

Section 29: statistical return

Financial year 2006-2007 – 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

1. From 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, 915 cases were notified to CHRE for consideration under Section 29 of the NHS Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002. Chart 1 shows the distribution of cases received by the nine regulatory bodies. The majority of cases were received from the General Medical Council (389) and the Nursing and Midwifery Council (236). Only one case was notified from the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland.
2. Chart 2 shows the average number of days taken for each of the bodies to send the determinations to CHRE after the conclusion of the hearing. The overall average from all of the bodies is 4.7 days. Several of the regulators, however, managed to provide determinations to us in an average of less than two days. Chart 3 shows the time taken by each regulatory body to send us determinations on a month to month basis. Please note that the RPSGB's figures vary considerably from month to month due to a change in the way certain outcomes are notified to CHRE.
3. Once the determinations have been received, these were considered by the first officer, the Fitness to Practise Officer or the Fitness to Practise Assistant, within 0.5 days on average and by the second officer, the Fitness to Practise Manager or the Deputy Director, within an average of 0.6 further days.
4. Most cases (732 of the 915 cases) were closed without further information being requested, although learning points for the regulatory bodies were identified from the determination in 68 of these cases and noted for future discussions. Further information about cases (transcripts/exhibits) was requested from all of the regulators, bar the PSNI. 115 transcripts were requested, 57 of which raised further learning points, either by the FTP staff or by Council members considering cases at case meetings.
5. Chart 4 shows the average number of days taken for each of the bodies to send the transcripts and exhibits to CHRE after they were requested. Chart 5 shows the total time taken for CHRE to receive all requested information (i.e. determination plus transcripts and exhibits, if relevant). Some of the regulatory bodies that are slower in providing determinations tend to provide transcripts more quickly. The outcome of our consideration of cases is summarised in relation to each regulatory body in charts 6-15.
5. Twelve cases were considered at case meetings of Council members. Three cases were referred to the High Court during this period, two from the NMC and one from the HPC.
6. Chart 16 shows the number of cases considered by CHRE each month. We received the most cases in October (89), with July, January and March also proving to be very busy months.
7. Chart 17 indicates the general rise in the number of cases CHRE has been receiving each month since April 2004 (i.e. 763 cases received April – March 2005/2006

compared to 915 in the same period 2006/2007, which represents a 19.9% increase in cases). Despite this, Table 18 indicates that proportionately there was a reduction in the percentage of cases resulting in referral to Court (i.e. down from 1.3% to 0.4%).

