



Mental Health Tribunal Quarterly Activity Report

1 January to 31 March 2026

Mental Health Tribunal

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Mental Health Tribunal

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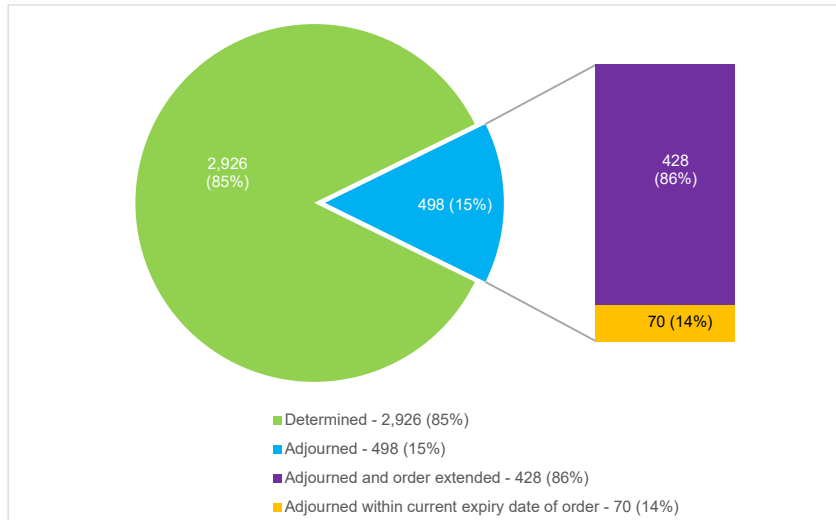
Notes about the Mental Health Tribunal Quarterly Activity Report:

To enable the community to be informed of the practical operation of the *Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022*, the Mental Health Tribunal ('the Tribunal') is committed to providing regular and detailed information about the decisions it makes concerning compulsory mental health treatment. Quarterly Activity Reports are produced for the first three quarters of each financial year and the Annual Report captures the full financial year.

1. Tribunal hearings

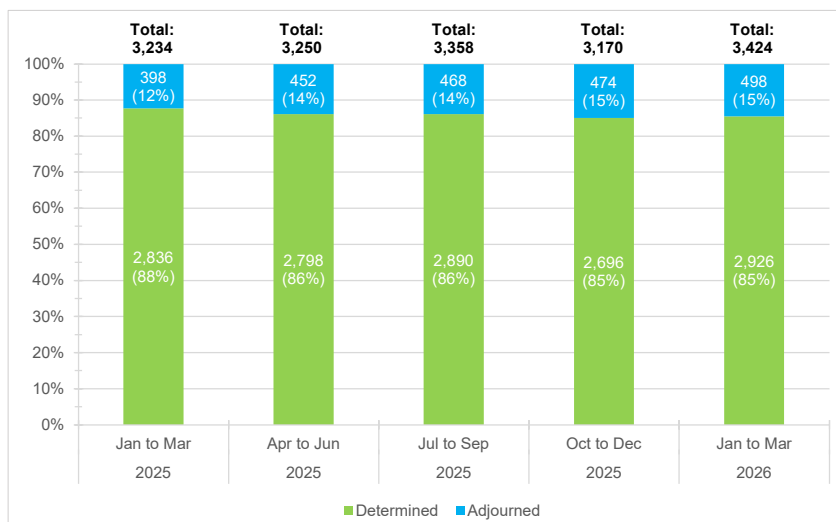
Between 1 January and 31 March 2026, the Tribunal conducted 3,424 hearings. There were a further 2,456 matters which were listed for a hearing but were cancelled before the hearing date, usually because of the patient's order being revoked (cancelled) or the hearing being rescheduled to another date.

Of the 3,424 hearings conducted in this period, 85% (2,926) were determined and 15% (498) were adjourned.



1.1 Hearings conducted

Hearings conducted is the combined total of treatment order hearings, ECT applications and all other hearing types.

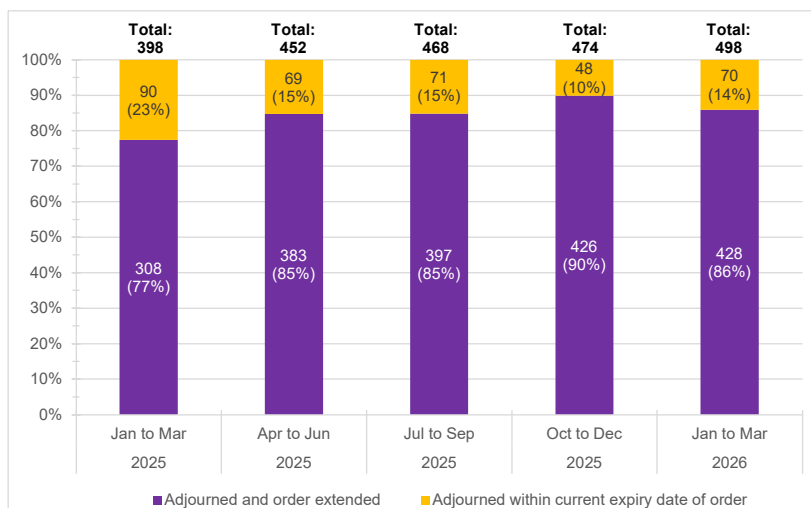


1.2 Ongoing impact of high demand for hearings

It is still the case that demand for hearings exceeds the Tribunal’s capacity and we are continuing to list hearings in accordance with the prioritisation schedule that is [published on our website](#). In summary, the Tribunal is managing to list all hearings except patient applications for revocation for which there are significant delays. At the end of March 2026, 88 patient applications were waiting to be listed, the average wait time was seven weeks but the longest wait time was 10 weeks. The Tribunal acknowledges and deeply regrets the impact of these delays. The recent appointment of new psychiatrist and registered medical members is a critical step toward expanding our capacity to be able to conduct all hearings without delay.

