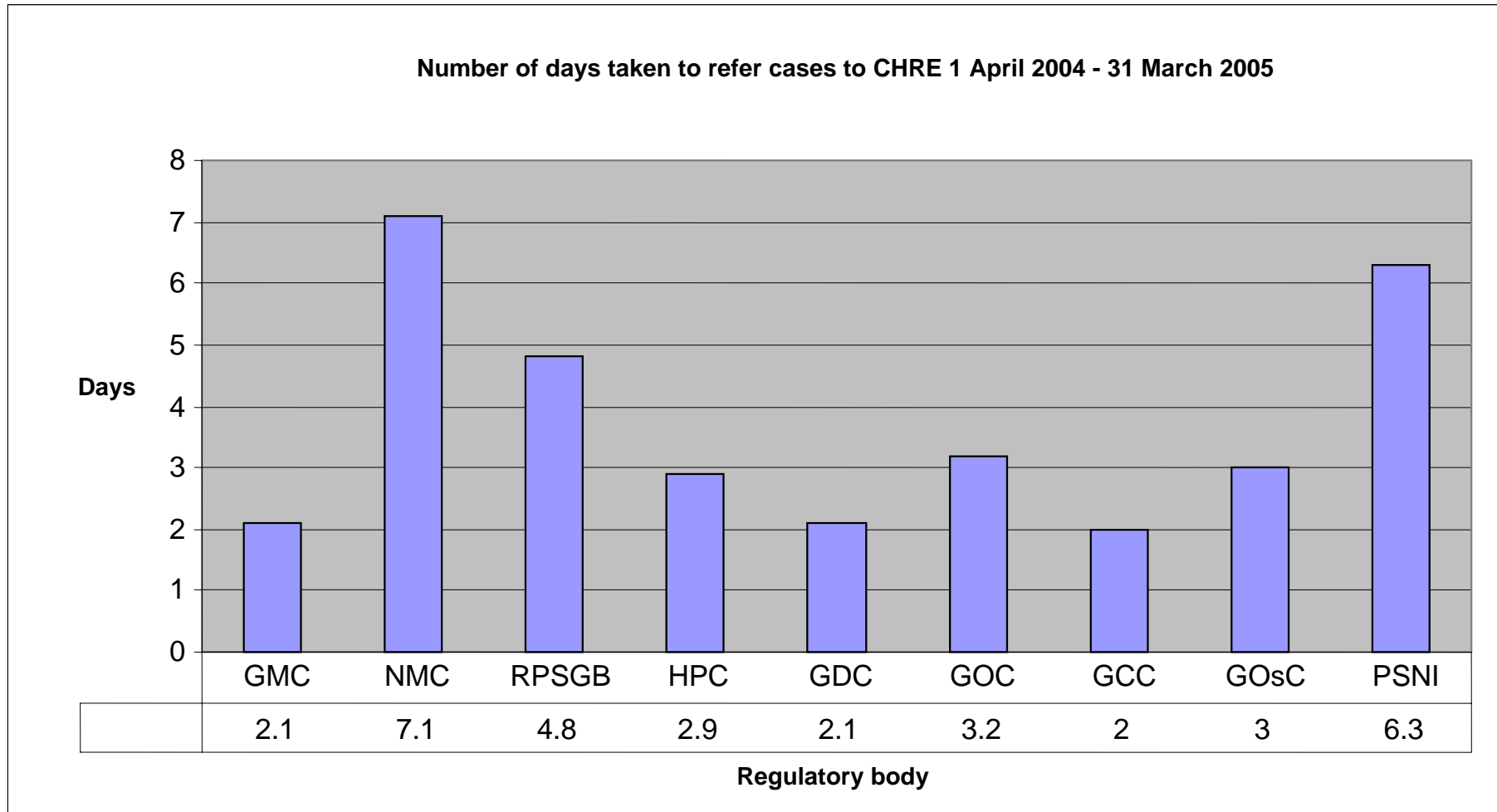


Chart 3

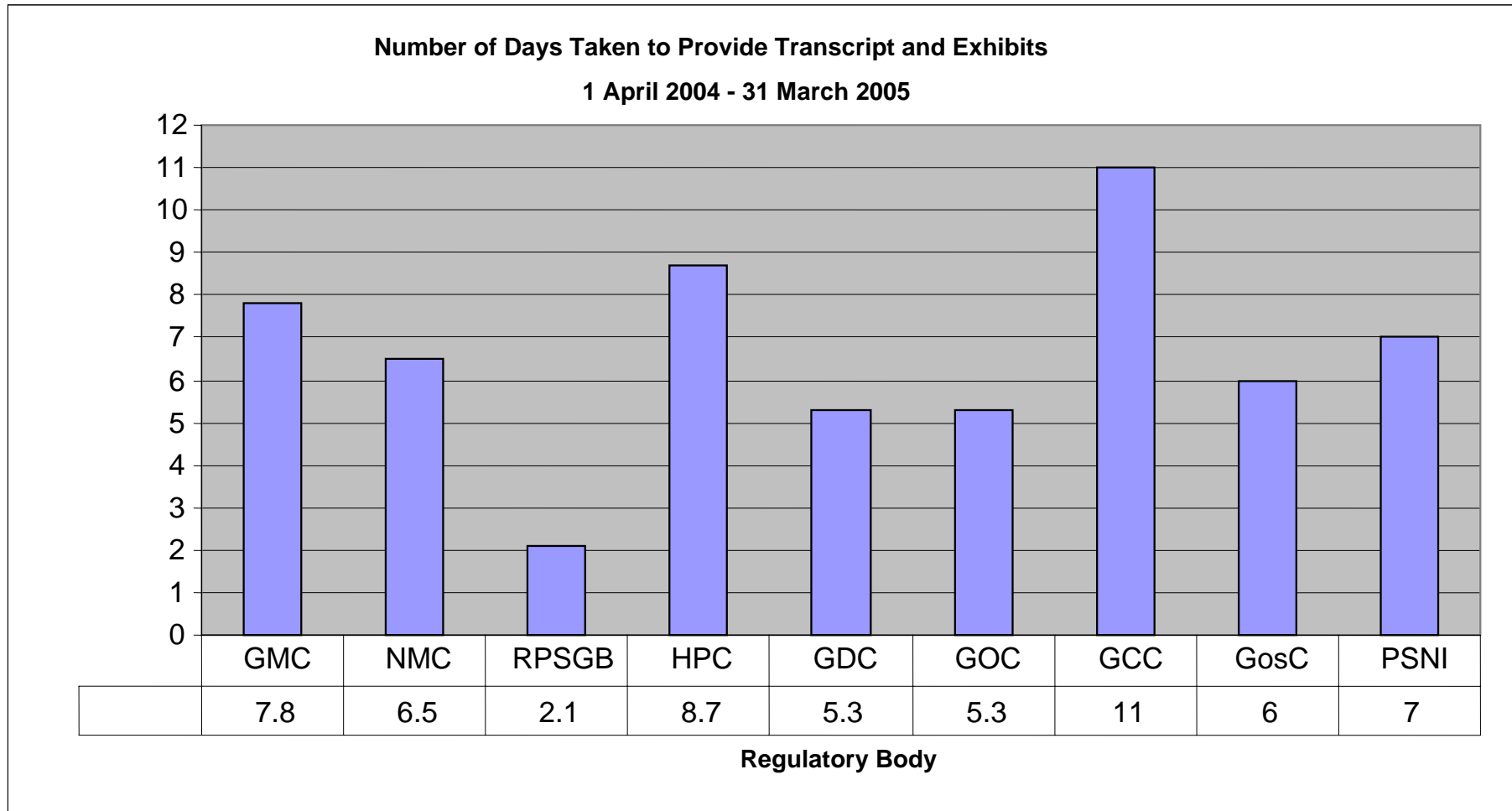


