

Section 29: statistical return

Financial year 2007-2008 – 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008

1. From 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008, 1231 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 Nursing and Midwifery Council (467) and the General Medical Council (379). Only two cases were 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 2.7 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.

3. Most cases (1049 of the 1231 cases) were closed without further information being requested, although learning points for the regulatory bodies were identified from the determination in 74 of these cases and noted for future discussions. 102 transcripts were requested, 38 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 6-16.

5. Ten cases were considered at case meetings of Council members, and five of these were referred to the High Court. Of the cases referred, two were from the NMC, one was from the GMC, one was from the GDC and one was from the RPSGB. The GMC case was, however, later withdrawn.

6. Chart 17 shows the number of cases considered by CHRE each month. We received the most cases in October (122) and every other month we have exceeded our maximum number of cases ever received in any one month.

7. Chart 18 indicates the general rise in the number of cases CHRE has been receiving each month since April 2004. This shows that there has been a 34.5% increase in the number of cases received in 2007/2008 in comparison to 2006/2007 (i.e. 915 cases received in 2006/2007 compared to 1231 in 2007/2008). Despite this, Table 19 indicates that proportionately the percentage of cases referred to Court has remained static.

Chart 1

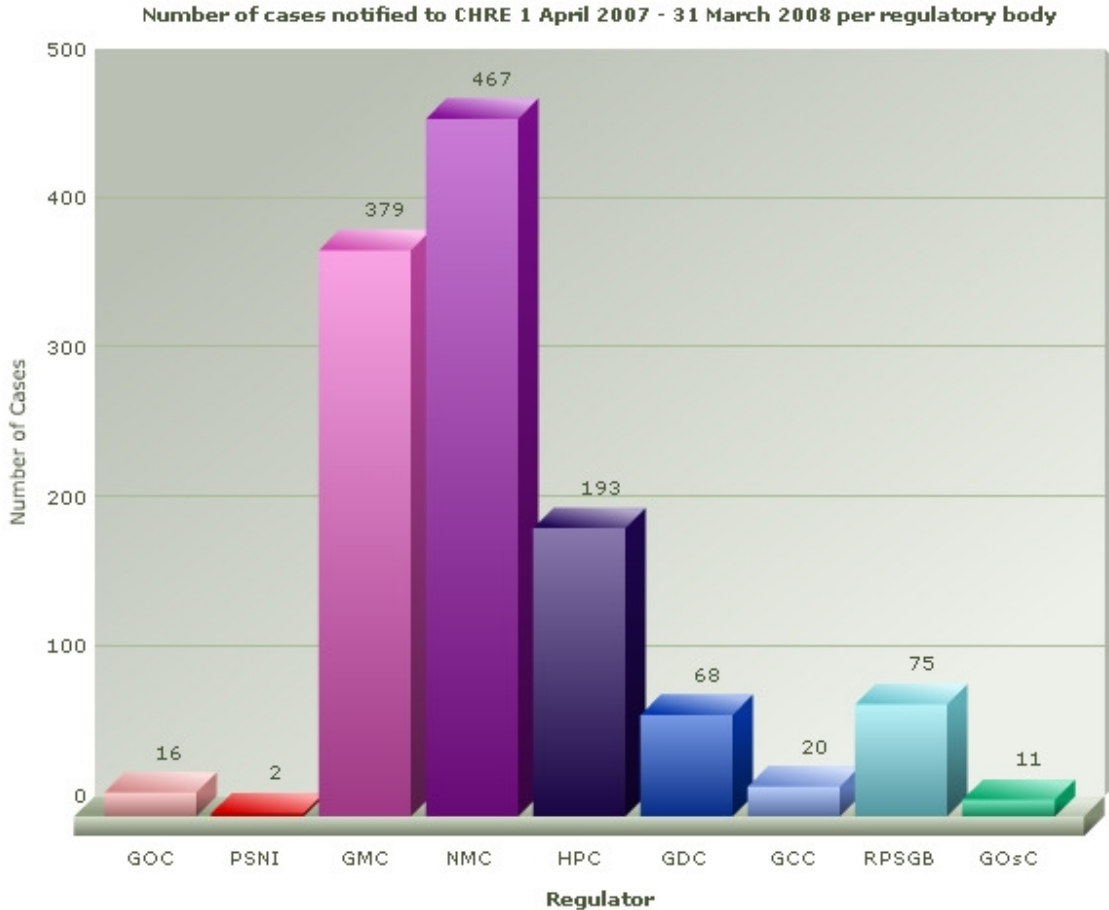


Chart 2

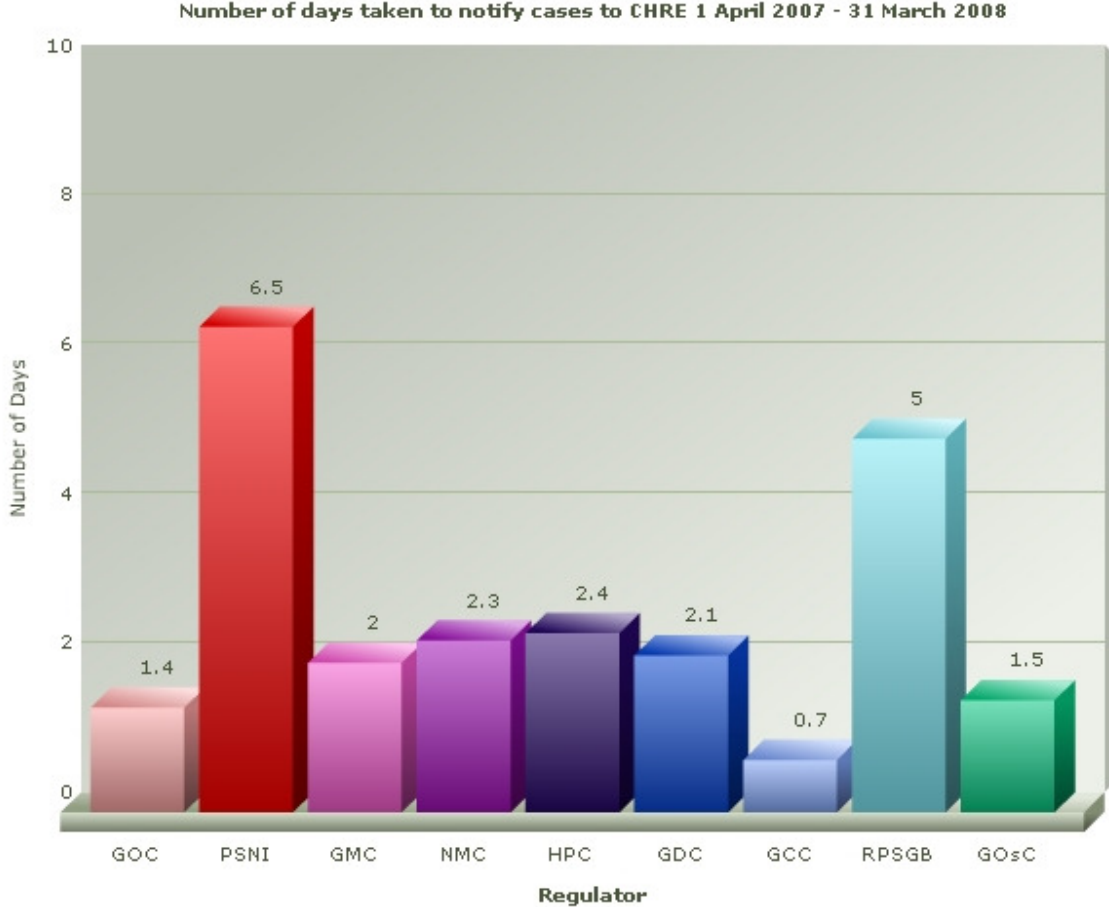


Chart 3

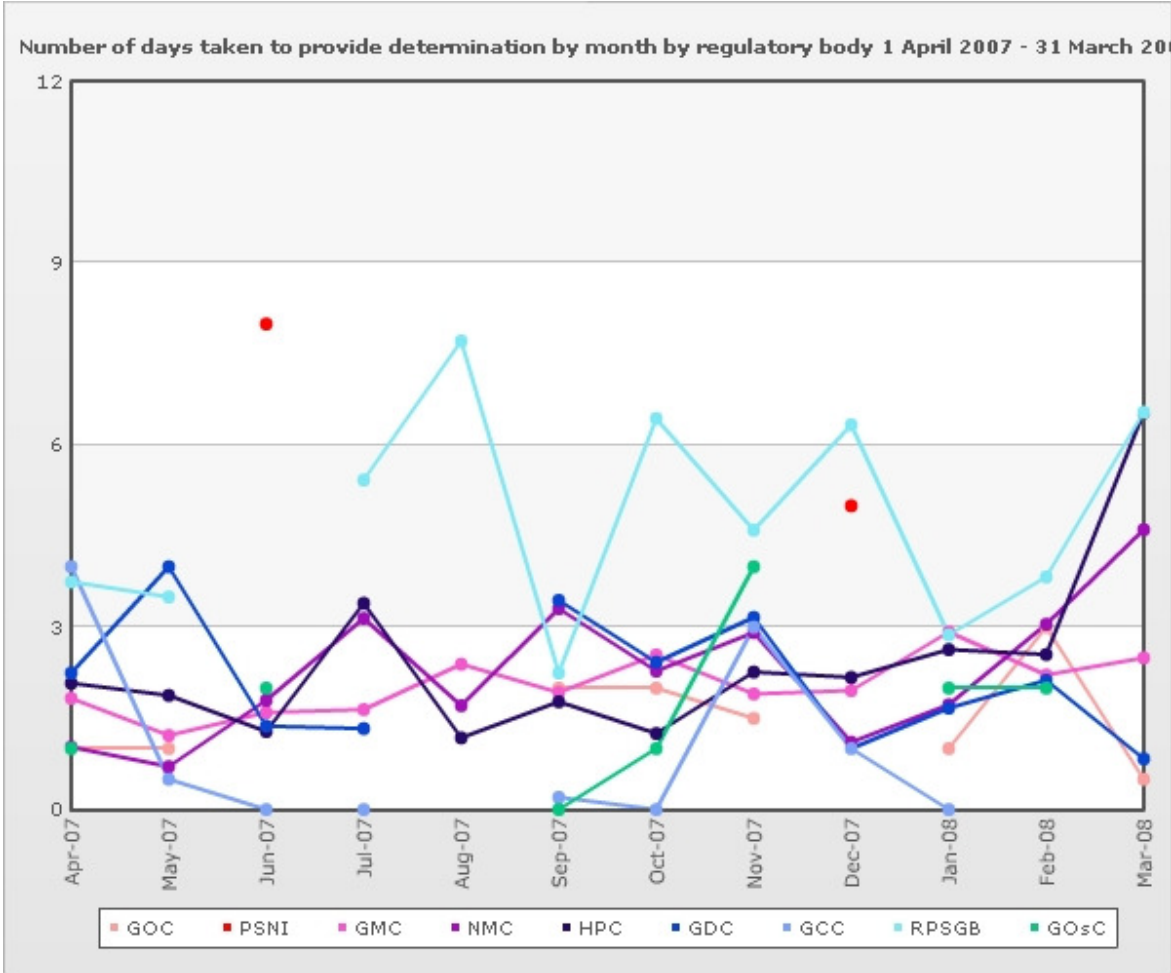


Chart 4