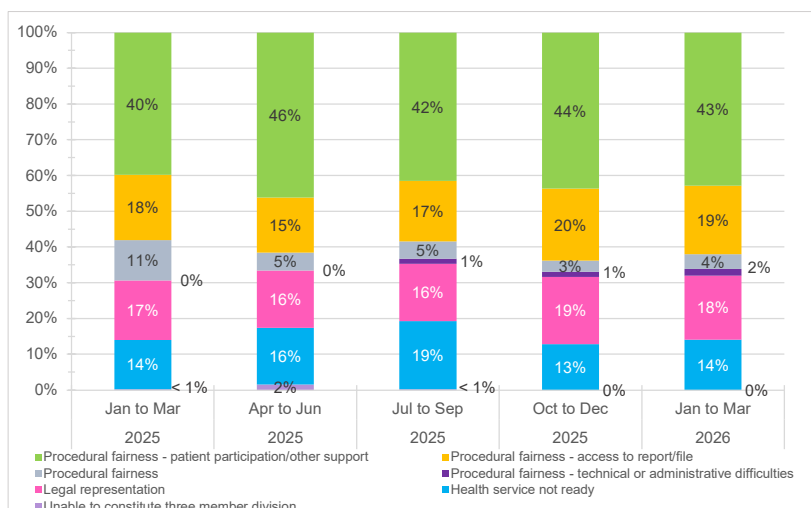
1.3 Hearings adjourned

Hearings can be adjourned to a later date with or without the patient’s order being extended. If an adjournment does include an extension of an order the maximum length of the extension allowed under the Act is 10 business days and it can only be extended once. This quarter the proportion of hearings adjourned with an order extension was 86%.



1.4 Reasons for adjournments with extension of order

A patient’s hearing can be adjourned and their temporary treatment order or treatment order extended by a maximum of 10 business days if the Tribunal is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist.

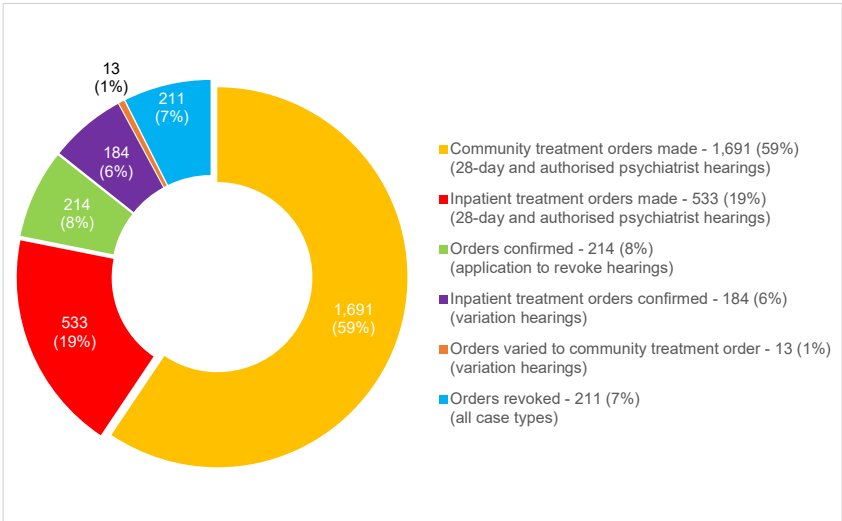


2. Treatment order hearings

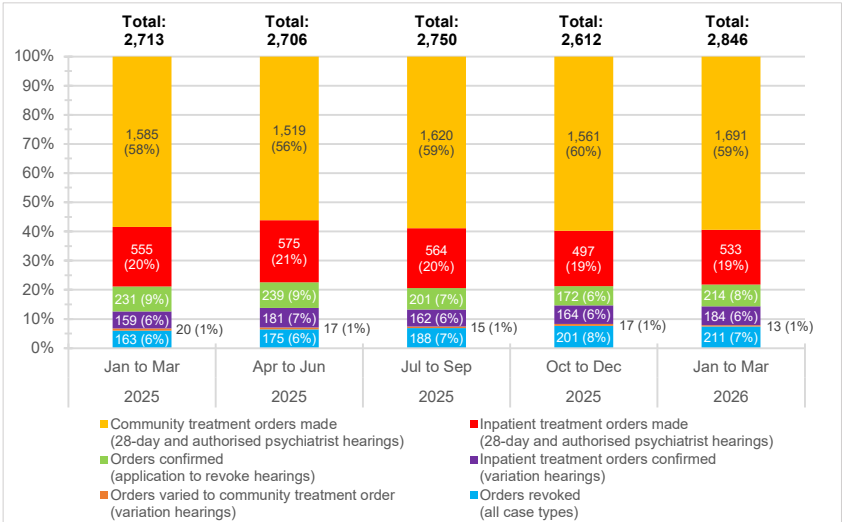
2.1 Treatment orders made, confirmed or revoked by the Tribunal

In any hearing concerning a temporary treatment order or treatment order, the Tribunal must decide whether to make, confirm or revoke an order. When the Tribunal makes or confirms an order, the Tribunal must determine the category of the order, being a community treatment order or an inpatient treatment order, based on the circumstances at the time of the hearing. If the Tribunal is *making* a treatment order it also determines the duration of a treatment order. If the Tribunal is *confirming* a treatment order, the expiry date of that order remains the same and cannot be changed by the Tribunal.

2.1.1 Outcome of treatment order hearings (all case types, January to March 2026)



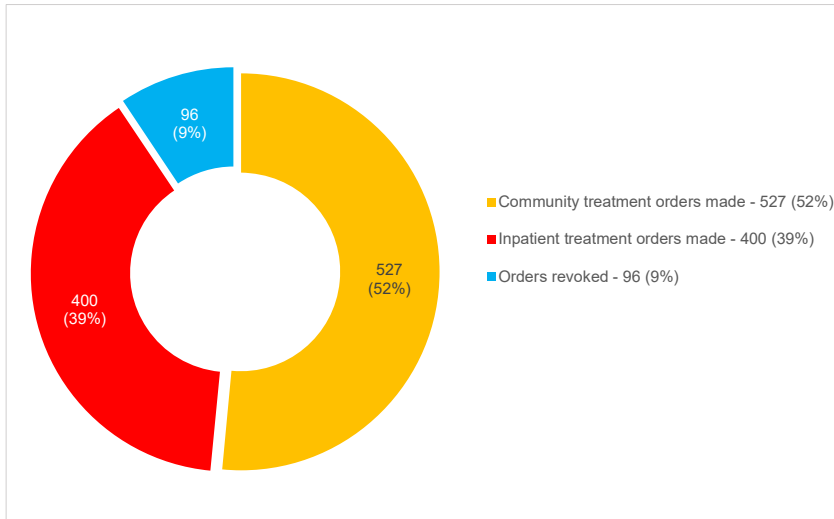
2.1.2 Quarterly comparison of treatment order hearing outcomes (all case types)