Chart 4

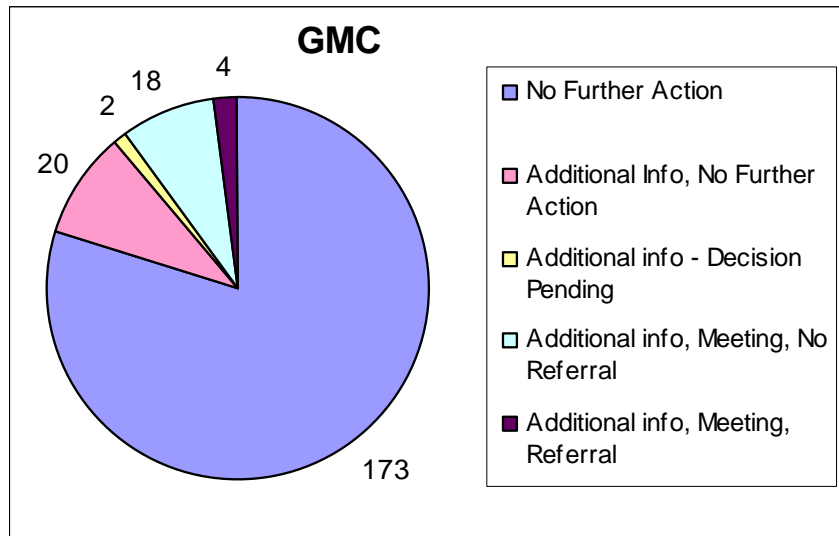


Chart 5

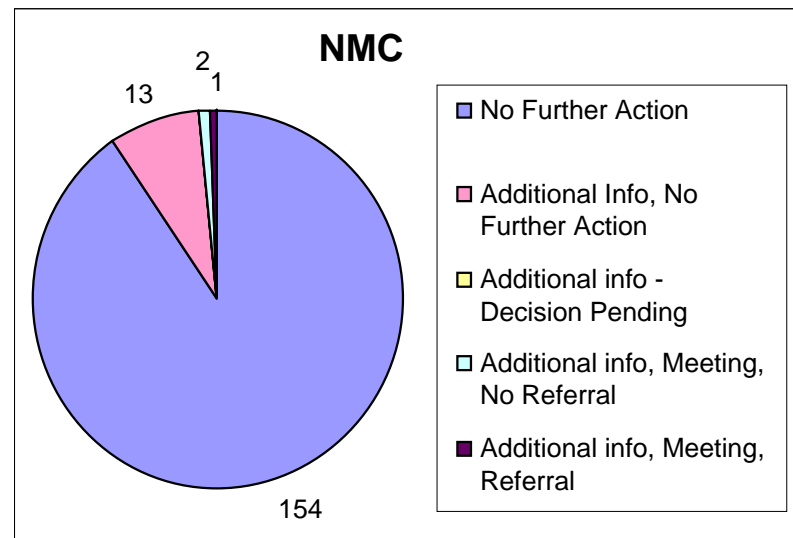