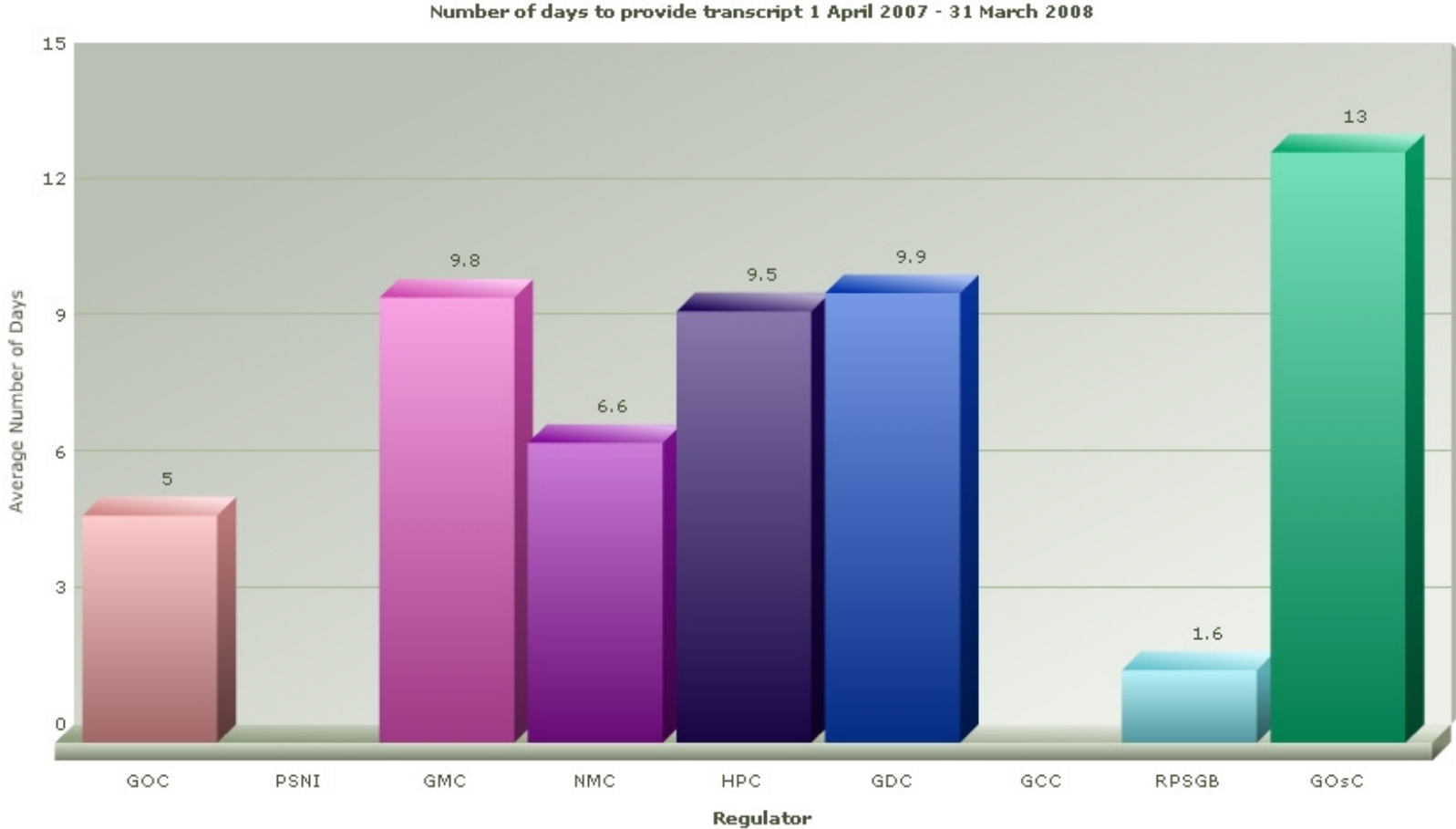


Chart 5

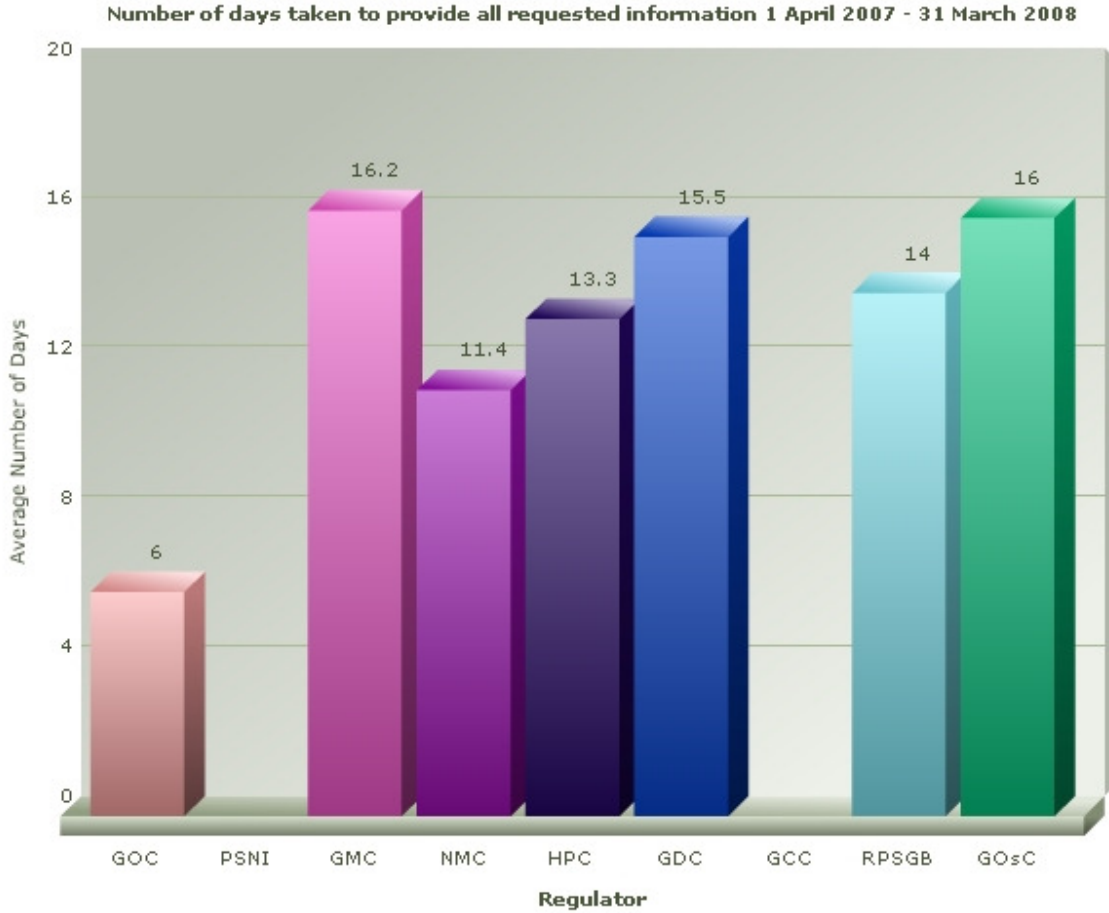


Chart 6

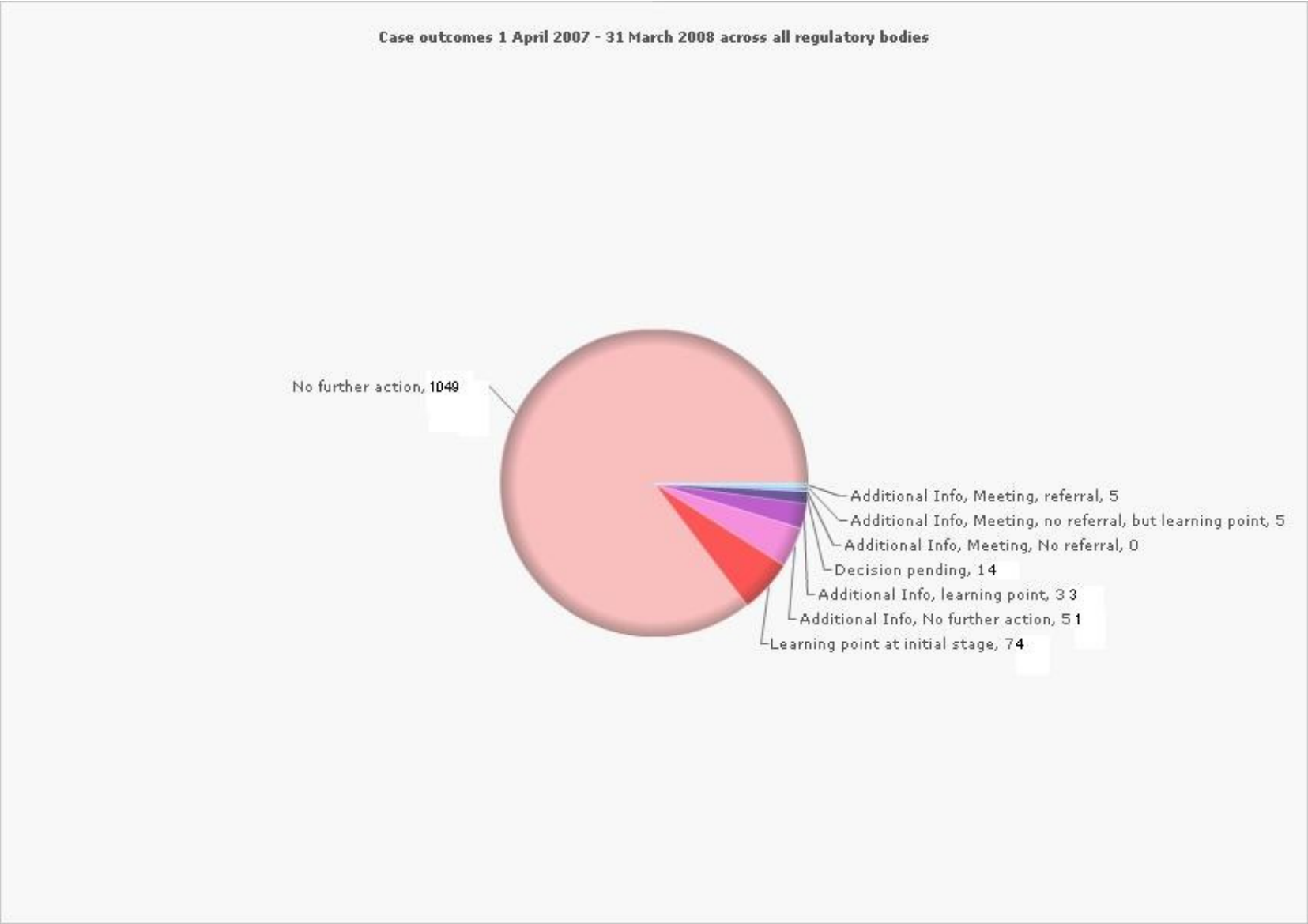


Chart 7

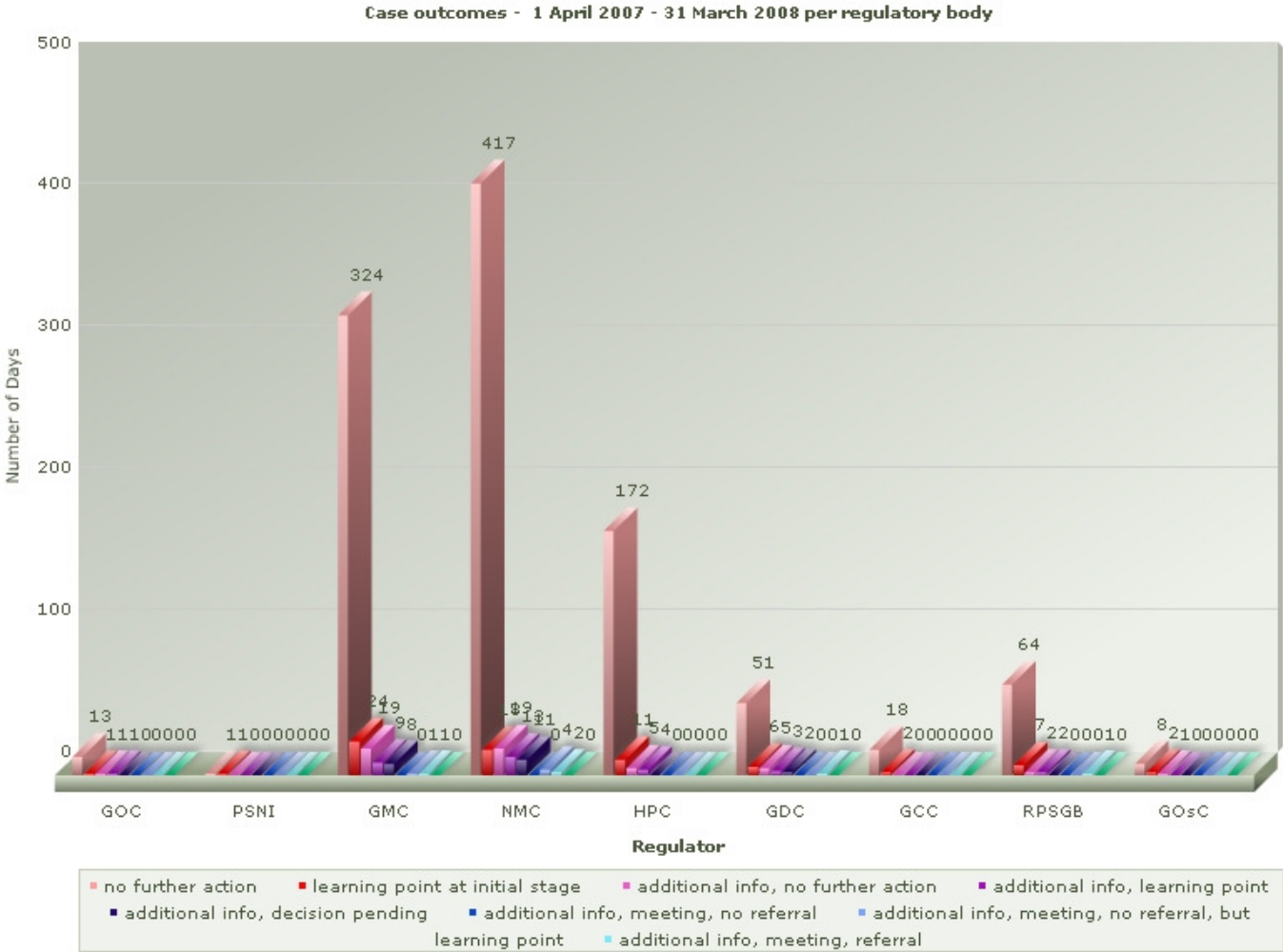


Chart 8

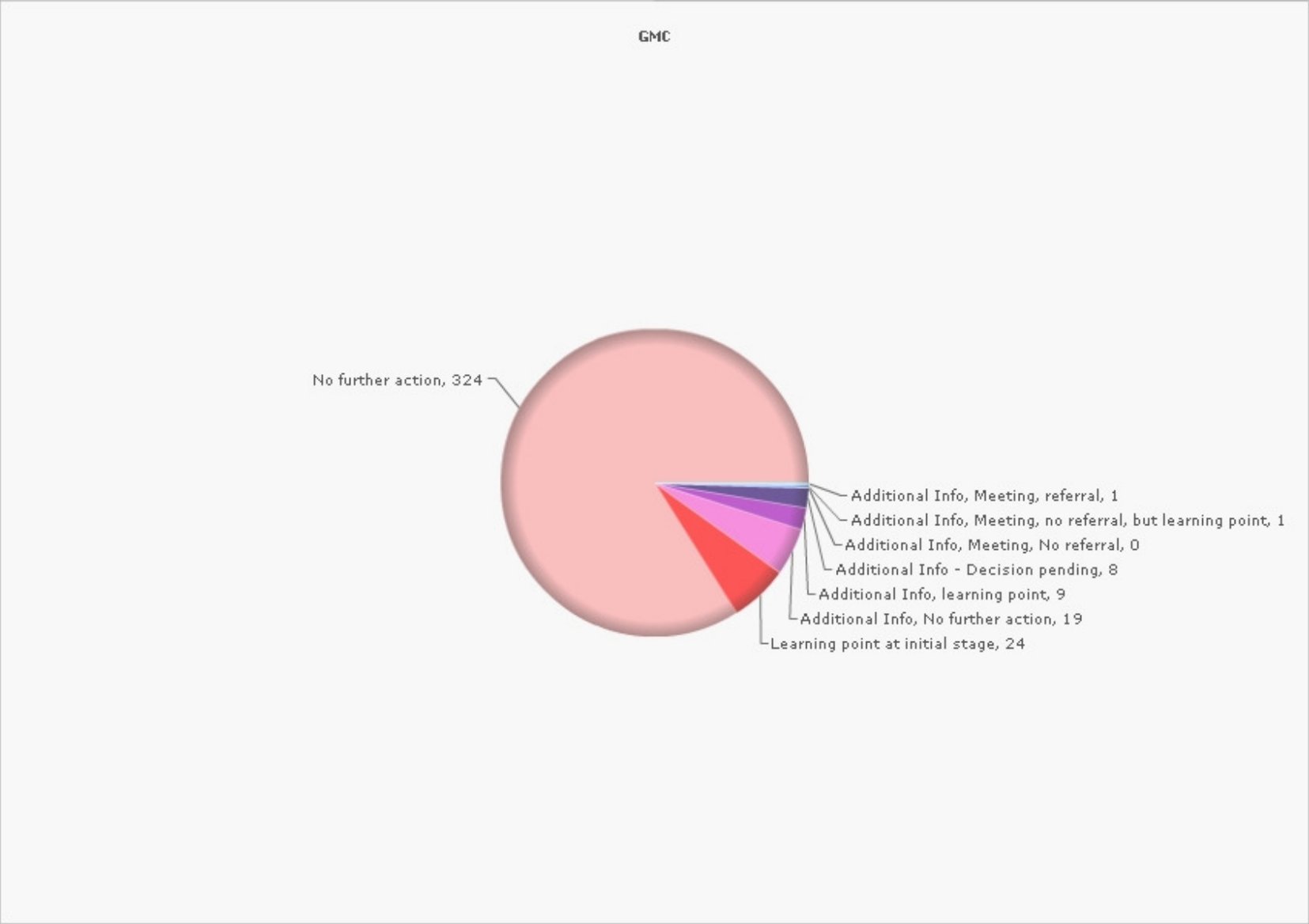


Chart 9

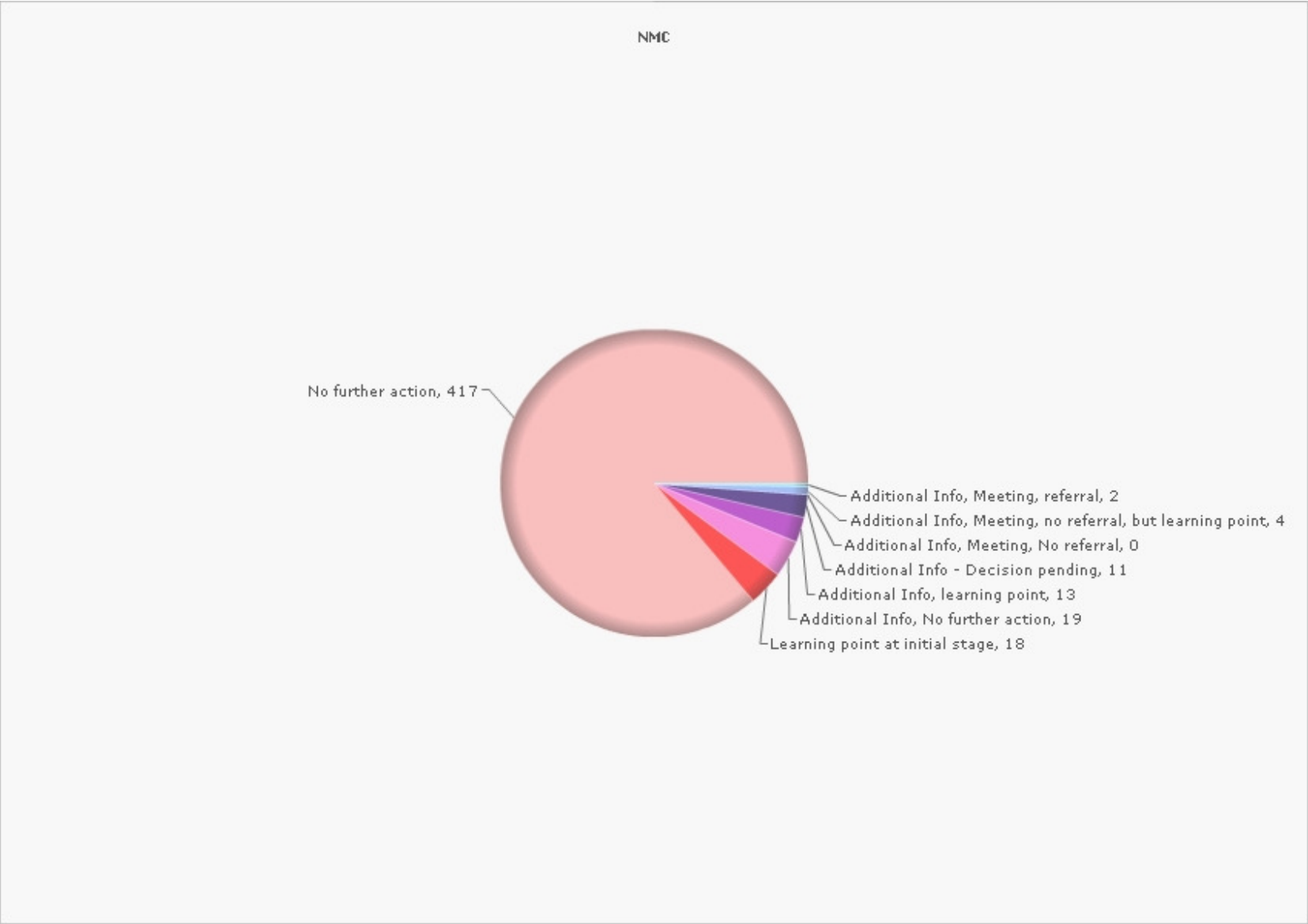


Chart 10

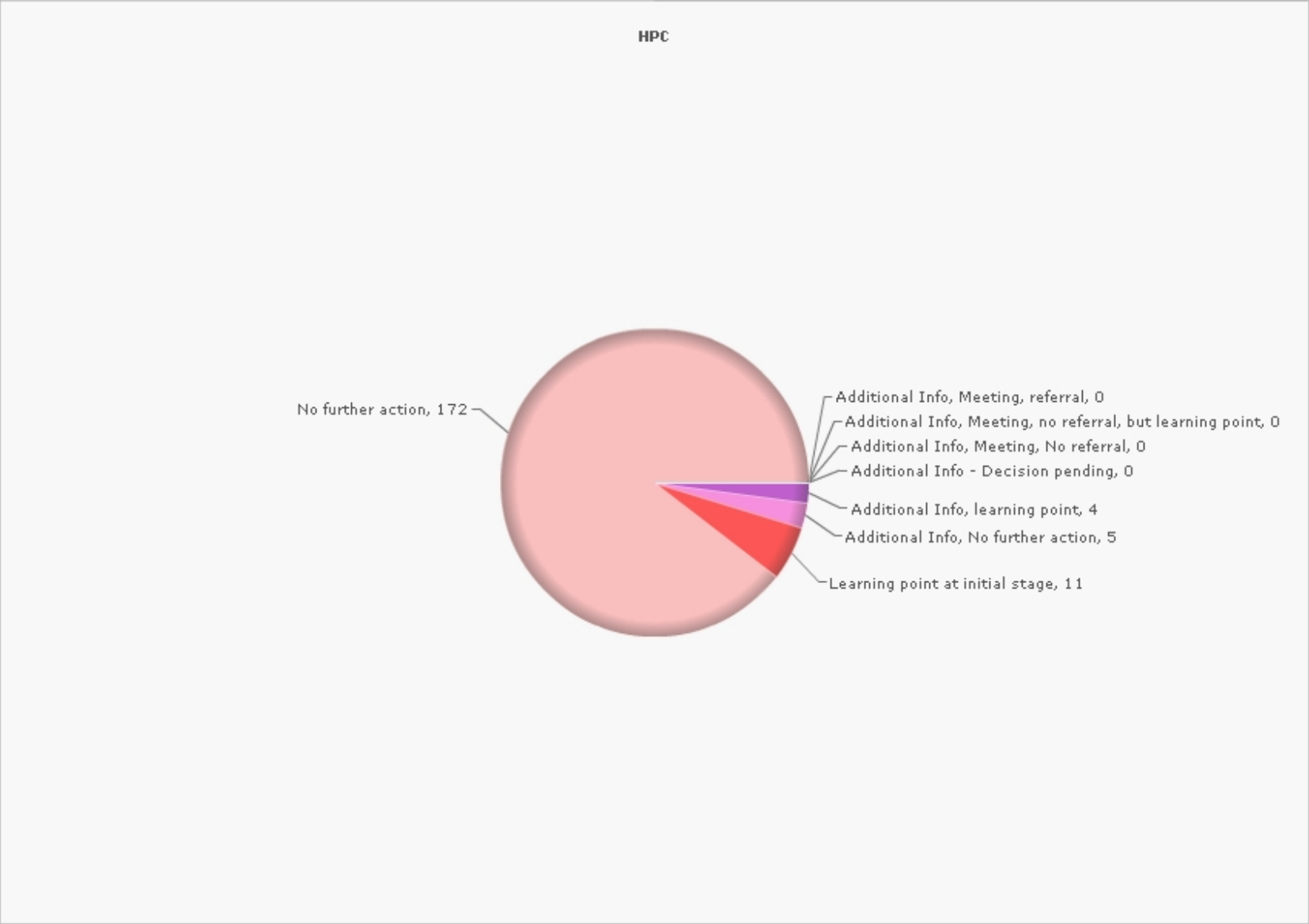


Chart 11