Chart 1

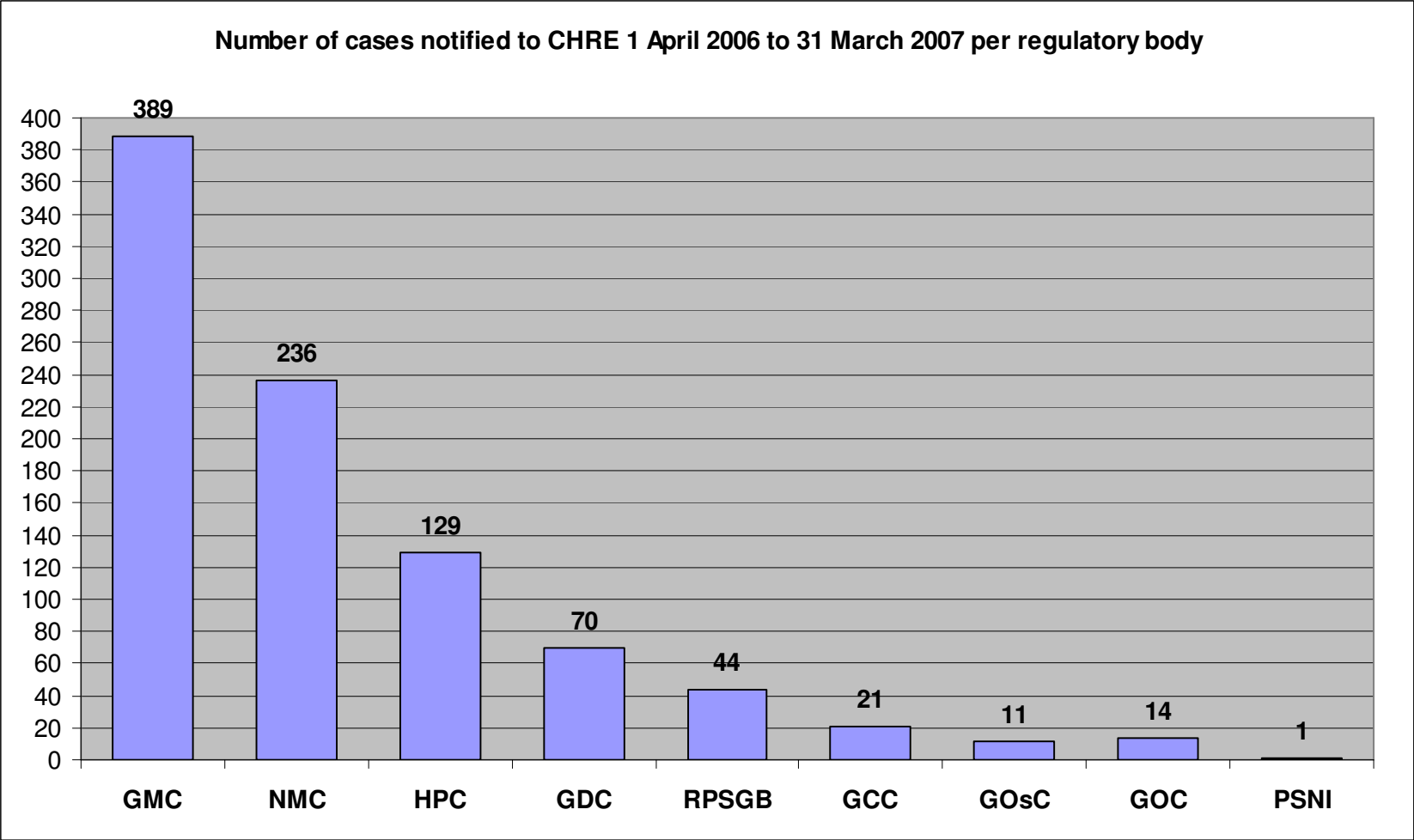


Chart 2

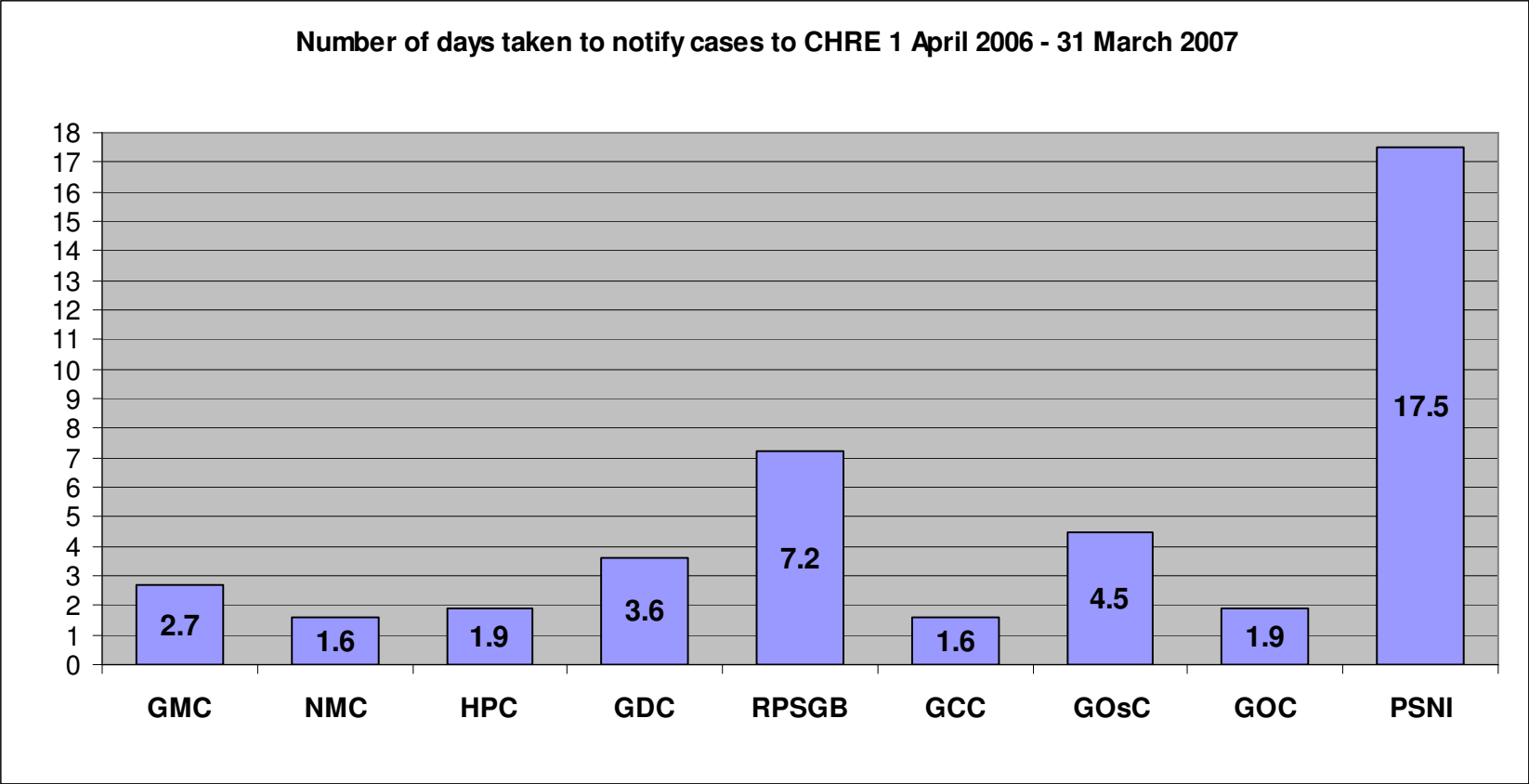


Chart 3

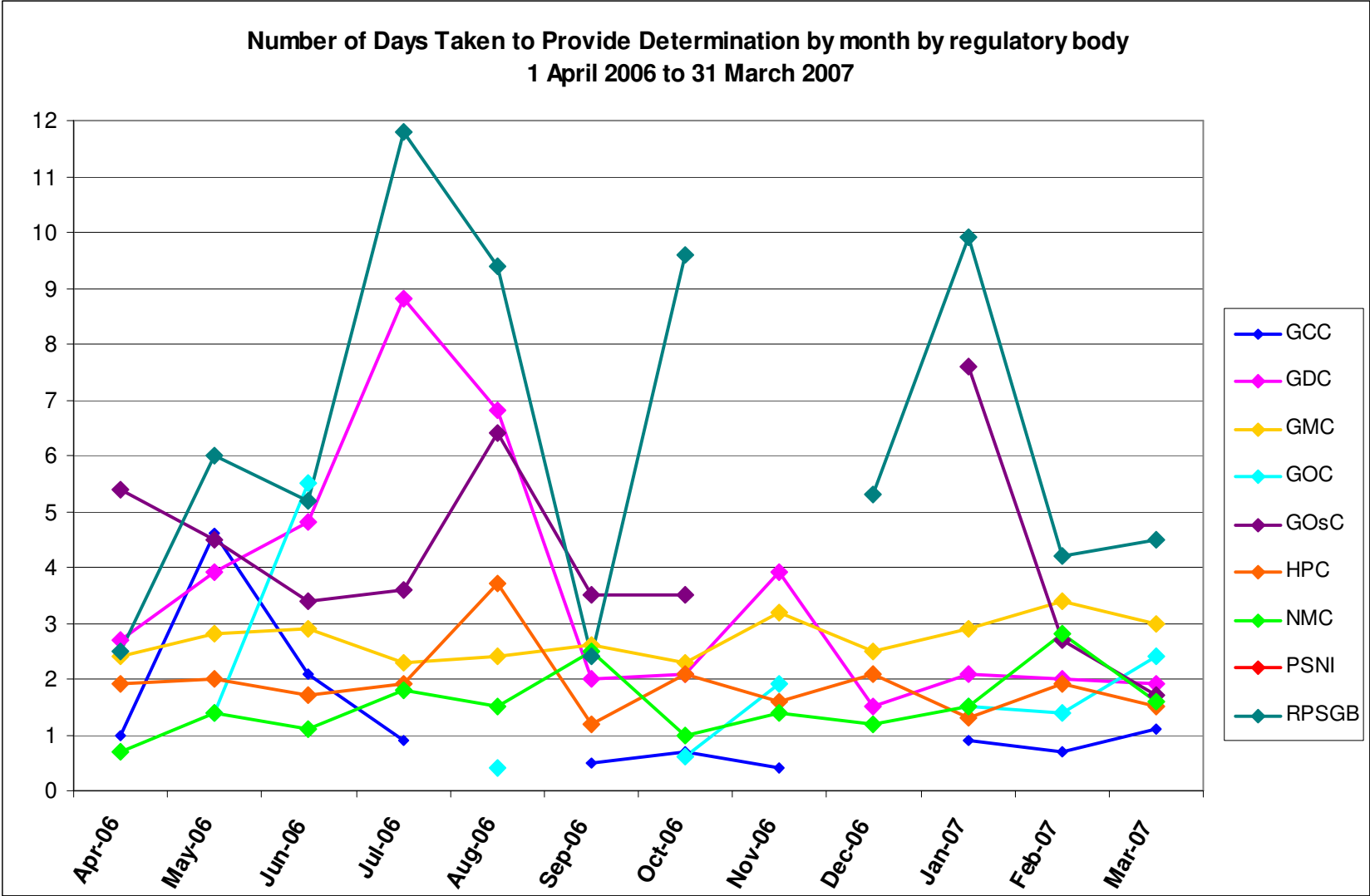


Chart 4