Chart 6

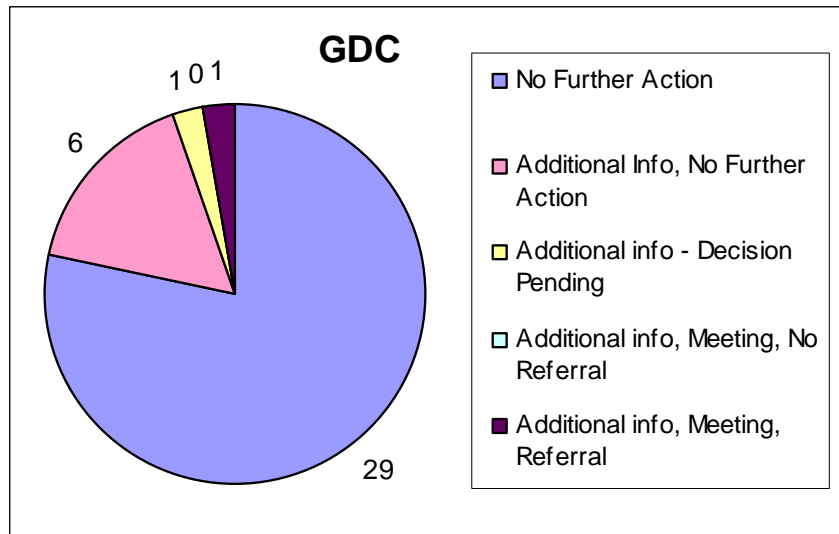


Chart 7