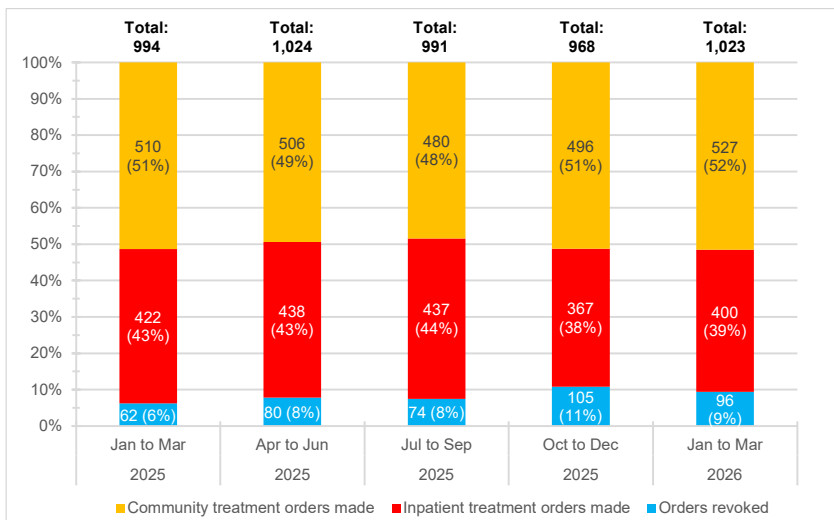
2.2 28-day hearings

The Tribunal must conduct a hearing to determine whether to make a treatment order for a person who is subject to a temporary treatment order within 28 days of a patient being placed on a temporary treatment order. After conducting the hearing, the Tribunal must either make a treatment order or revoke the temporary treatment order. If making a treatment order, the Tribunal must also decide whether it is an inpatient or community treatment order and the duration of the treatment order.

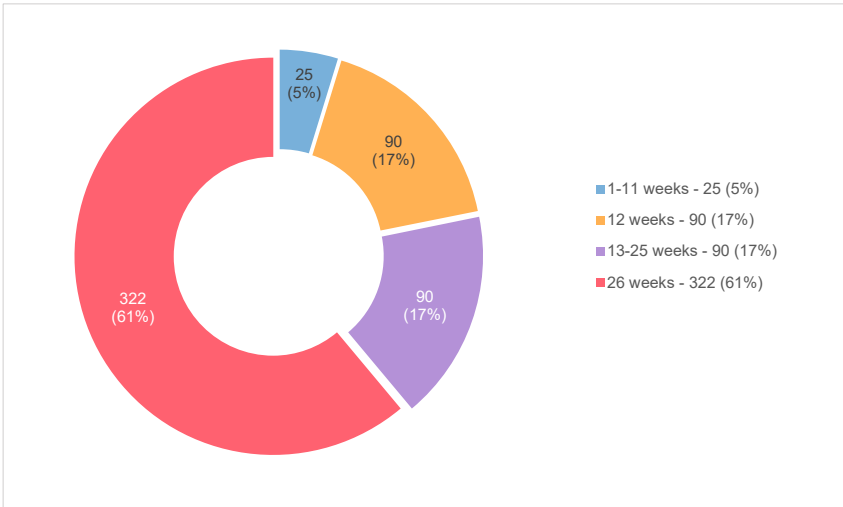
2.2.1 Treatment orders made and revoked (January to March 2026)



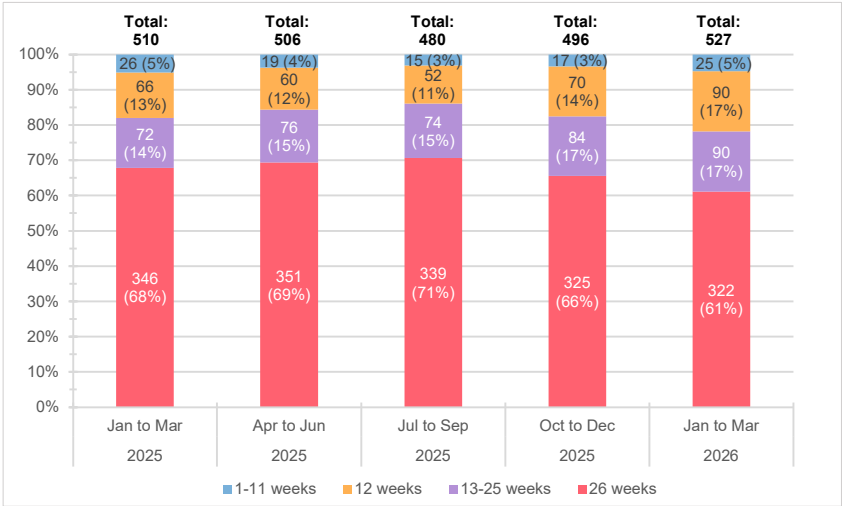
2.2.2 Quarterly comparison of treatment orders made and revoked



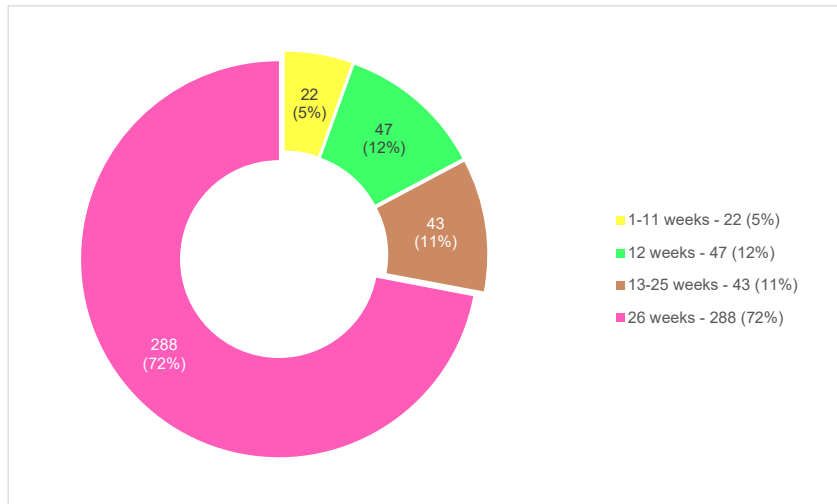
2.2.3 Duration of community treatment orders made (January to March 2026)