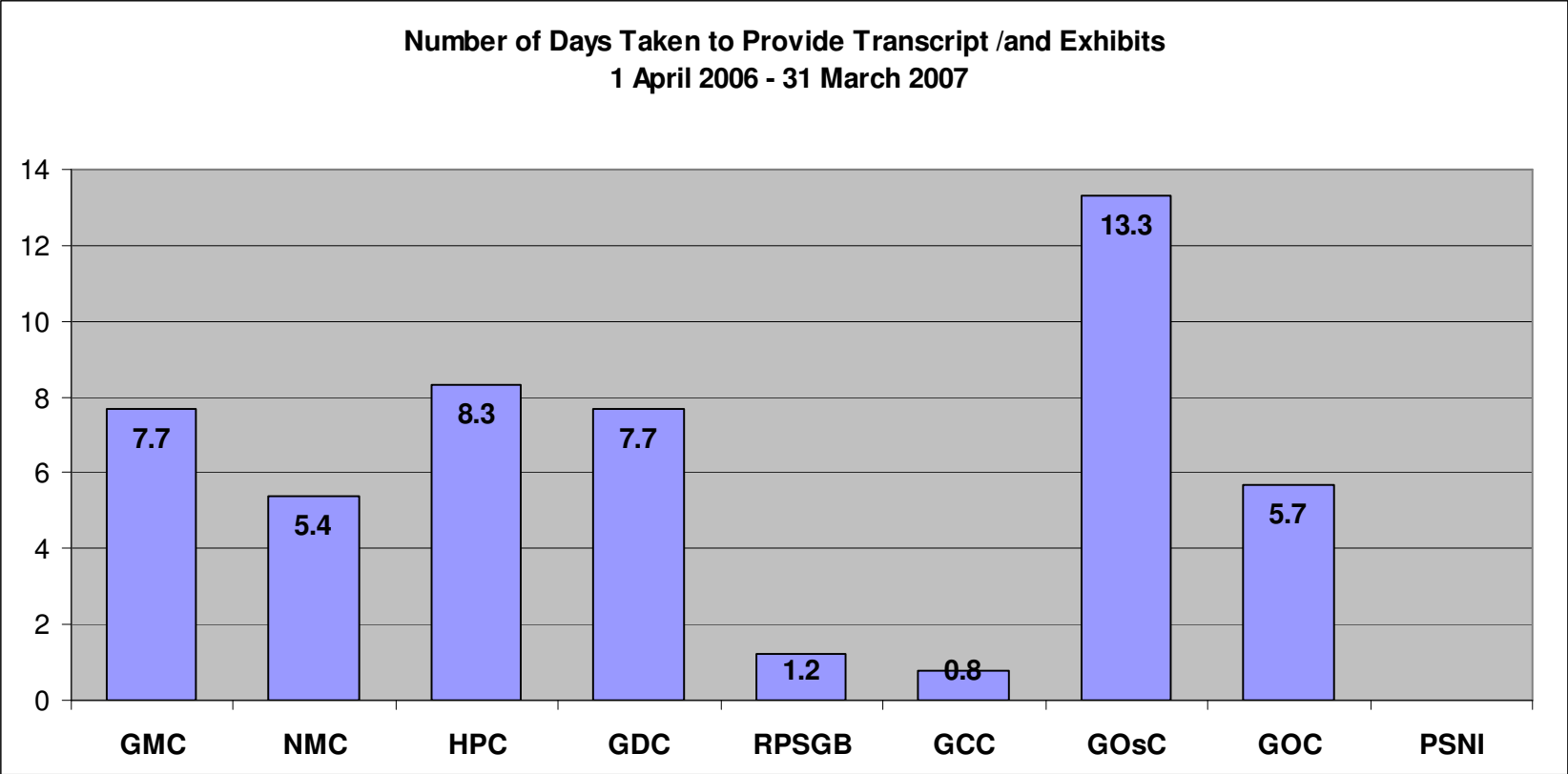


Chart 5

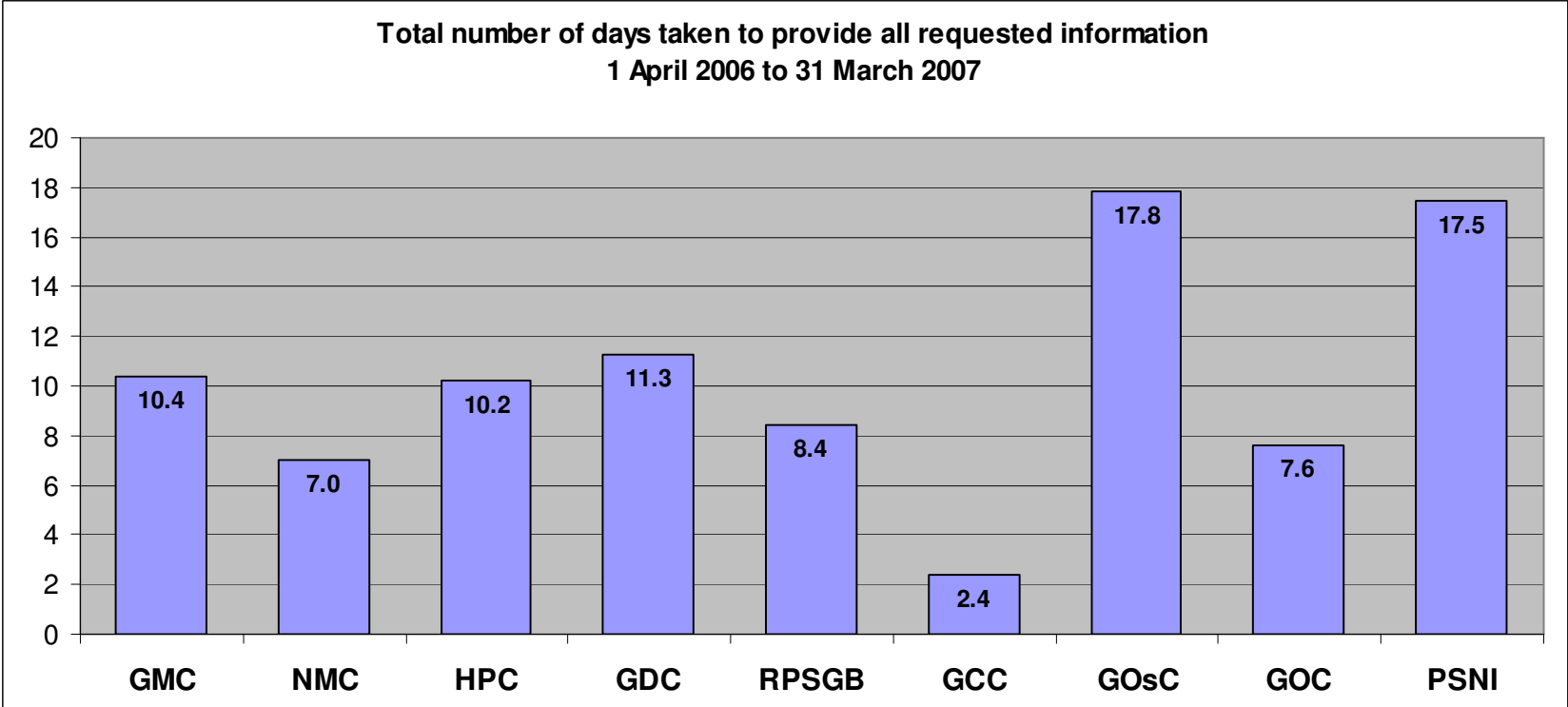


Chart 6

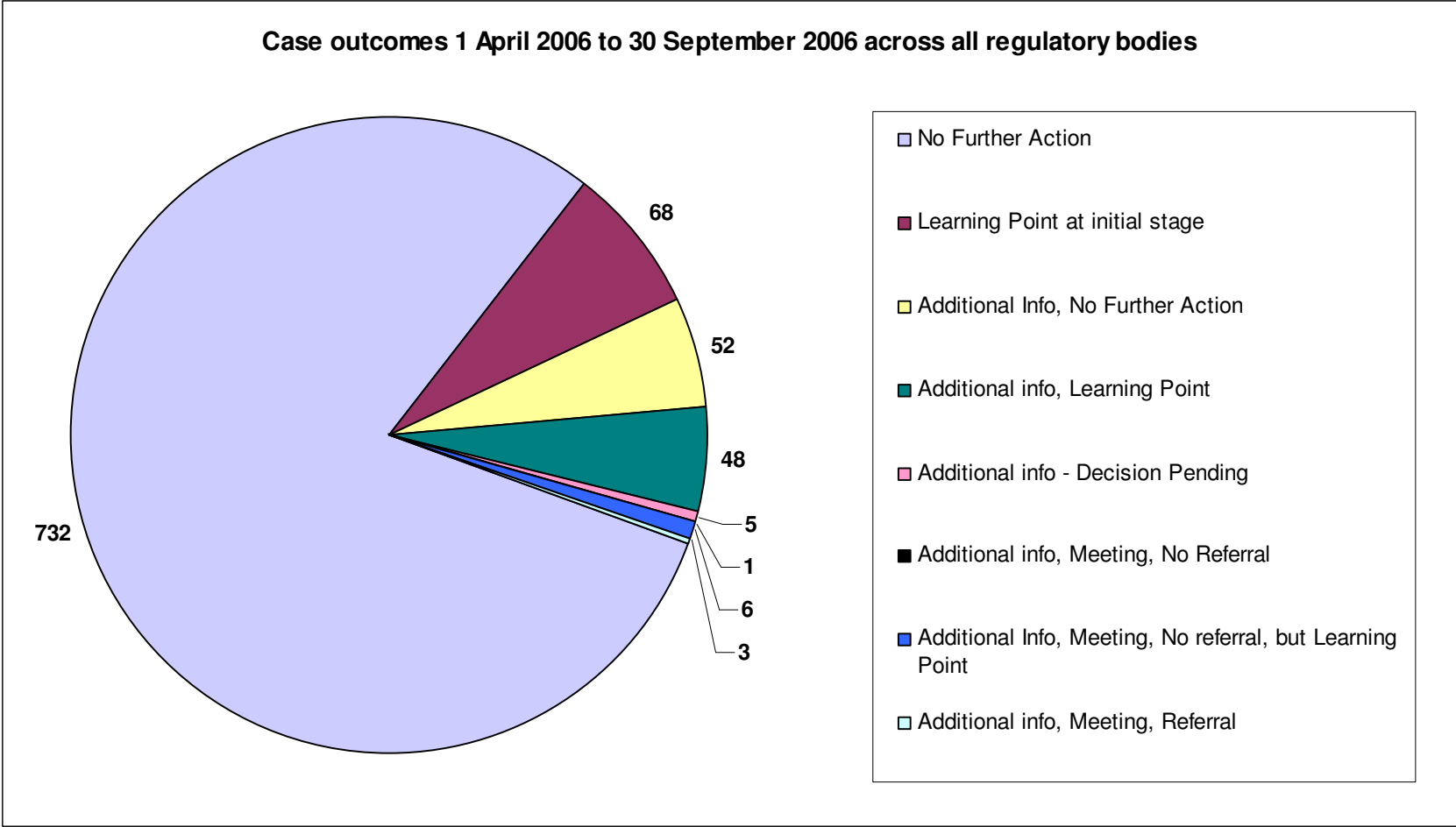


Chart 7

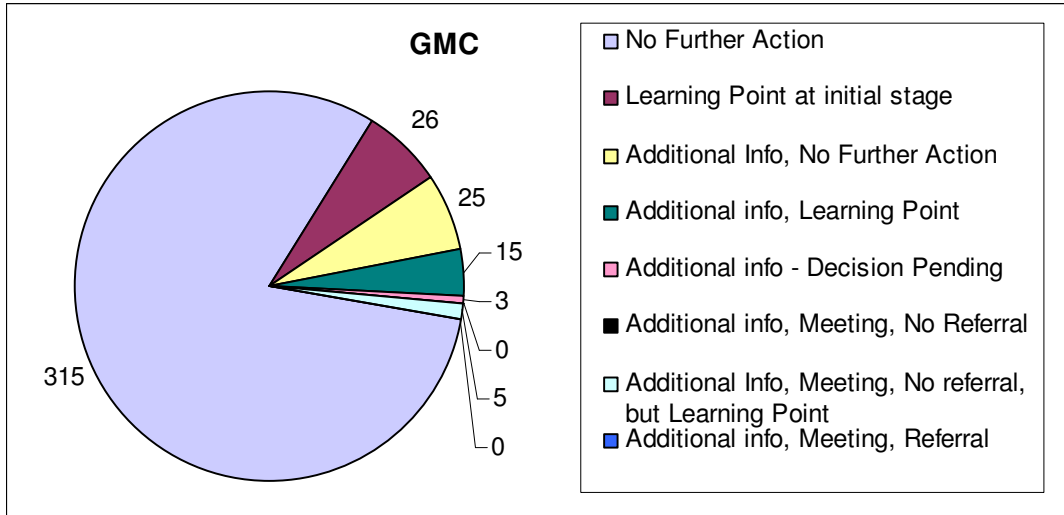