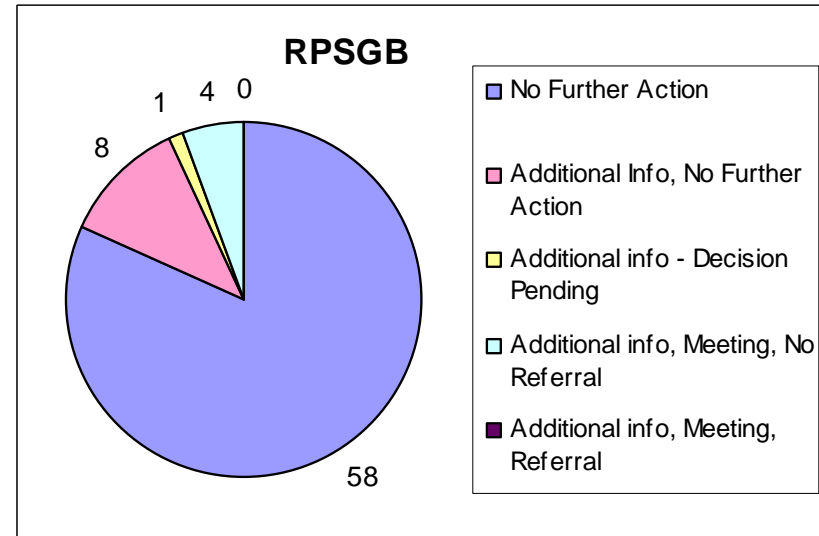


Chart 8

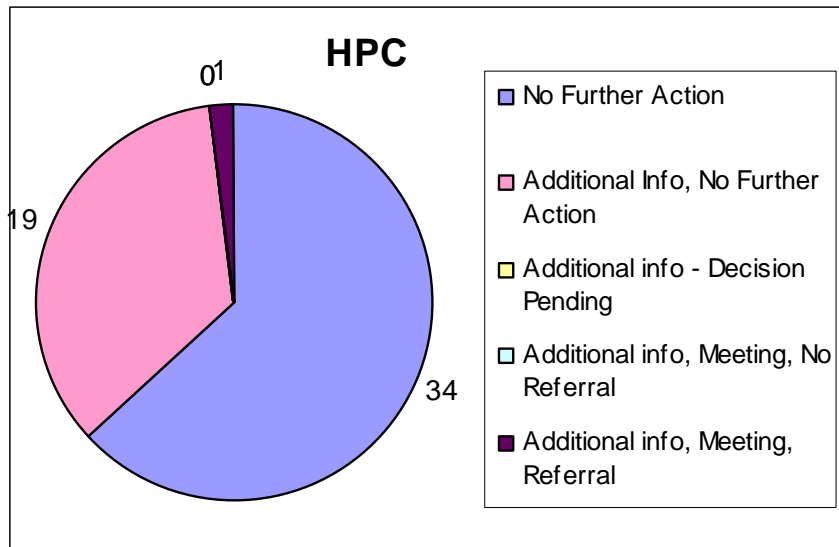