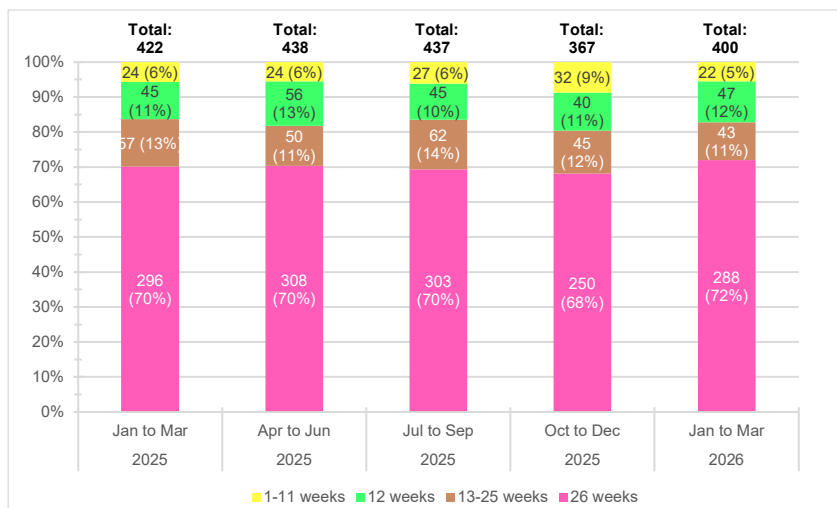
2.2.4 Quarterly comparison of the duration of community treatment orders



2.2.5 Duration of inpatient treatment orders made (January to March 2026)



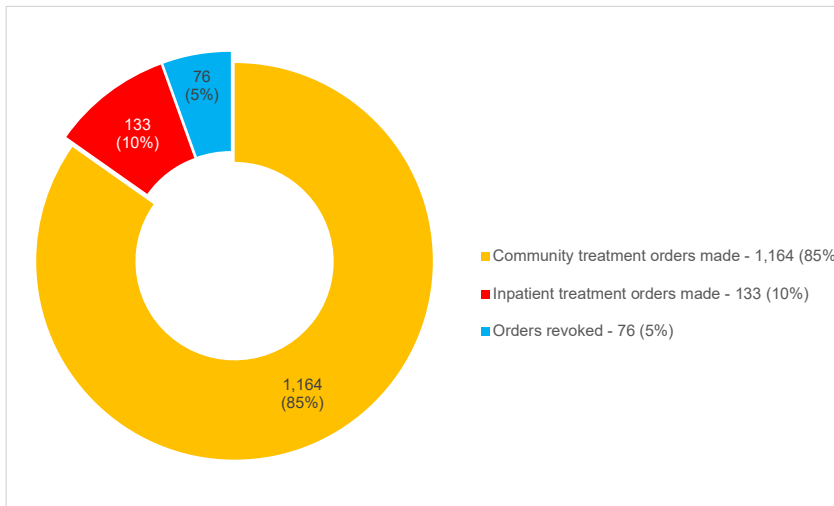
2.2.6 Quarterly comparison of the duration of inpatient treatment orders



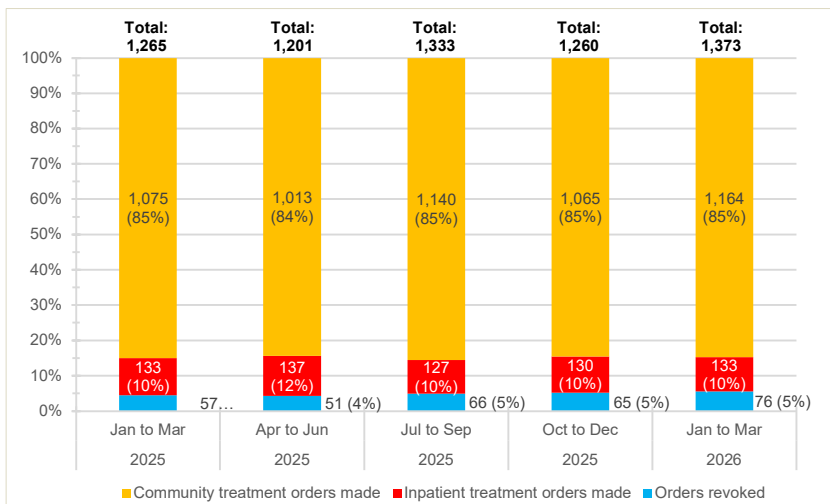
2.3 Authorised psychiatrist application hearings

An authorised psychiatrist can apply to the Tribunal for a further treatment order in relation to a compulsory patient who is currently subject to a treatment order. After conducting the hearing, the Tribunal must either make a new treatment order or revoke the current treatment order. If making a treatment order, the Tribunal must also decide whether it is an inpatient or community treatment order and the duration of the treatment order.

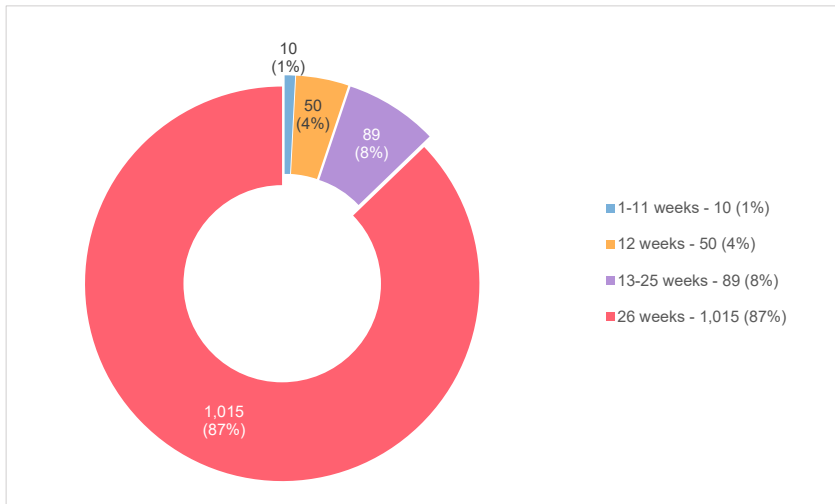
2.3.1 Treatment orders made and revoked (January to March 2026)