Chart 8

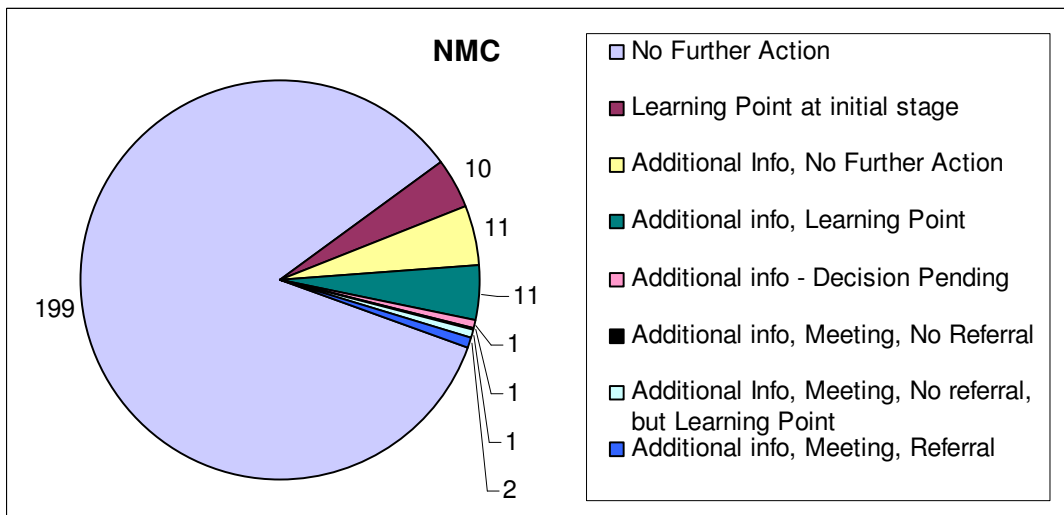


Chart 9

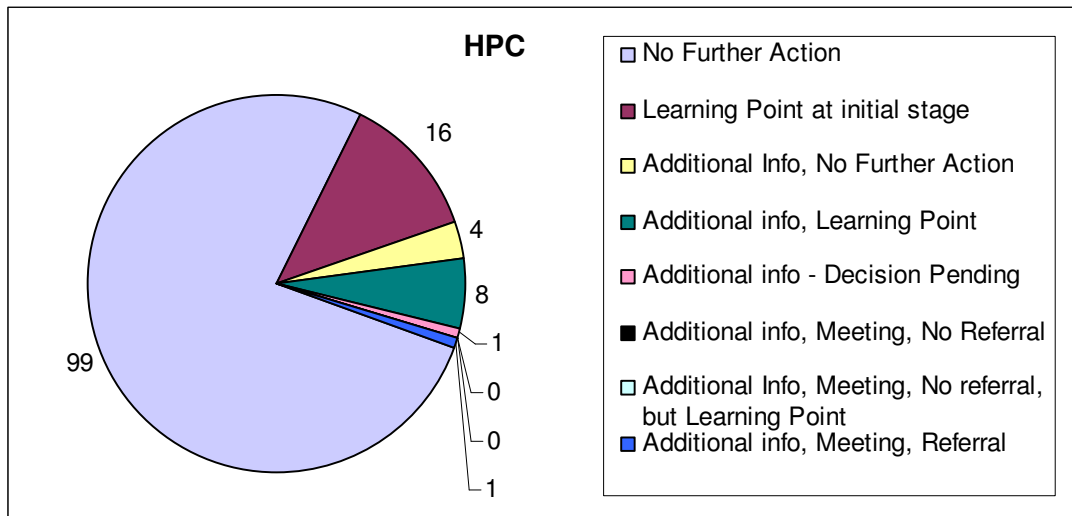


Chart 10

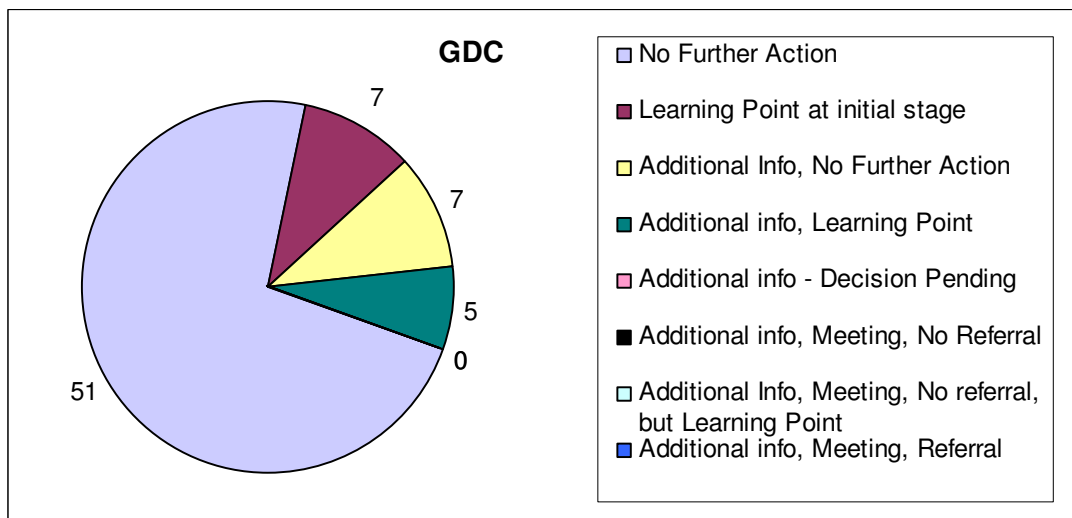