Chart 9

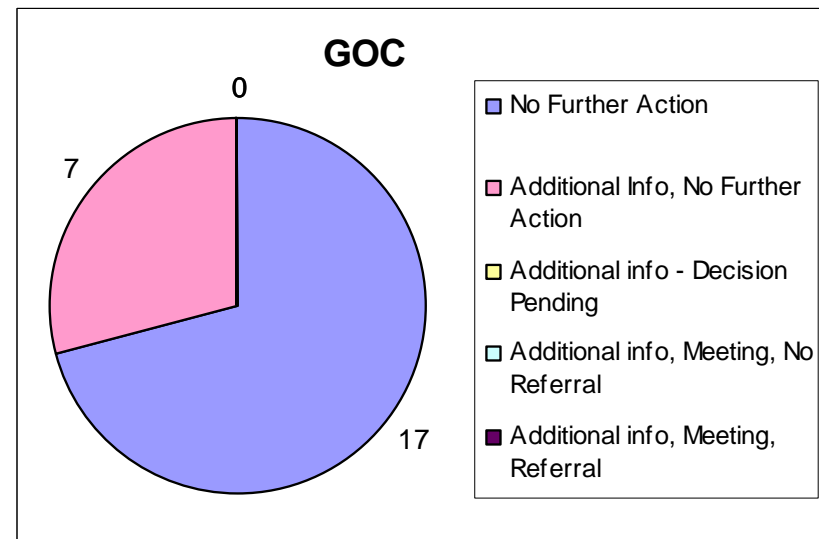


Chart 10

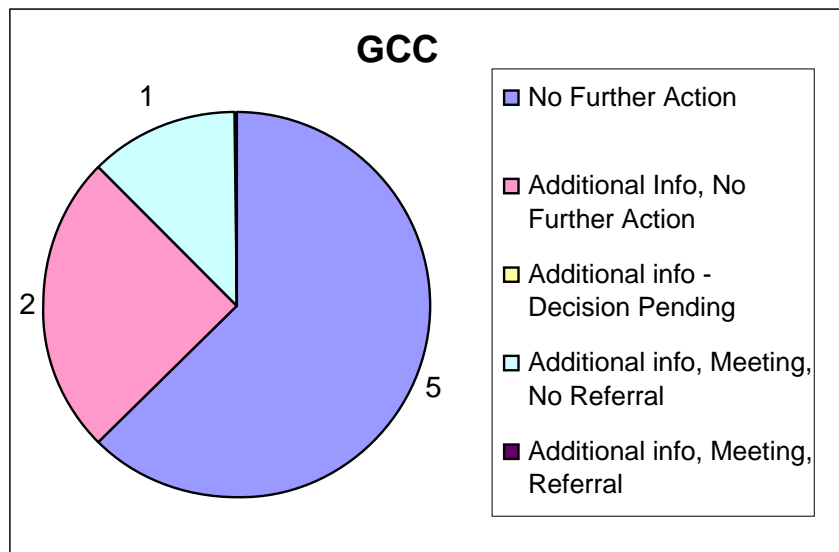


