CERTIFICATION OF SIGHT IMPAIRMENT: TACKLING A REGIONAL DILEMMA
T. Moutray1, J. Jackson1, D. Galloway2, M. Gallagher3
1 Ophthalmology, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust, UK
2 Northern Ireland, RNIB, UK
3 Northern Ireland, DEP CVI Working group, UK

Purpose: Review of Visual Impairment Certification process
Methods: Retrospective review and pilot study
Results: Certification rates in Northern Ireland (NI) are much lower compared with those in England, but interestingly the demographic and ophthalmic characteristics of those certified are very similar. Of those registered as Blind (SSI, Severely Sight Impaired) and also of those Registered as Partially Sighted (SI, Sight Impaired) the proportions of those less than 65 years of age are larger in Northern Ireland (SSI 25%, SI 37%) in comparison to England and Wales (SSI 14%, SI 15%). Over the age of 65 years the results for NI and England/Wales are more similar (SSI 75% versus 83%, SI 63% versus 82% respectively). Newly developed policies and procedures should improve the patient pathway. Through engagement with the relevant professional groups and patient representative organisations we ensured understanding of the benefits and importance of certification.
Conclusions: This poster presentation highlights the steps currently initiated to tackle apparent discrepancies. Financial Disclosure: Yes- travel grants from Novartis/Bayer