Chart 11

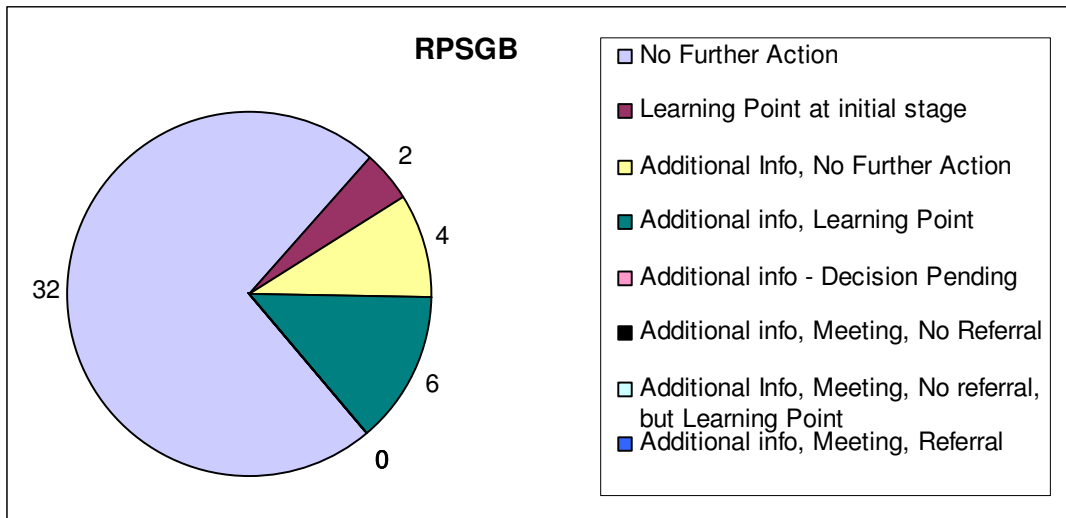


Chart 12

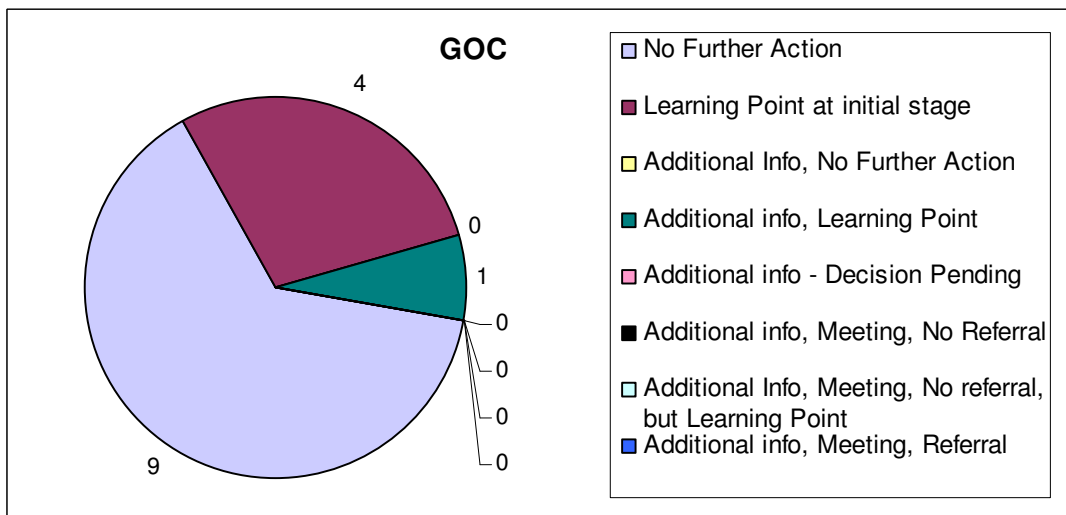


Chart 13

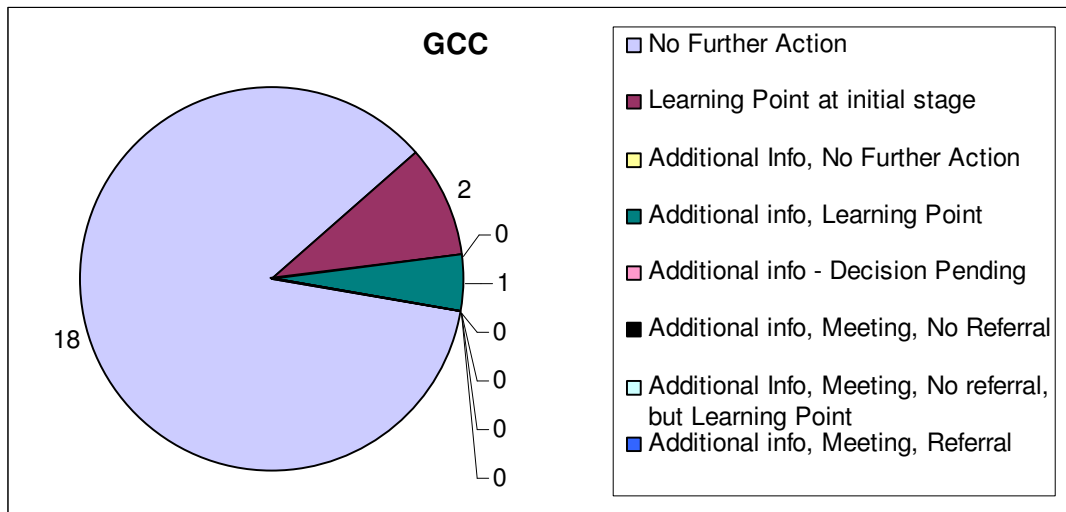


Chart 14