Chart 11

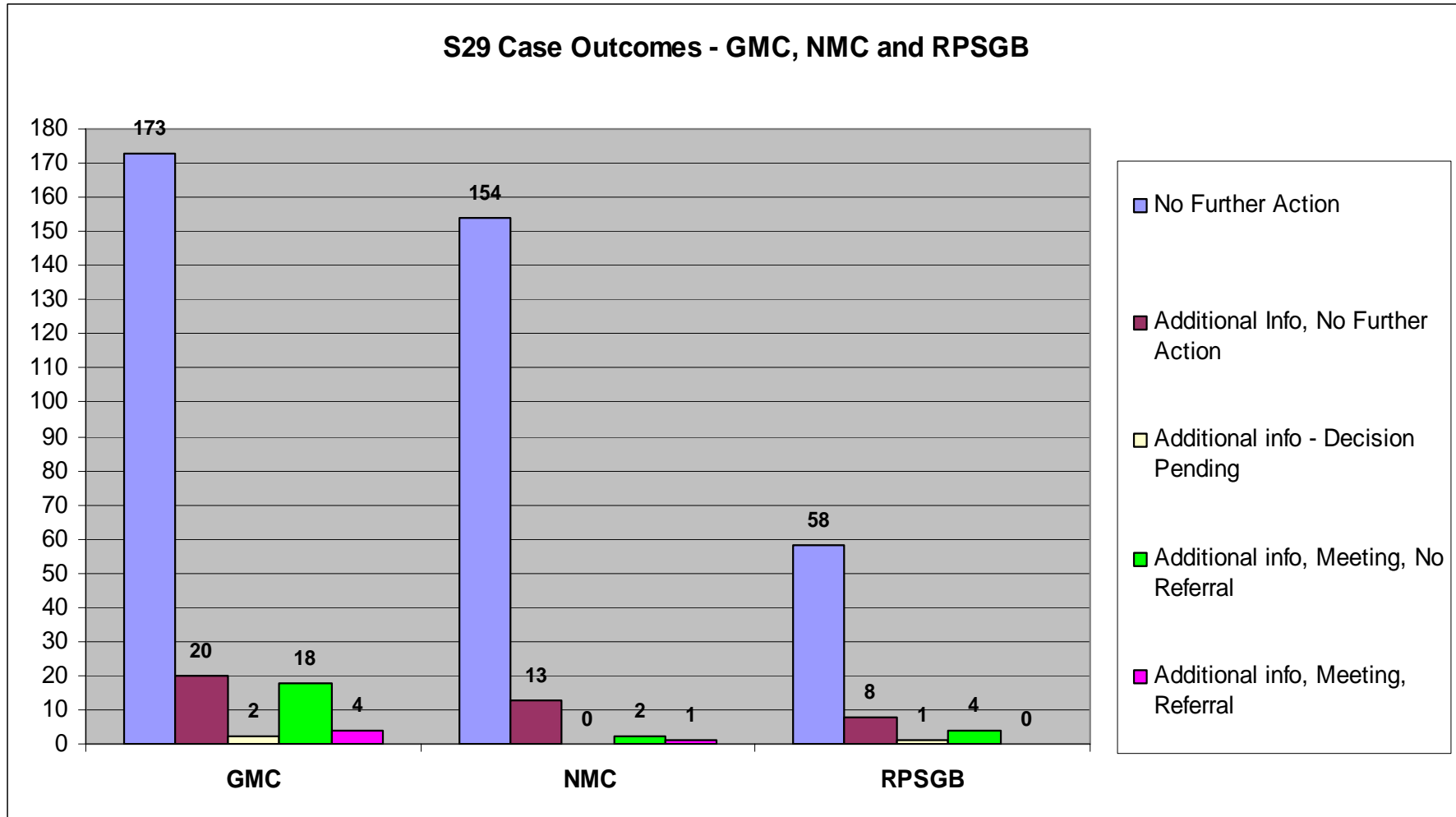


Chart 12

