# Stakeholder Confidence in Ireland's Commitment to a 180-day Reimbursement Timeline

Leroy, J.[1]; Dooley, B.[1]
1. AXIS Reimbursement, Dublin, Ireland.

## 01. Introduction

The **Framework Agreement on the Supply and Pricing of Medicines (FASPM) 2026-2029**[1] introduced a commitment to achieve reimbursement decisions within 180 days by 2029. This represents one of the most significant recent policy commitments relating to medicines access in Ireland and aims to address longstanding concerns regarding the timeliness and predictability of reimbursement decisions.

Timely reimbursement decisions have the potential to improve patient access to innovative medicines, increase predictability for pharmaceutical companies, and strengthen confidence in the reimbursement process. However, successful delivery of the 180-day commitment will require measurable progress across multiple stages of the reimbursement pathway and effective coordination between key stakeholders.

While the commitment has been broadly welcomed, there has been limited assessment of whether stakeholders believe meaningful progress is being made towards implementation. Understanding stakeholder confidence may provide insight into perceptions of implementation progress and the factors that could influence successful delivery.

## 02. Objective

To explore pharmaceutical industry and patient stakeholder perspectives on Ireland's progress towards achieving the 180-day reimbursement commitment by 2029, including confidence, perceived implementation progress, barriers and priorities for delivery.

## 03. Methods

An initial survey was conducted among pharmaceutical company attendees at the 2026 AXIS Patient Access Conference to capture early perspectives on Ireland's commitment to achieve reimbursement decisions within 180 days by 2029.

Findings from this survey informed the development of two parallel online surveys distributed to:

- Pharmaceutical industry stakeholders, with survey distribution led by AXIS Consulting
- Patient organisations and patient advocates, with survey distribution supported by the Irish Platform for Patient Organisations, Science and Industry (IPPOSI)

Aligned core questions were developed to enable direct comparison across stakeholder groups and explored:

- Current confidence in delivery of the 180-day commitment
- Changes in confidence since announcement of the Framework Agreement
- Evidence of progress observed to date
- Perceived barriers to implementation
- Actions that could increase confidence in successful delivery
- Likelihood of achieving the target by 2029

Responses were analysed descriptively and compared between stakeholder groups. Free-text responses were reviewed thematically to identify recurring concerns, priorities and implementation recommendations.

**Industry n=24 | Patient organisations n=19**

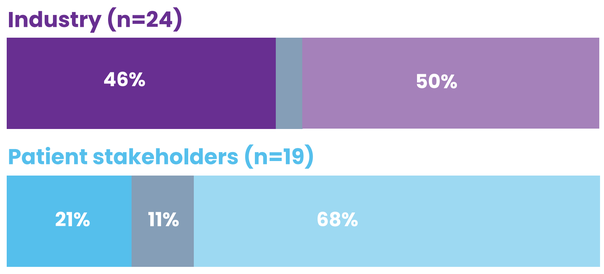
## 04. Limitations

- Findings reflect **stakeholder perceptions**, not an objective assessment of implementation.
- Small, self-selecting samples may limit generalisability.
- Only industry and patient stakeholders were included meaning views of the other key Stakeholders in the reimbursement process are not represented.
- Surveyed approximately six months after publication of FASPM 2026–2029.
- Differences in question wording and response formats limited some direct comparisons.

## 05. Results

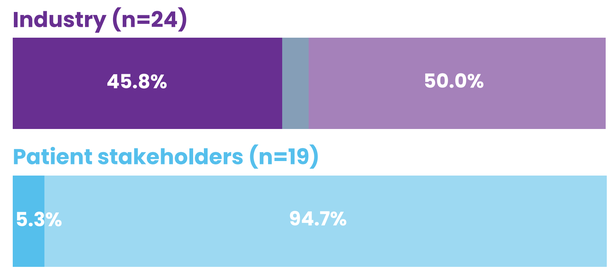
**Patient stakeholders reported lower confidence and substantially less evidence of progress**

**FIGURE 1 | CONFIDENCE IN ACHIEVING THE COMMITMENT**




*Confidence was lower among patient respondents than industry respondents.*

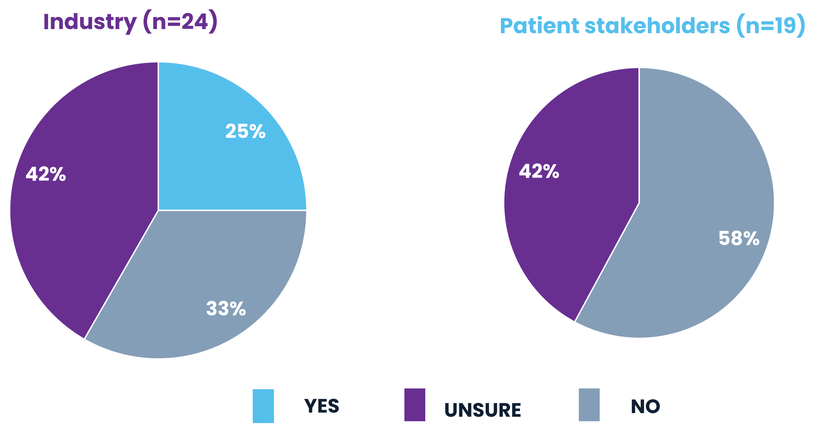
**FIGURE 2 | EVIDENCE OF IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS**