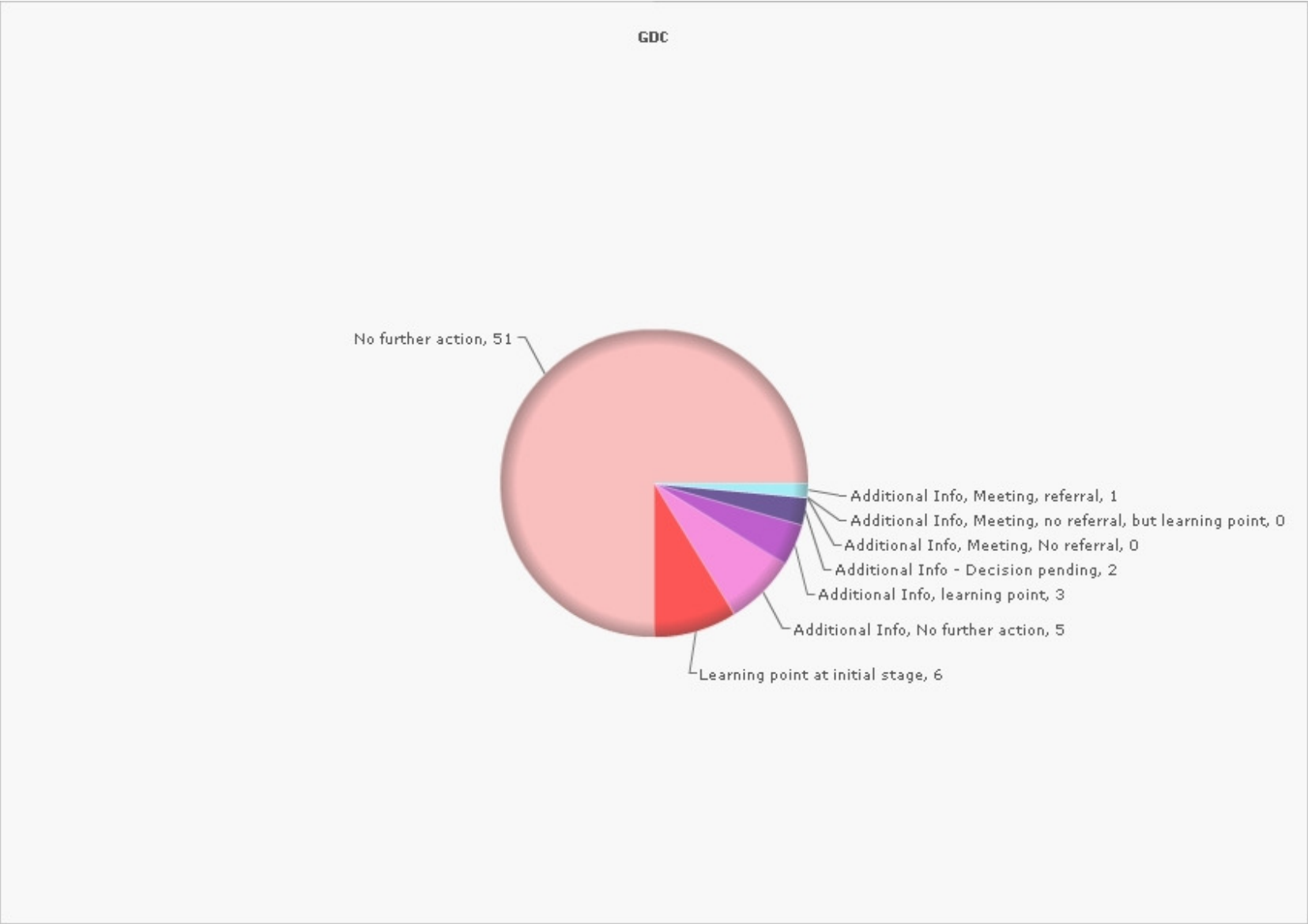


Chart 12

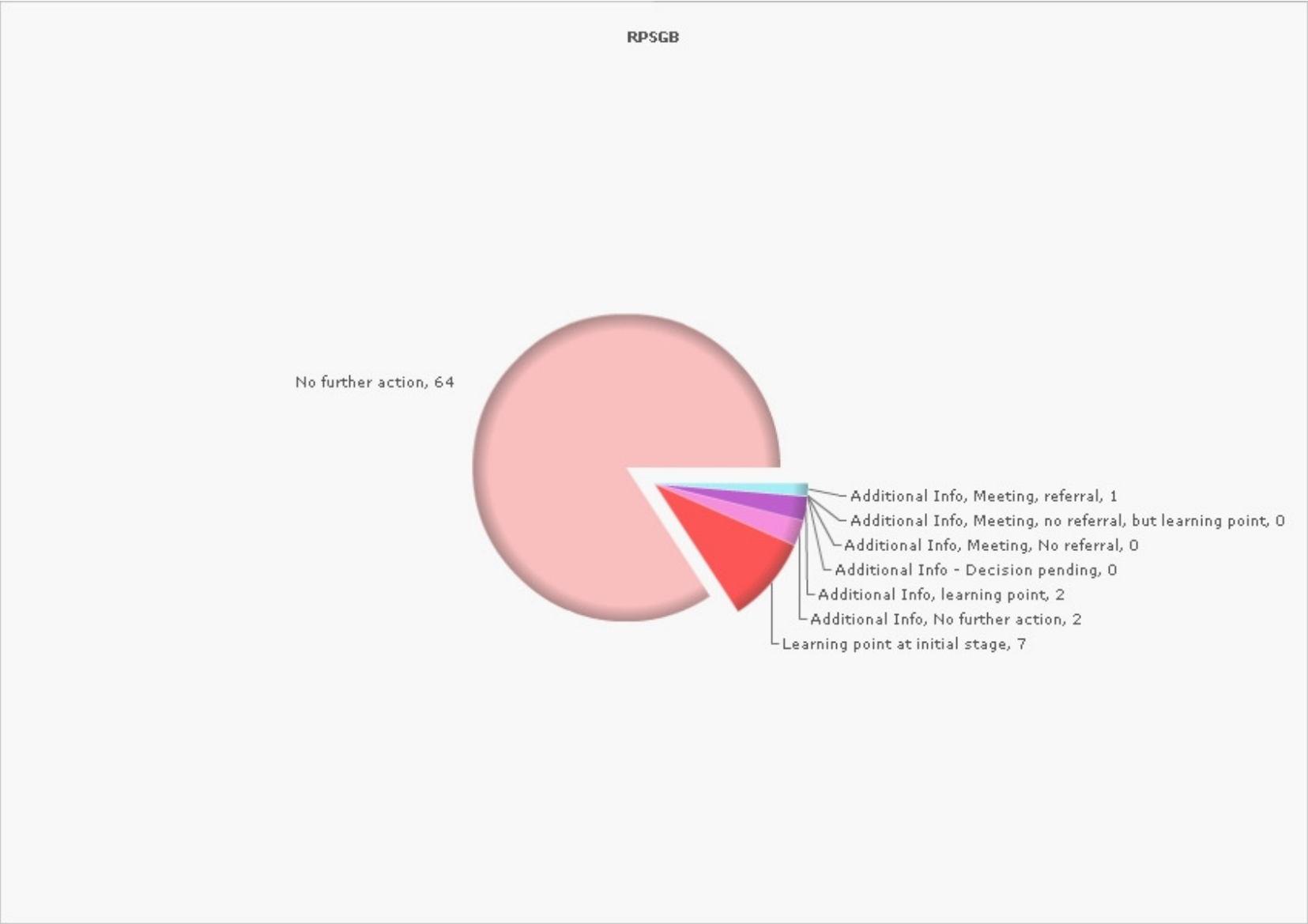


Chart 13

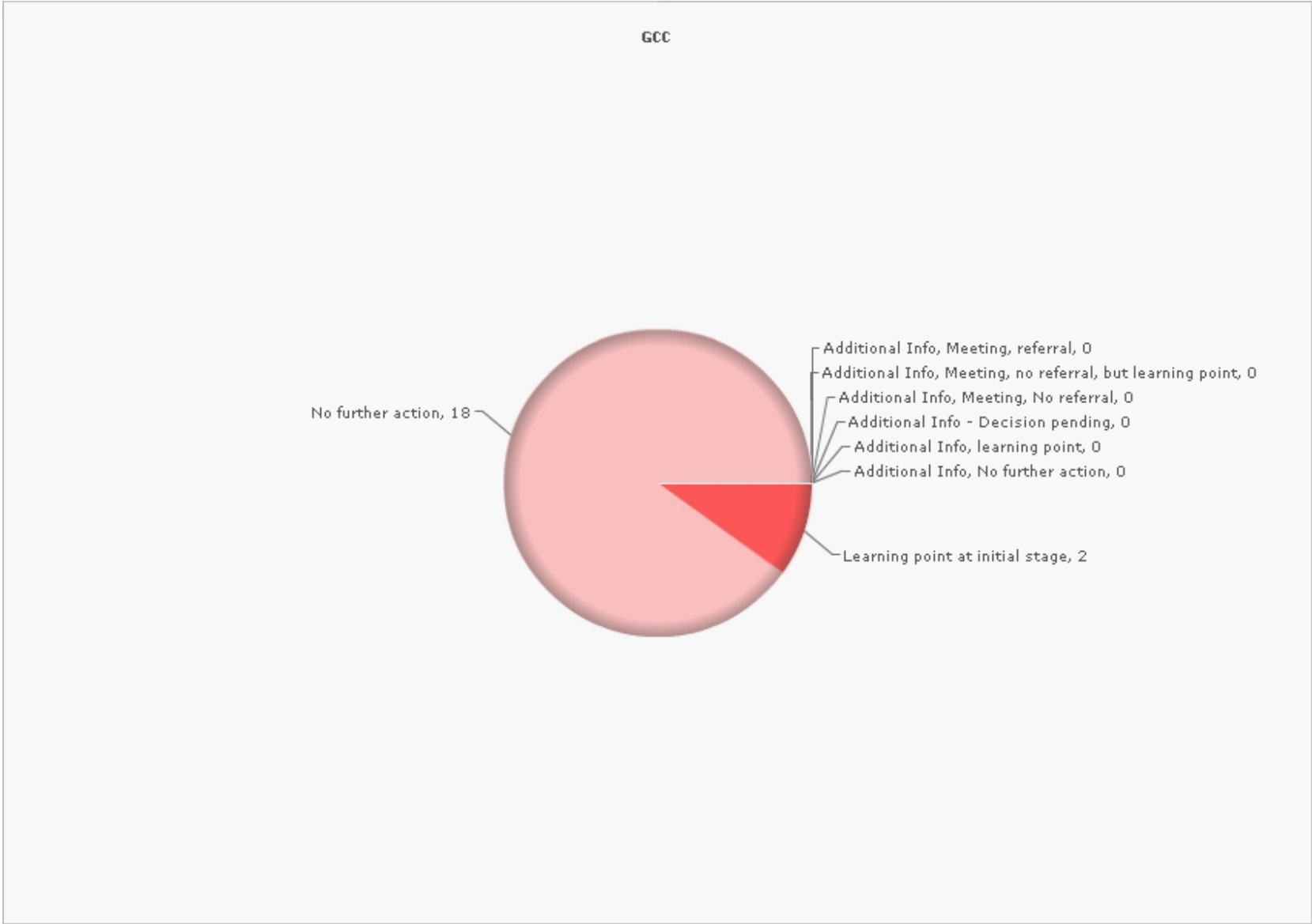


Chart 14

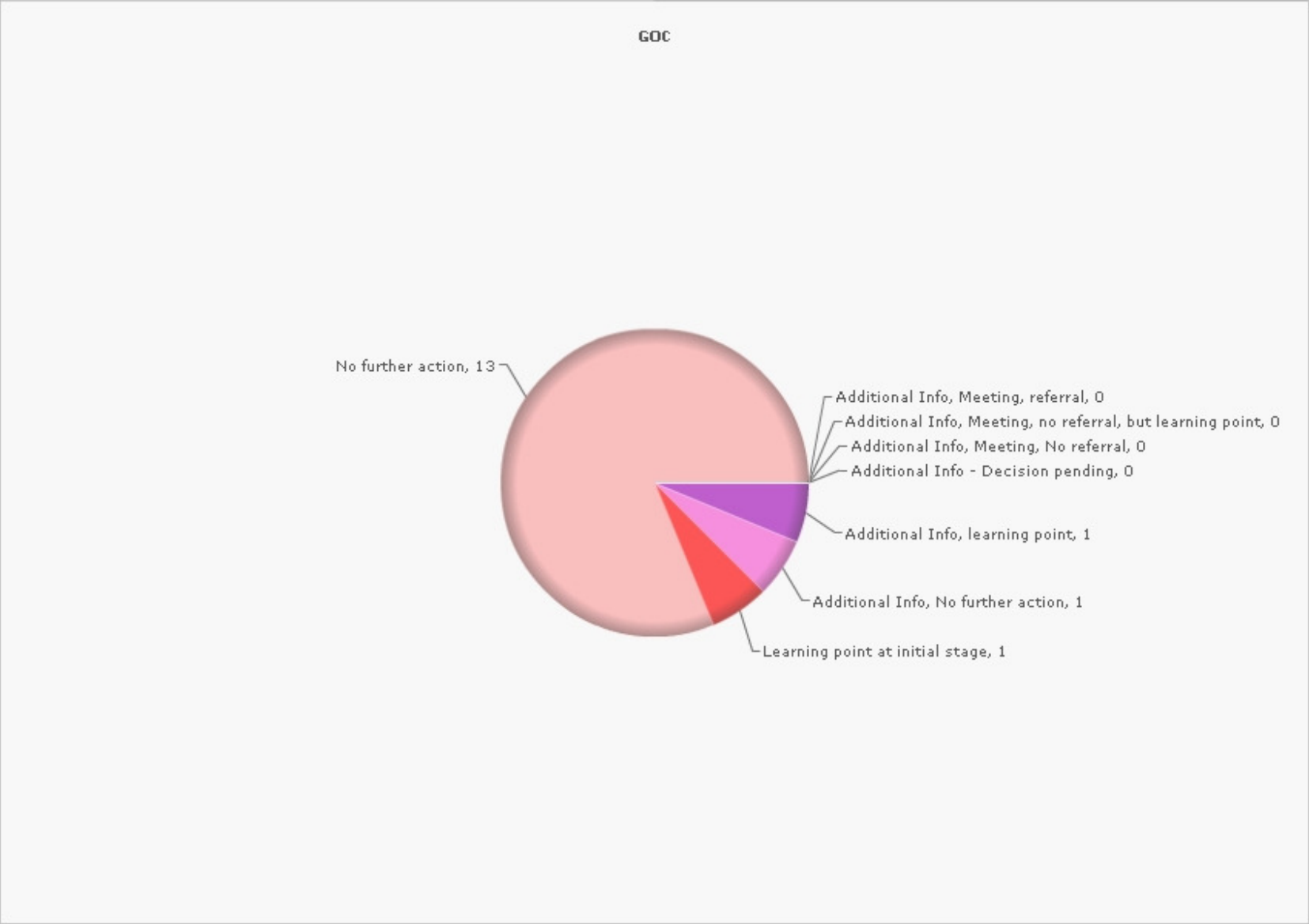


Chart 15

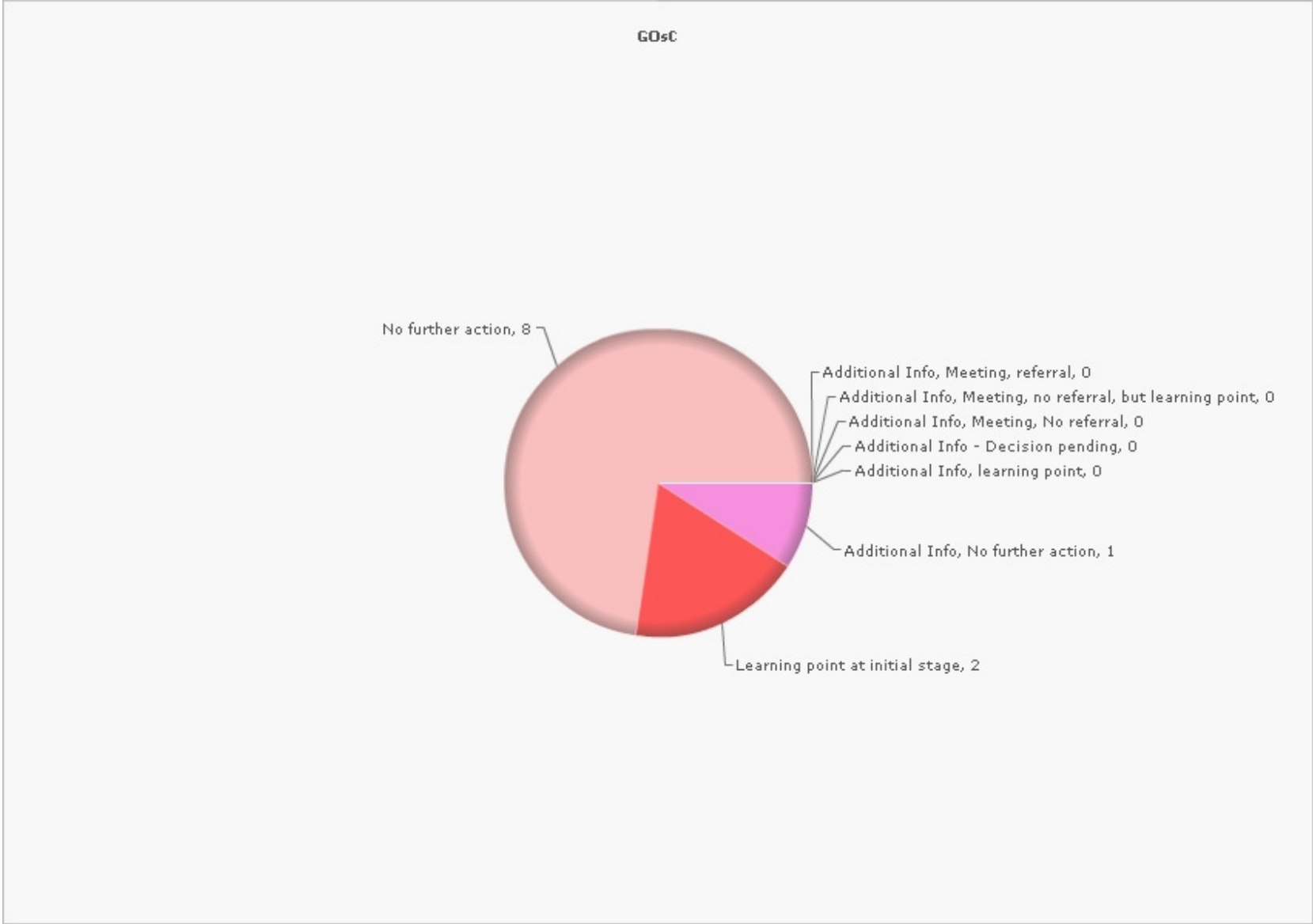


Chart 16

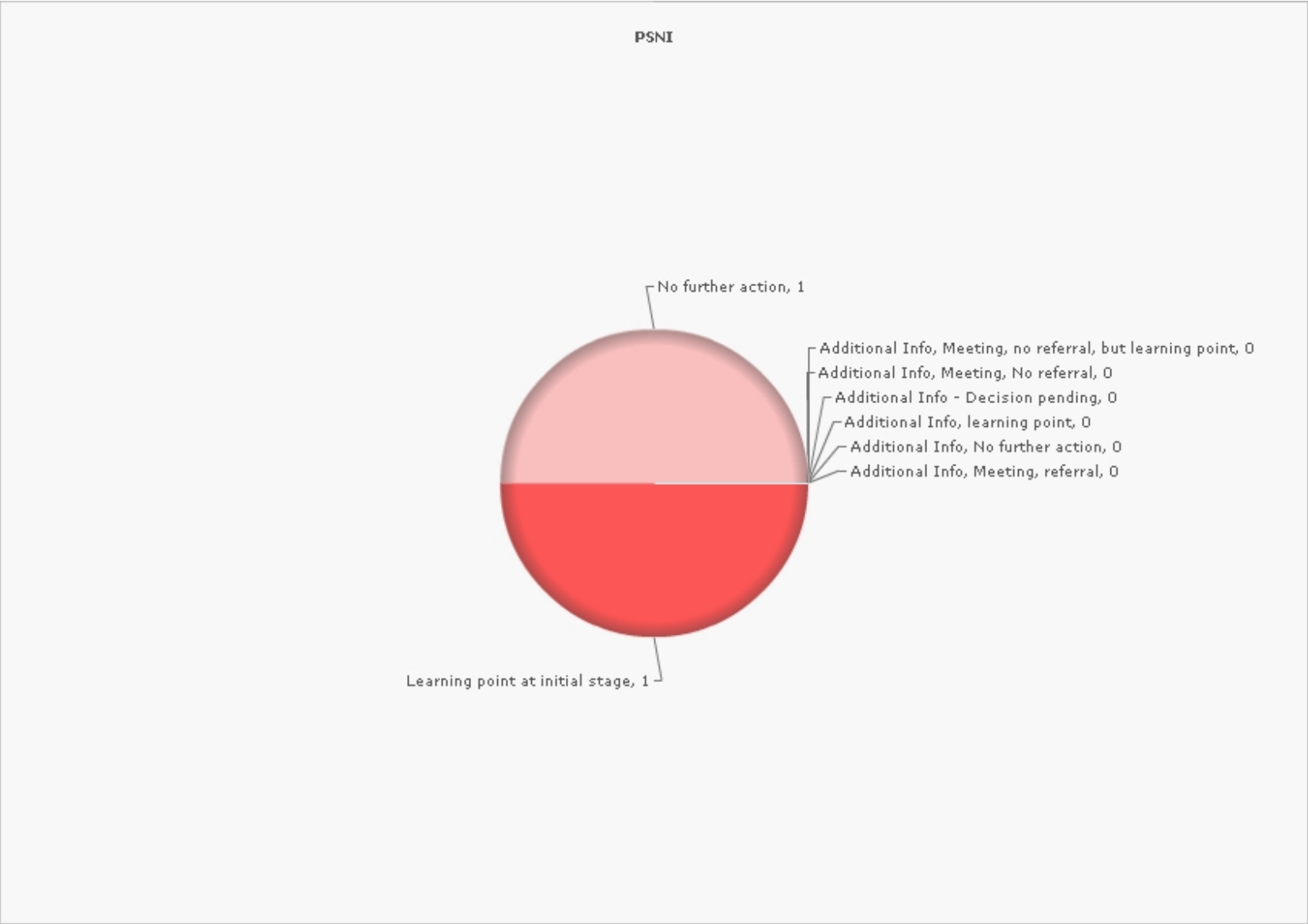


Chart 17

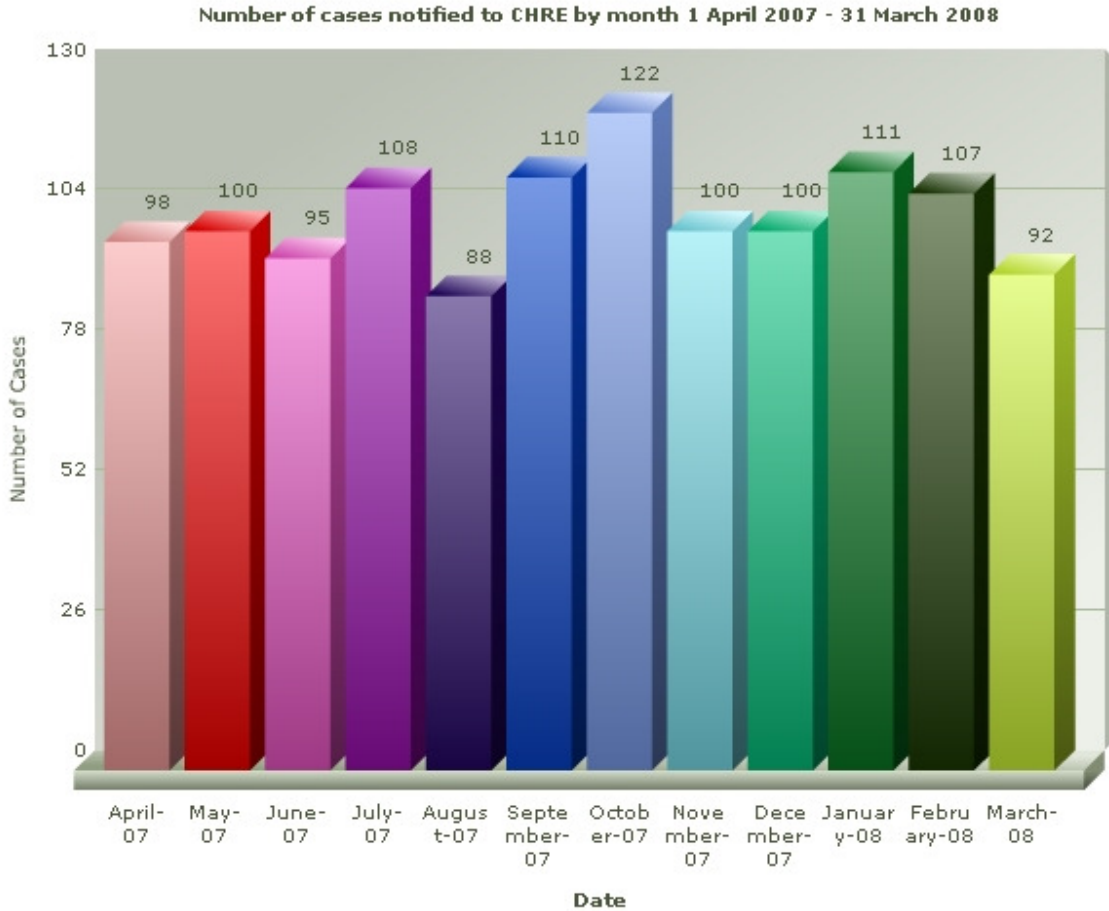


Chart 18