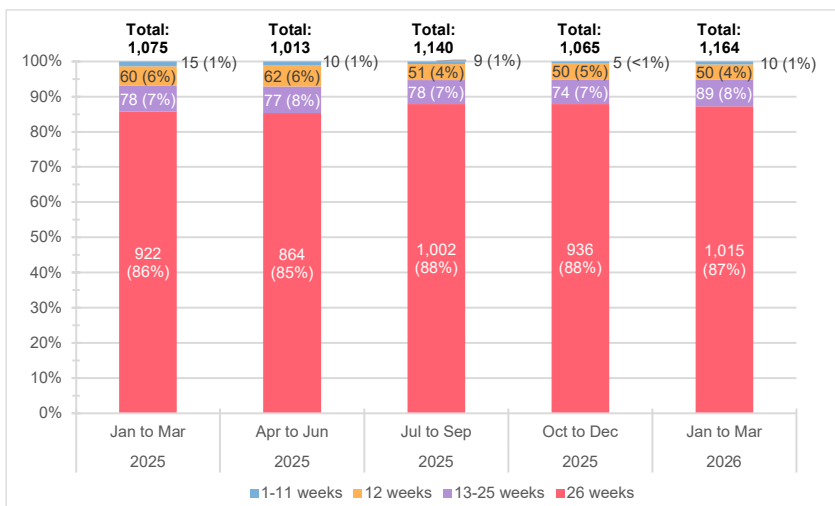
2.3.2 Quarterly comparison of treatment orders made and revoked



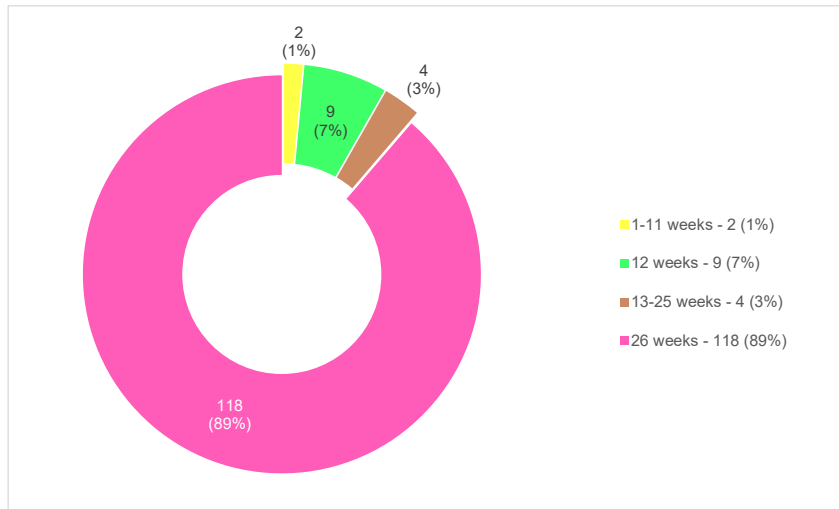
2.3.3 Duration of community treatment orders made (January to March 2026)



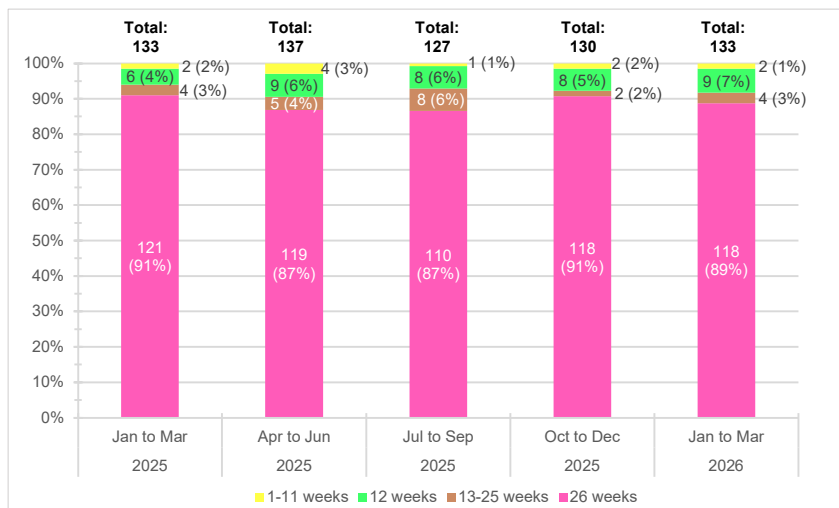
2.3.4 Quarterly comparison of the duration of community treatment orders



2.3.5 Duration of inpatient treatment orders made (January to March 2026)



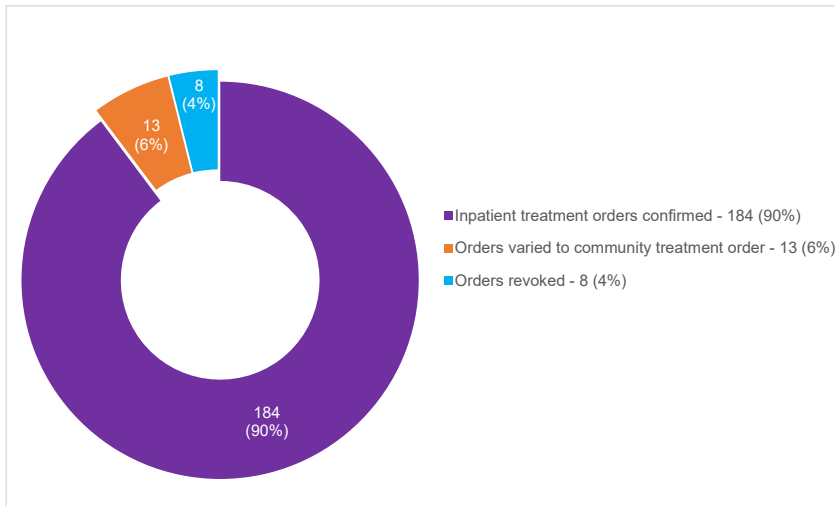
2.3.6 Quarterly comparison of the duration of inpatient treatment orders



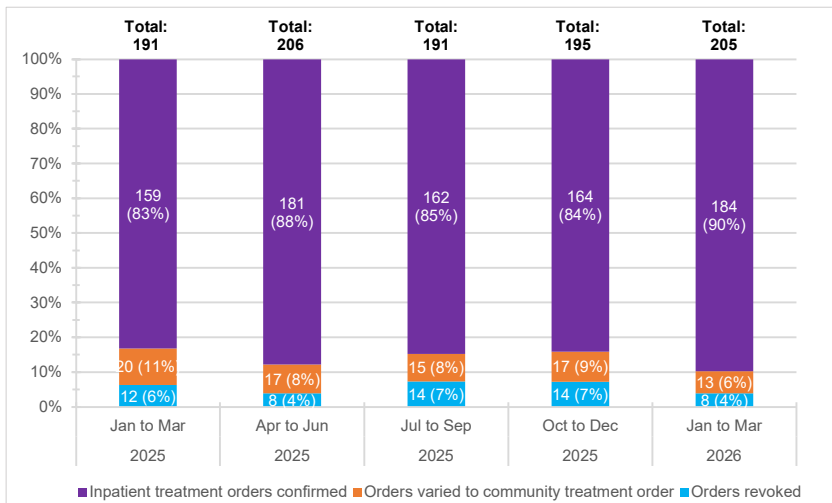
2.4 Patients whose community treatment order was varied to an inpatient treatment order

The Tribunal must initiate a variation hearing when an authorised psychiatrist varies a community treatment order to an inpatient treatment order. The hearing must occur within 28 days of the variation, and the Tribunal must determine whether to confirm or revoke the treatment order. If confirming the treatment order, the Tribunal determines whether it should be for inpatient or community treatment but does not decide on a new duration.