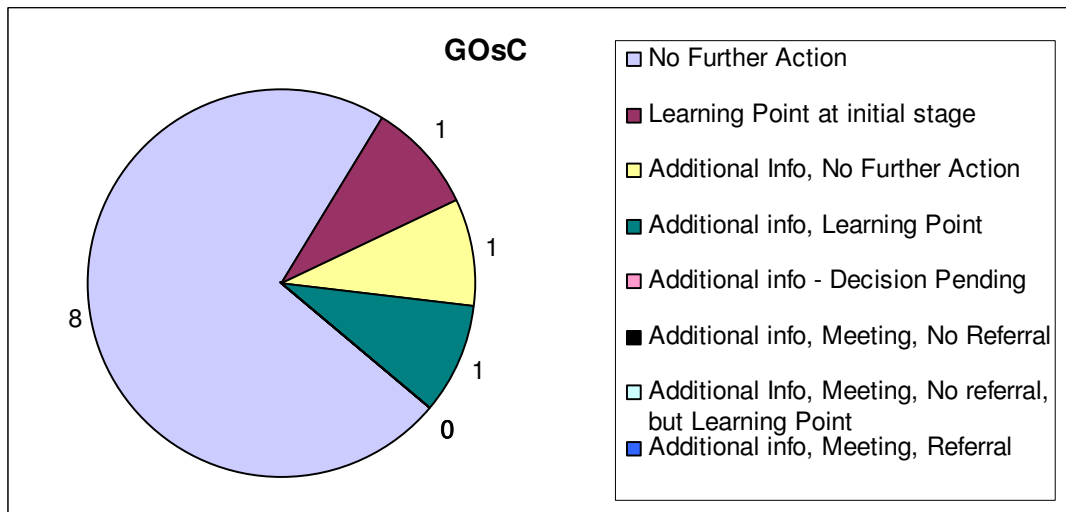


Chart 15

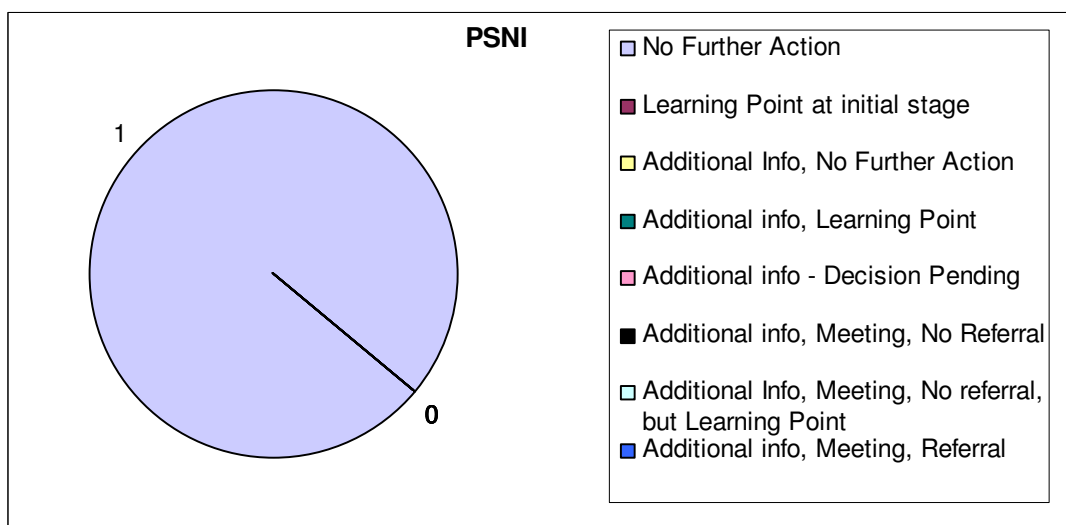


Chart 16

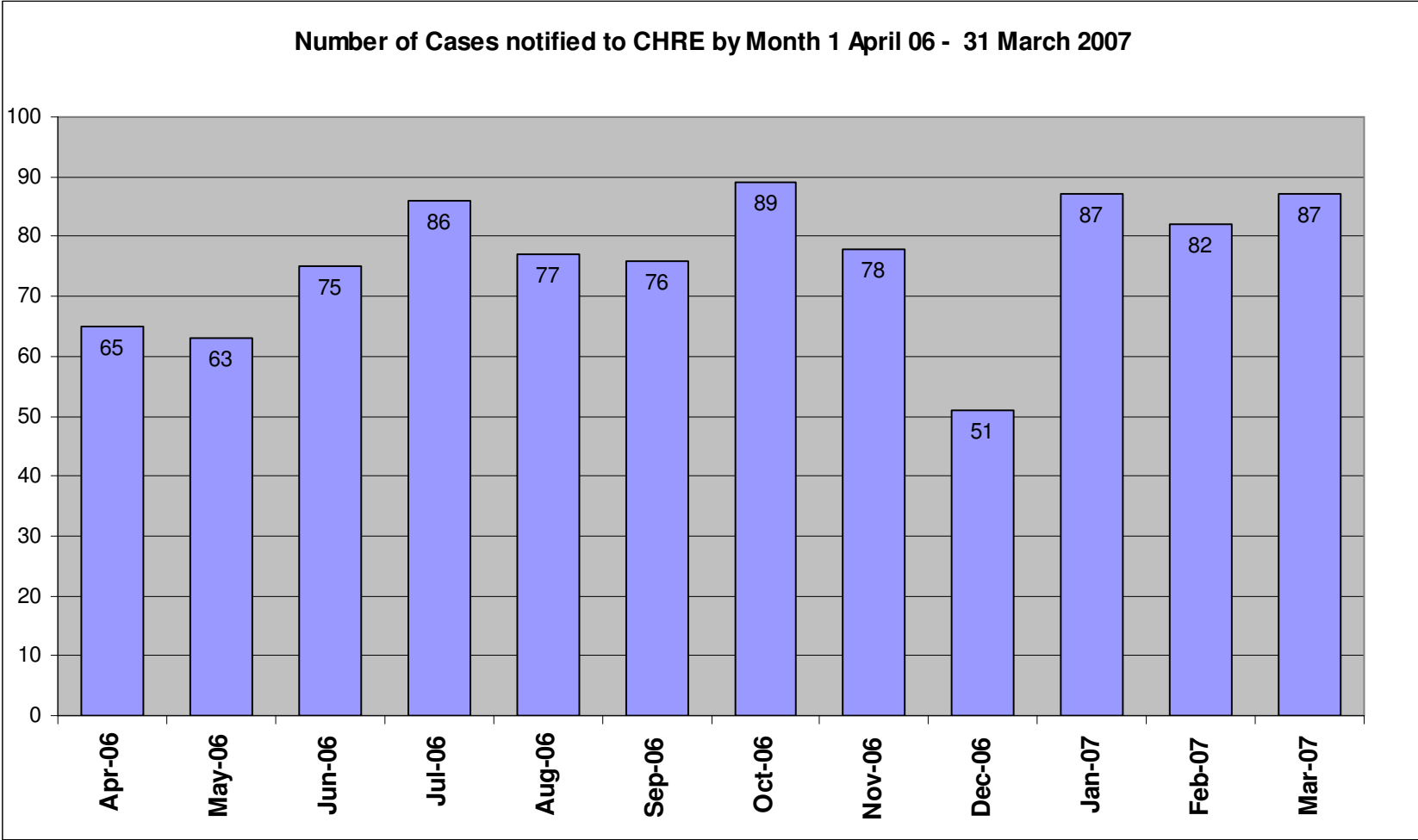


Chart 17

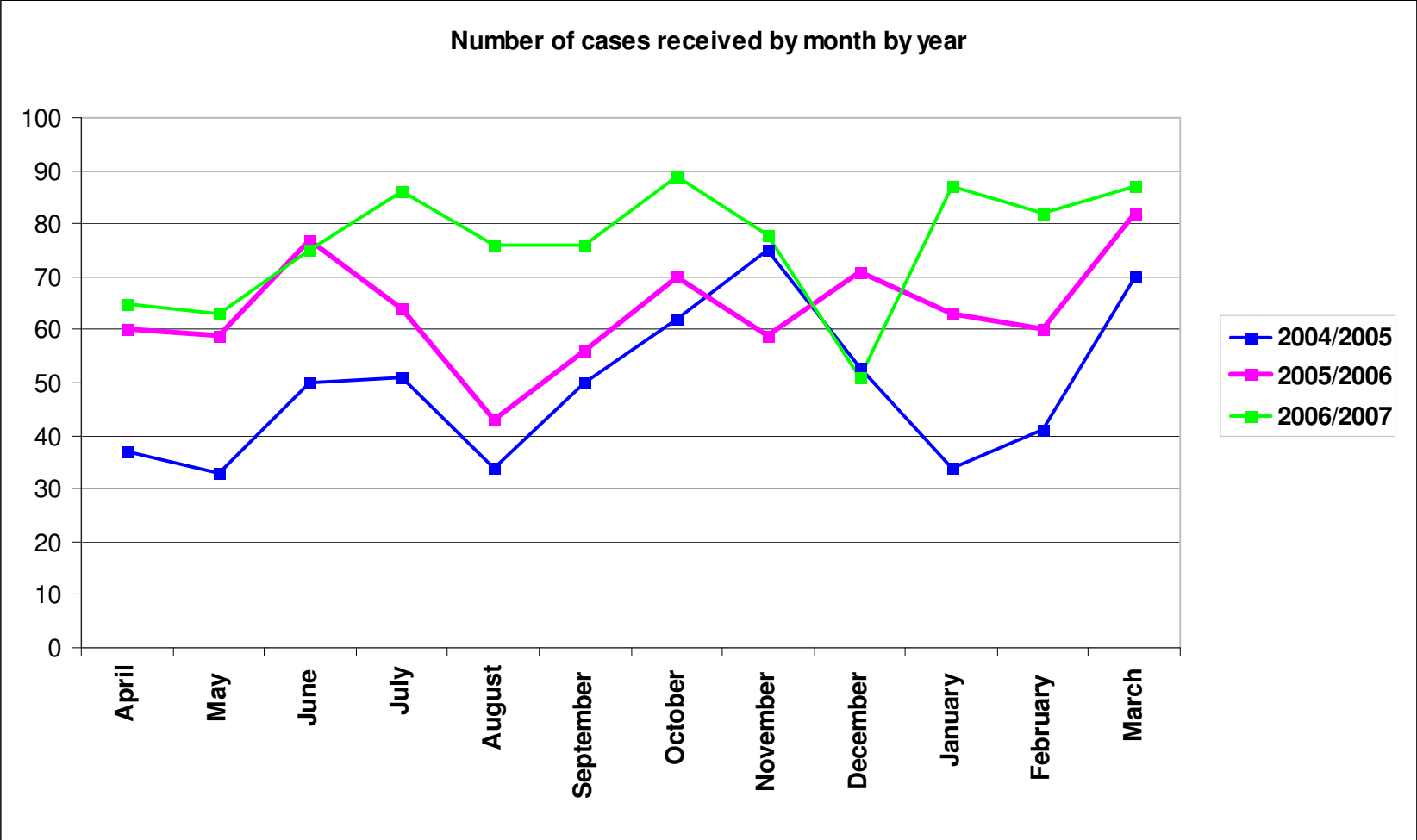


Table 18

Number of cases referred to court by month per year

	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007
April	0	1	1
May	0	0	0
June	0	2	0
July	3	1	0
August	0	5	0
September	3	0	2
October	0	0	0
November	0	0	0
December	1	0	0
January	0	0	0
February	0	1	0
March	0	0	1
Total	7	10	4
% of cases referred	1.20%	1.30%	0.4%