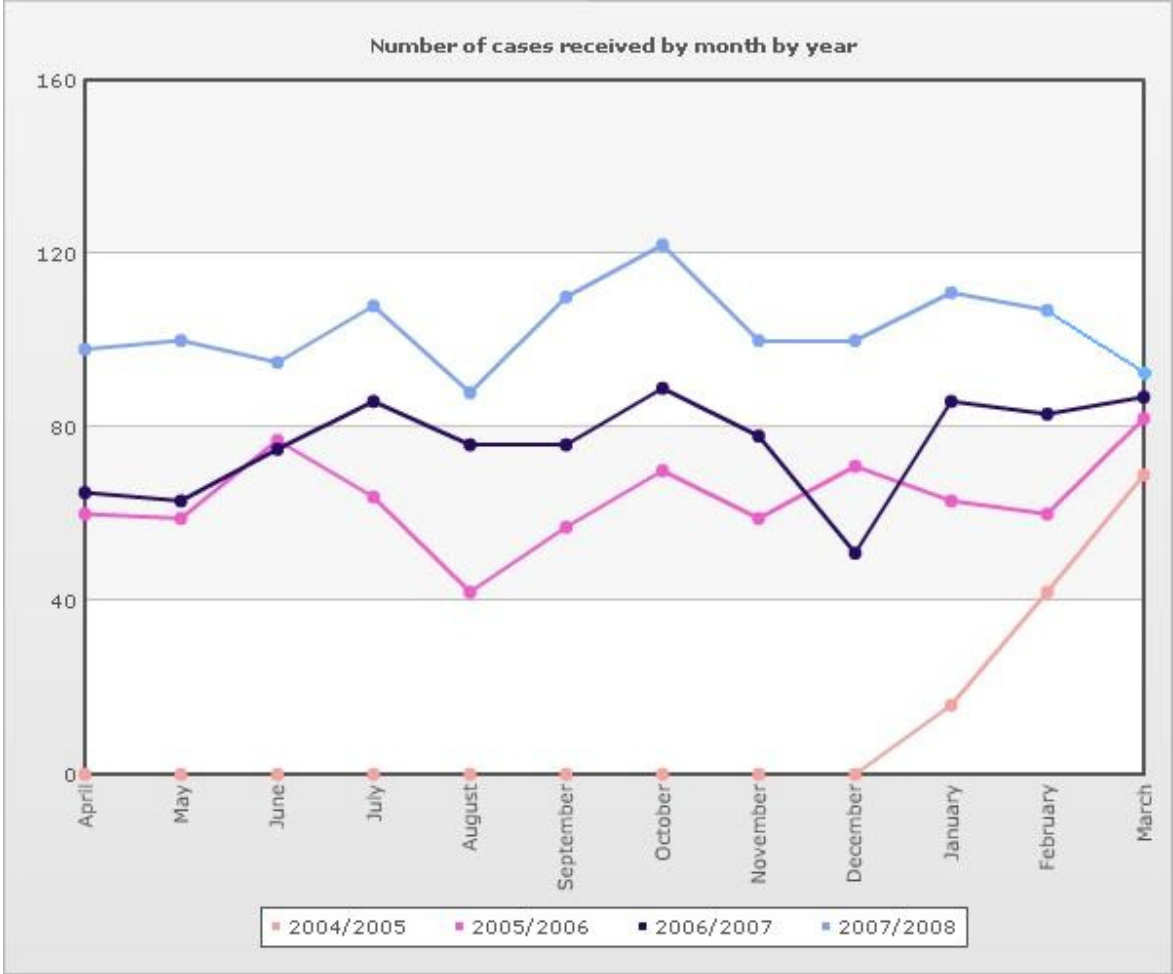


Table 19

Number of cases referred to court by month per year

	2004/2005	2005/2006	2006/2007	2007/2008
April	0	1	1	0
May	0	0	0	0
June	0	2	0	0
July	3	1	0	0
August	0	5	0	0
September	3	0	2	1
October	0	0	0	0
November	0	0	0	1
December	1	0	0	1
January	0	0	0	0
February	0	1	0	0
March	0	0	1	2
Total	7	10	4	5
% of cases referred	1.18%	1.31%	0.43%	0.41%