2.4.1 Treatment orders confirmed and revoked (January to March 2026)



2.4.2 Quarterly comparison of treatment orders confirmed and revoked

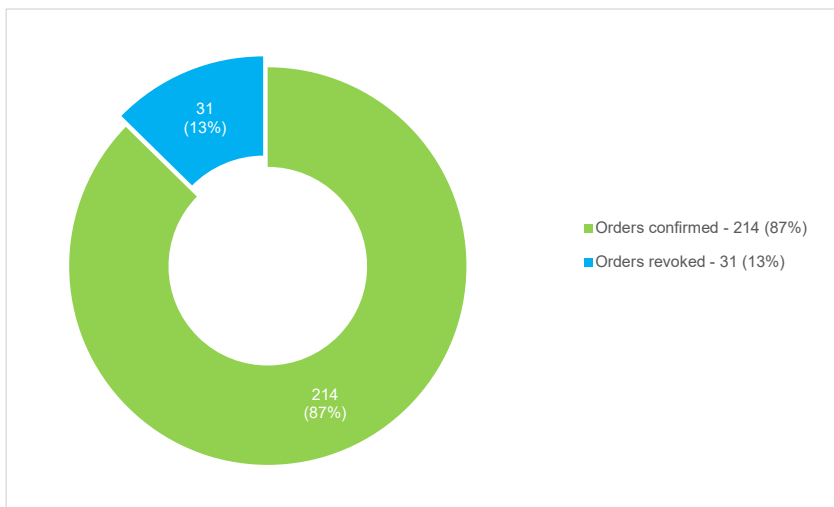


2.5 Applications for revocation by the patient

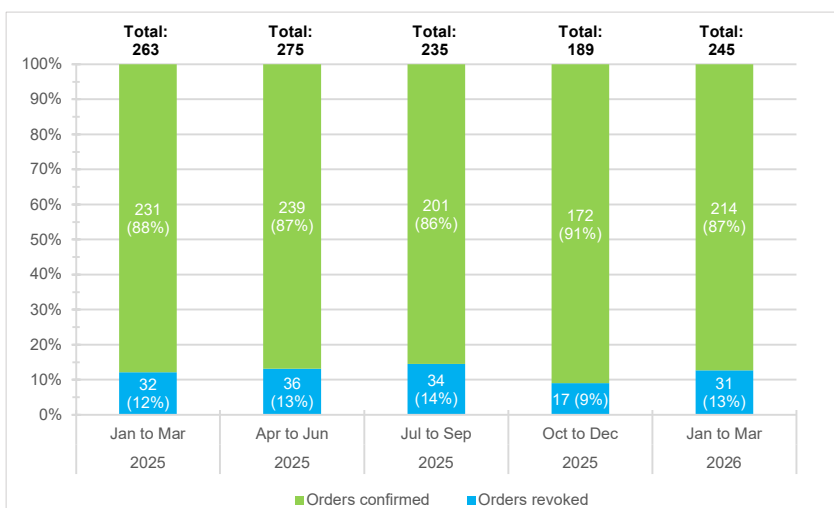
A patient subject to a temporary treatment order or treatment order, or someone on their behalf, can apply to the Tribunal at any time to revoke the order. After conducting the hearing, the Tribunal must either confirm the order or revoke the treatment order or temporary treatment order. If the patient’s application concerns a treatment order and the Tribunal decides to confirm the treatment order, it must also decide whether it is for inpatient or community treatment but does not decide on a new duration.

Please refer to section 1.2 of this report which outlines the impact of current capacity constraints on the listing of patient applications for revocation.

2.5.1 Treatment orders confirmed and revoked (January to March 2026)



2.5.2 Quarterly comparison of treatment orders confirmed and revoked

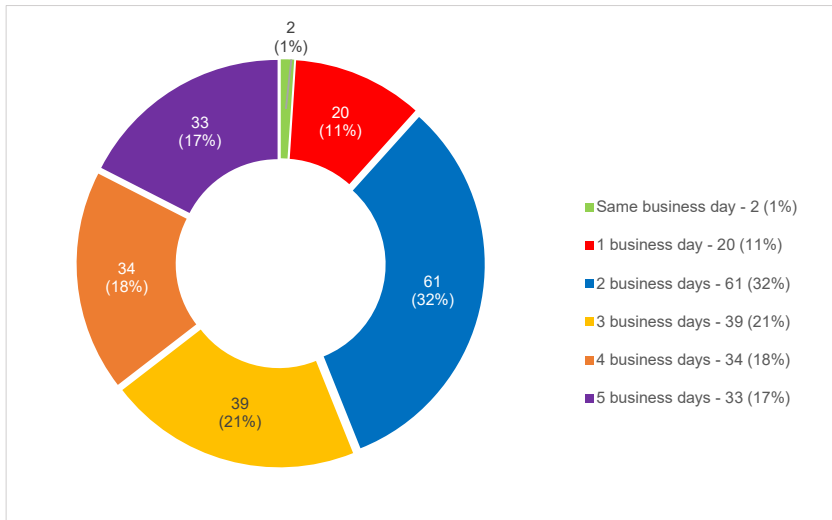


3. ECT orders

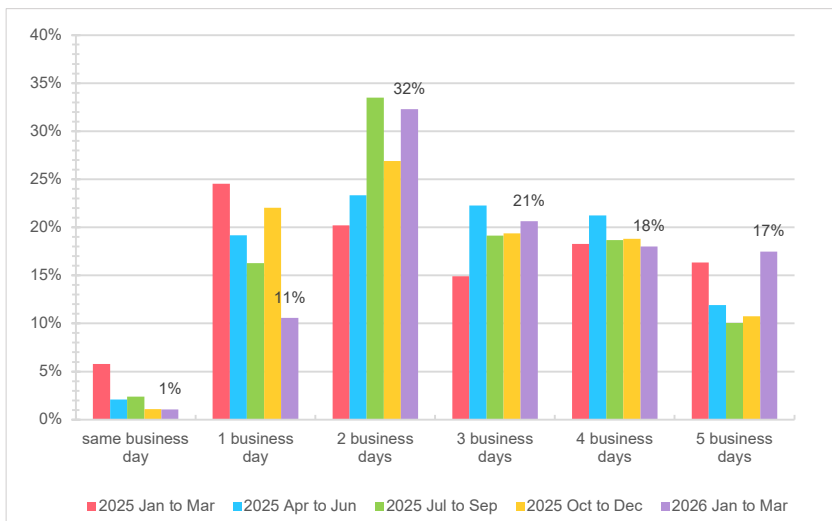
3.1 Elapsed time from receipt of ECT application to hearing