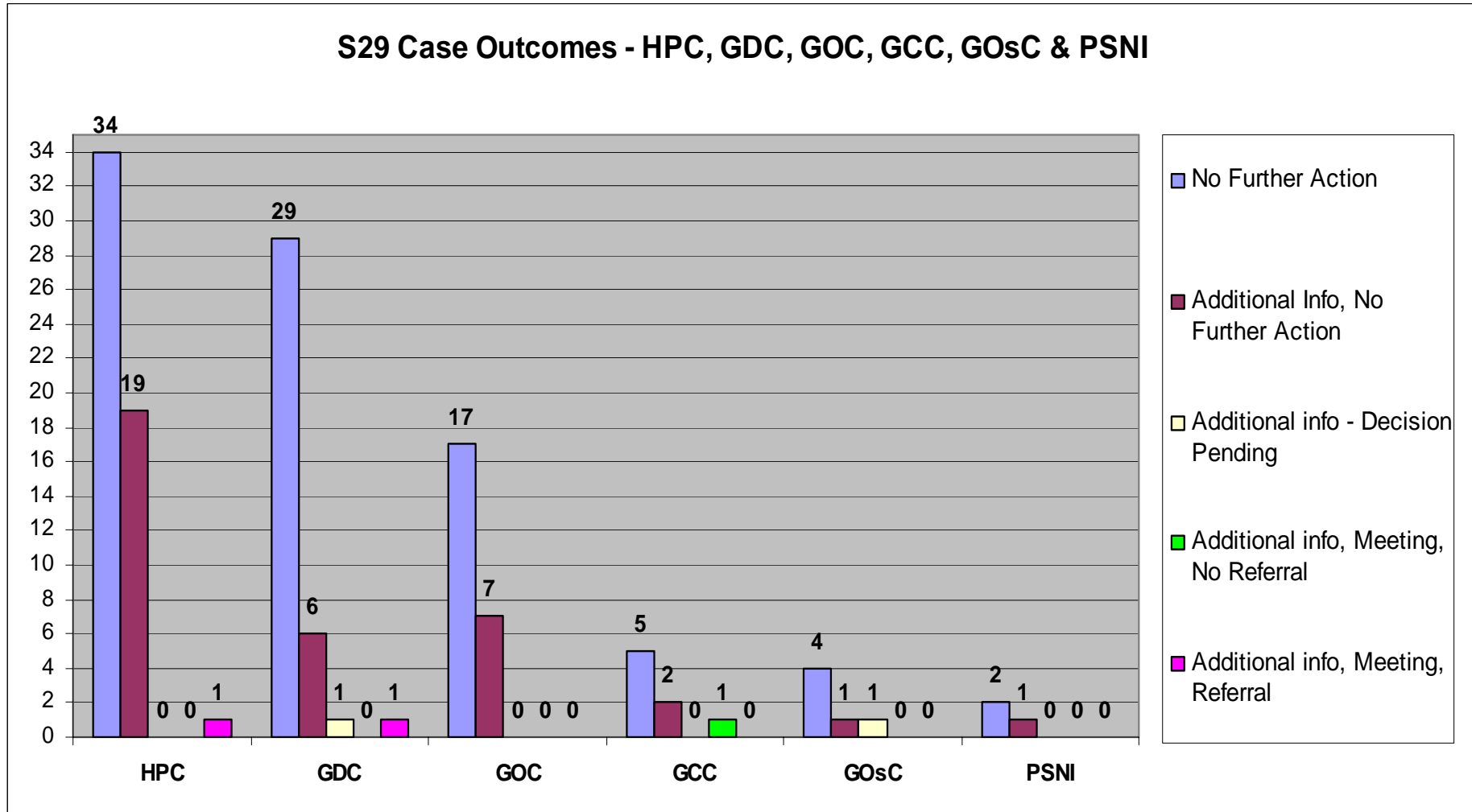


Chart 13

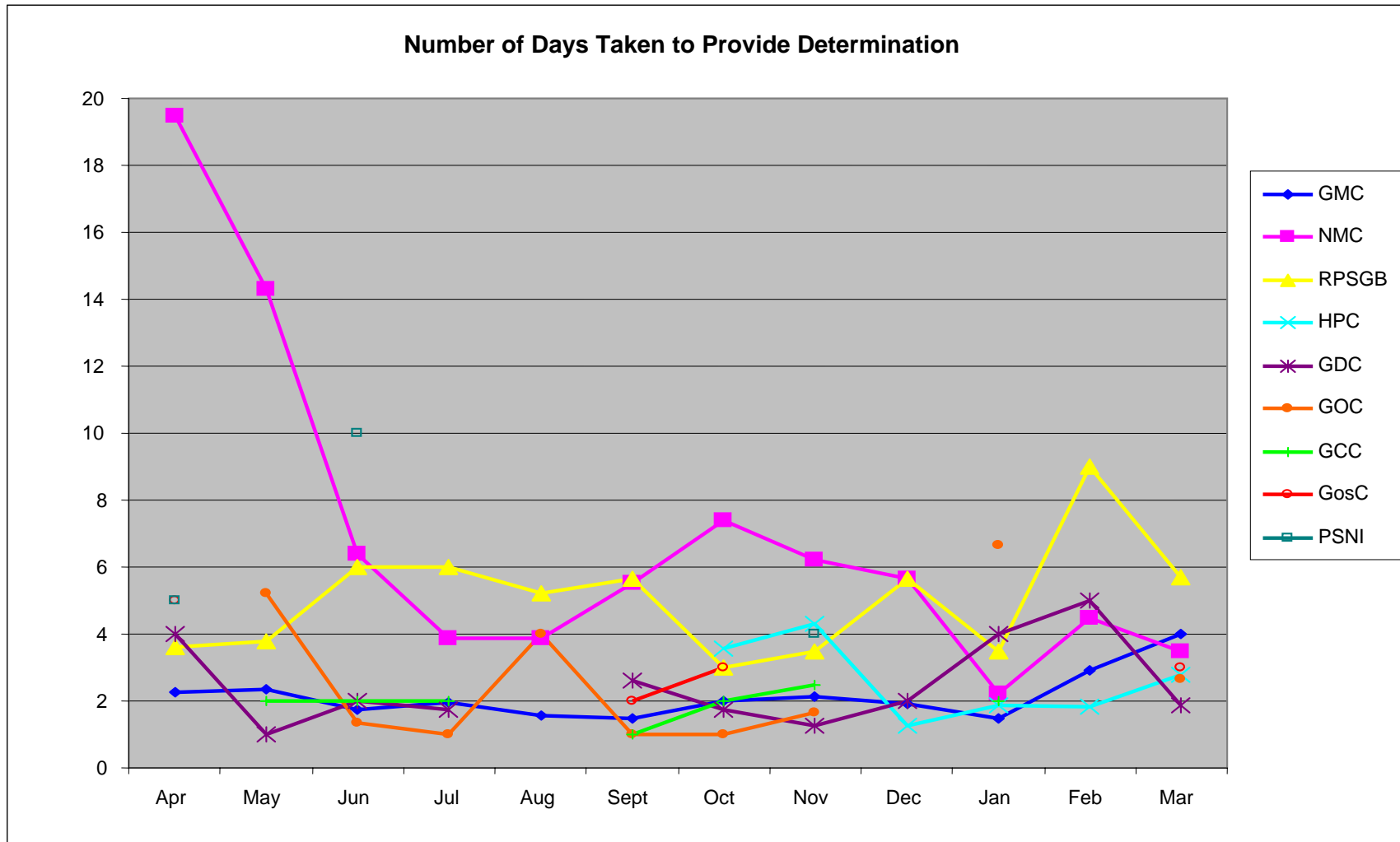


Chart 14