*Industry reported more evidence of progress than patient stakeholders.*

KEY: Industry positive | Industry neutral / negative | Patient positive | Patient neutral / negative | Neutral / unsure

**FIGURE 3 | CURRENTLY ON TRACK FOR 2029?**



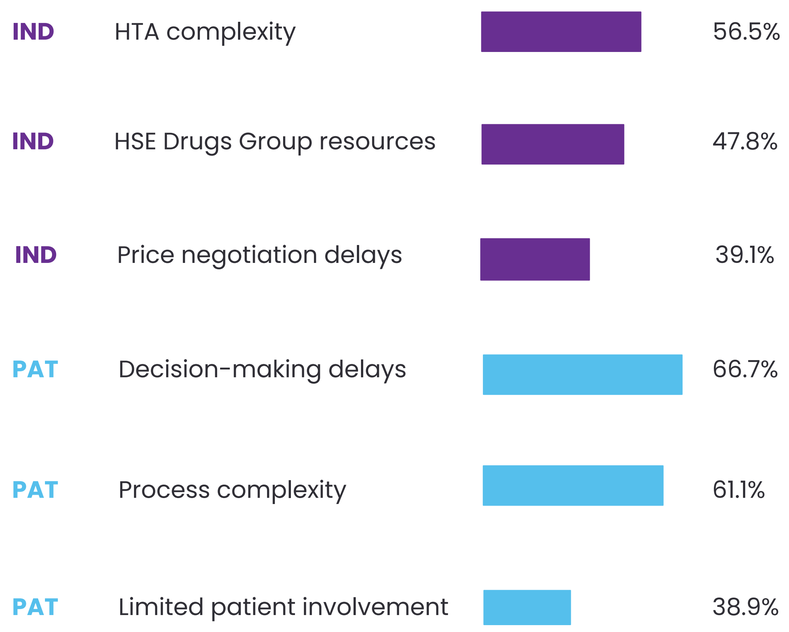

**0%**

of **patient respondents** believed Ireland was currently on track to achieve reimbursement decisions in 180 days

*Only 25.0% of industry respondents selected Yes*
*No patient respondent believed Ireland was on track to achieve the commitment made in FASPM 2026*

**FIGURE 4 | BARRIERS AND IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES**

**Highest-ranked barriers (% ranked in top three)**




**Actions most likely to increase confidence in delivery**

*Respondents prioritised the actions they believed would most increase confidence that the 180-day commitment can be achieved.*

**Clear implementation plan**
Industry 75.0% selected
Patient 72.2% ranked top-three

**Transparent performance reporting**
Industry 54.2% selected
Patient 66.7% ranked top-three

**Greater accountability**
Industry 45.8% selected
Patient 55.6% ranked top-three

***Note: Industry respondents selected up to four actions; patient respondents ranked all actions.***

*Industry emphasised HTA complexity and pathway resourcing; patient respondents emphasised decision delays and process complexity.*
*Both groups prioritised an implementation plan, transparent reporting and accountability.*

## 06. Conclusion

Stakeholder confidence in delivery of Ireland's 180-day reimbursement commitment was limited, particularly among patient organisations and advocates. Patient stakeholder reported substantially less evidence of progress and none considered Ireland currently on track to achieve the target by 2029.

Although the two groups emphasised different barriers, the findings indicate broad alignment on the need for a clear implementation plan, transparent reporting and greater accountability across the reimbursement pathway.

These results provide an early baseline against which stakeholder confidence and perceived implementation progress may be assessed as the FASPM 2026–2029 agreement advances.

**Shared priority: move from commitment to a visible, measurable and accountable implementation plan.**

## 07. Acknowledgments

AXIS Consulting gratefully acknowledges the Irish Platform for Patient Organisations, Science and Industry (IPPOSI) for supporting distribution of the survey to patient organisations and patient advocates.
We also thank all patient and pharmaceutical industry stakeholders who contributed their perspectives to this research.

## 08. References

1. THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON THE SUPPLY AND PRICING OF MEDICINES (FASPM) 2026-2029 available from: https://www.medicinesforireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/MFI-FASPM-Agreement.pdf

AXIS Reimbursement Ltd
19-22 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2, D02 X658
11th Floor, 3 Piccadilly Place, Manchester, M1 3BN, United Kingdom
axisreimbursement.com
+353 (1) 529 2768; +447768740344
info@axisreimbursement.com