The Tribunal must list and complete the hearing of an application for an ECT order as soon as practicable and within five business days after receiving the application. The Tribunal Registry seeks to balance considerations of clinical urgency alongside procedural fairness and allowing people reasonable time to prepare for a hearing.

3.1.1 Elapsed time from receipt of application to hearing (January to March 2026)



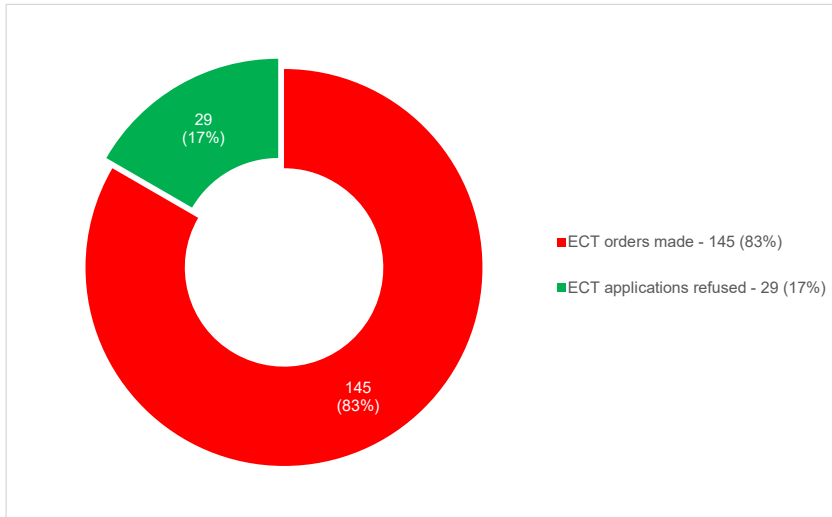
3.1.2 Quarterly comparison of elapsed time from receipt of application to hearing



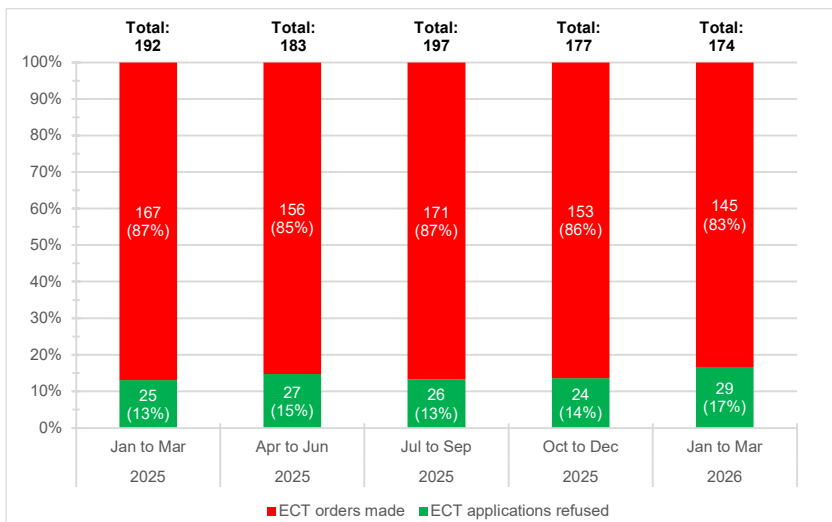
3.2 Outcomes of applications for an ECT order

The Tribunal heard 174 applications for ECT orders between January to March 2026. Of those, 145 (83%) applications were granted and ECT orders were made, and 29 (17%) applications were refused.

3.2.1 ECT orders made and applications refused (January to March 2026)



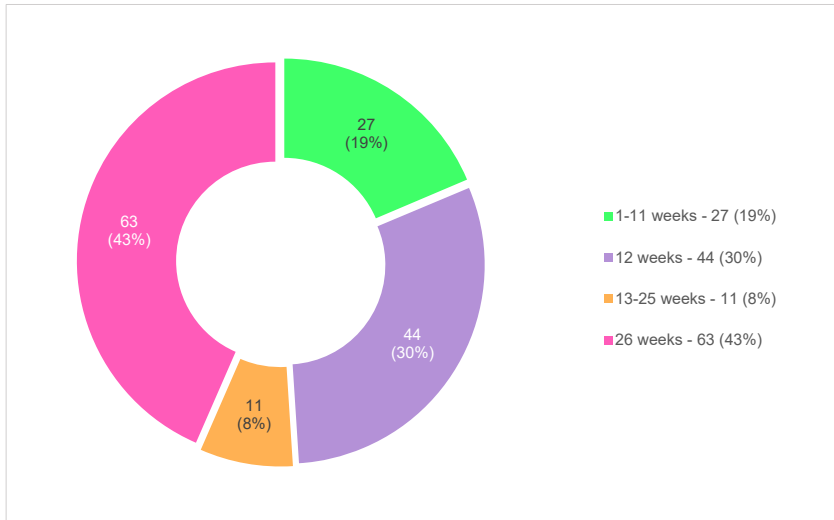
3.2.2 Quarterly comparison of ECT orders made and applications refused



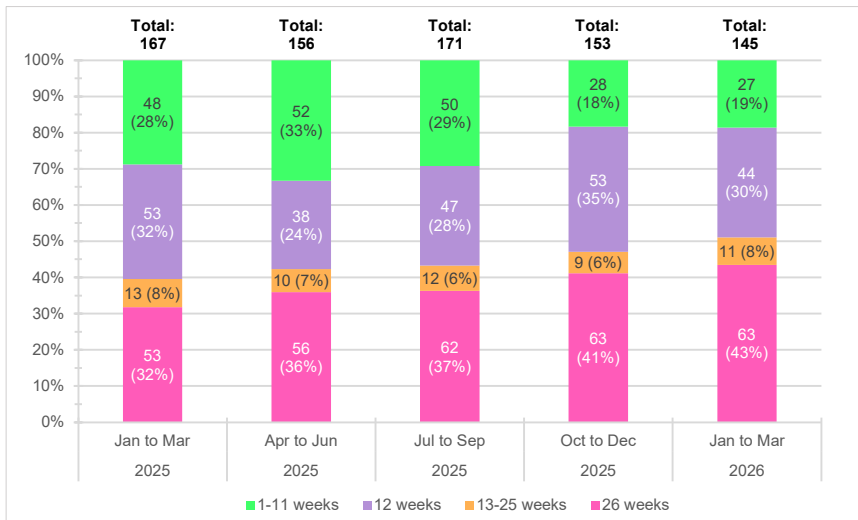
3.3 Duration of ECT orders made

When making an ECT order, the Tribunal must set the duration of the order up to a maximum of six months (26 weeks).

3.3.1 Duration of ECT orders made (January to March 2026)



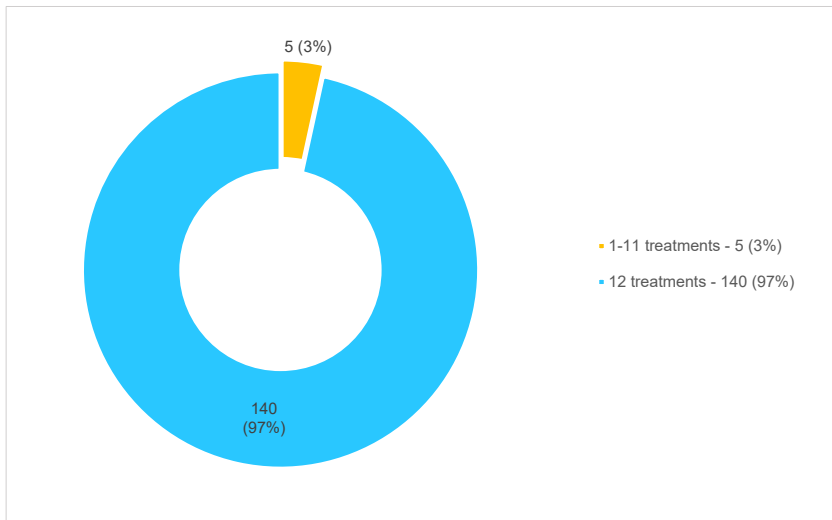
3.3.2 Quarterly comparison of the duration of ECT orders



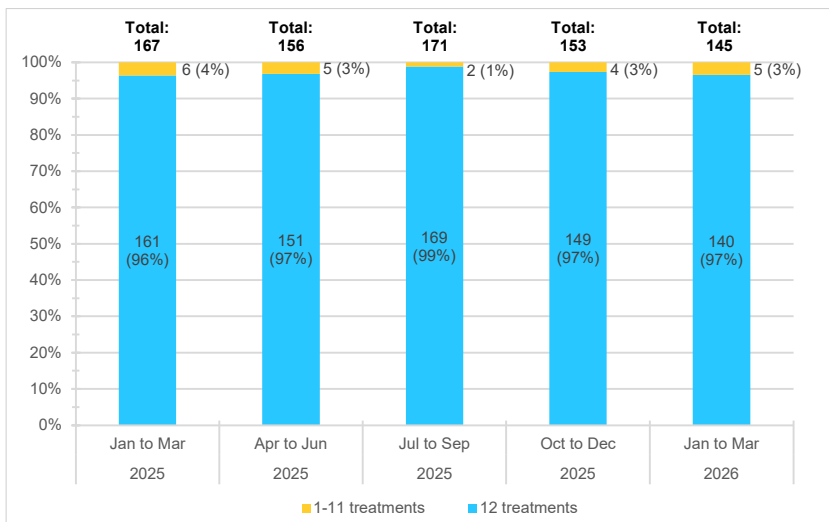
3.4 Number of ECT treatments authorised

When making an ECT order, the Tribunal must authorise the number of treatments that can be administered, up to a maximum of 12.

3.4.1 Number of treatments authorised by ECT orders (January to March 2026)

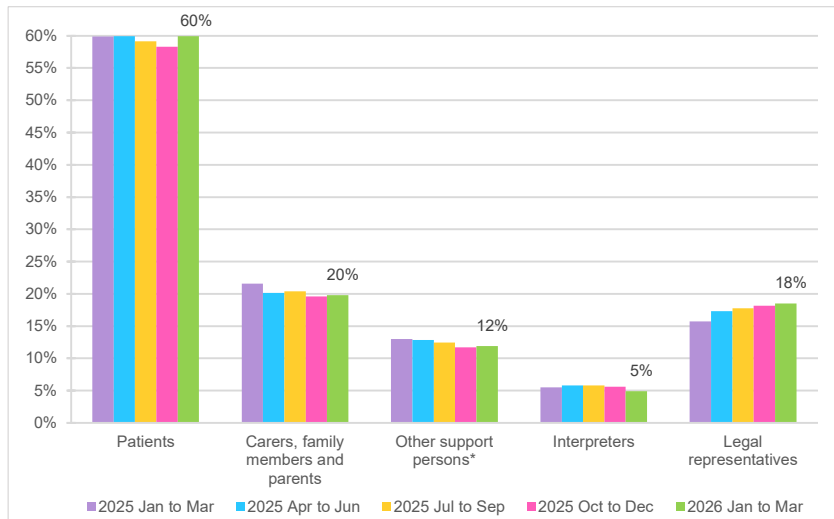


3.4.2 Quarterly comparison of the number of treatments authorised by ECT orders



4. Participation at hearings

The Tribunal is committed to promoting and encouraging the participation of patients and the people who support them in hearings. The Tribunal seeks to maximise the notice period to allow people to participate.



* "Other support persons" includes nominated support persons, guardians, medical treatment decision makers, support workers and friends.

5. Complaints & feedback

This quarter the Tribunal received 6 complaints and feedback[^] categorised in the table below.

All complaints and feedback have been responded to in accordance with the Tribunal's [Complaints and feedback policy](#) which is available on our website.

	Complaints	Feedback
Clarification of procedures	-	2
Conduct of hearings	1	1
Procedural fairness	2	-
Technical or administrative difficulty or error	-	-
Customer service	1	-

[^] Where multiple contacts are received about one hearing or issue these are counted once. Where a complaint is later withdrawn it is not counted.

*The number of complaints and feedback may not match the count of complaint or feedback types as each contact can raise multiple issues or concerns.