

Delayed Discharges in NHSScotland

Figures for December 2016



Publication Date – 14 February 2017

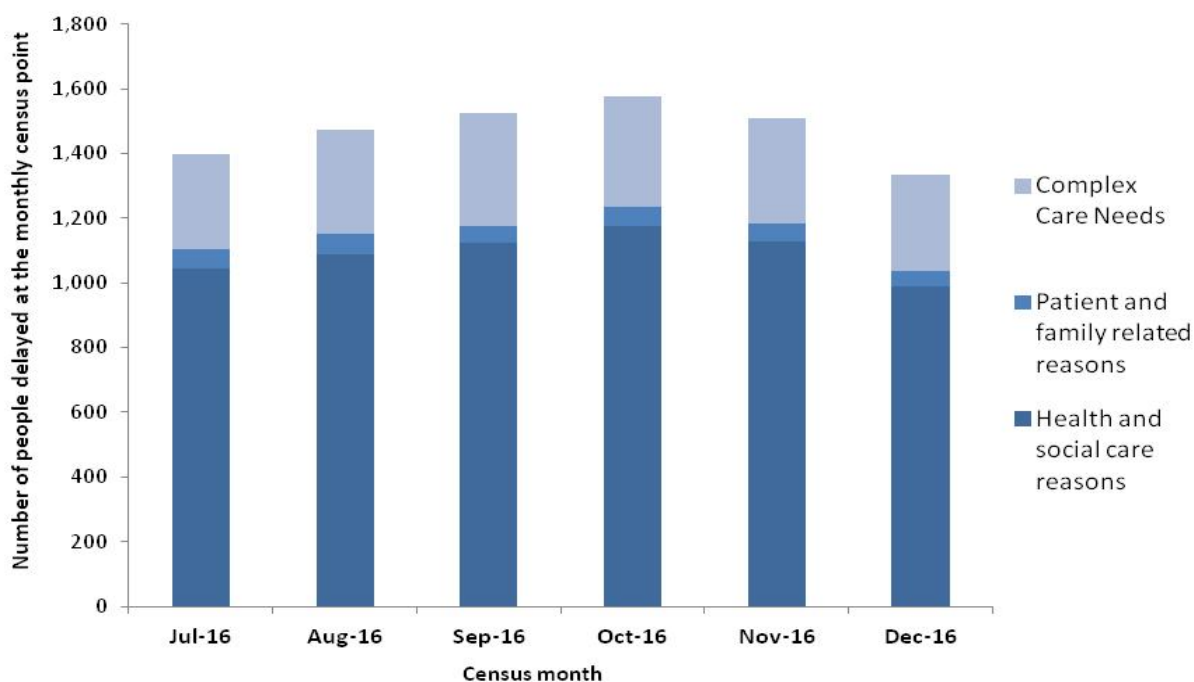
About this release

Every month, Information Services Division publishes details of the number of hospital bed days associated with delayed discharges for a full calendar month. Information is also provided on the number of people experiencing a delay in discharge from hospital at the monthly census point. The data relates to patients aged 18 and over.

Main Points

- In December 2016, 45,067 days were spent in hospital by people delayed in their discharge.
- There were 1,333 people delayed at the December 2016 census. Of these:
 - 69% were aged 75 and over.
 - 22% people had specific complex care needs.
 - 13% were awaiting completion of a post hospital social care assessment.
 - 24% were awaiting completion of arrangements for social care support (e.g. carer) in order to live in their own home.
 - 24% were awaiting place availability in a care home.

Delayed Discharges - Reason for delay at census in Scotland, Ages 18 and over



Background

Timely discharge from hospital is an important indicator of quality and is a marker for person centred, effective, integrated and harm free care. A delayed discharge is a hospital patient who is clinically ready for discharge from inpatient hospital care but continues to occupy a hospital bed beyond the ready for discharge date.

[New data definitions](#) and [national data requirements](#) came into effect on 1 July 2016. These align census information and associated bed days and ensure more robust and consistent reporting across Scotland.

Information published in reports prior to July 2016 data cannot be used in direct comparison to currently published figures.

The census figure reflects the position as at the last Thursday of the month with effect from July 2016.

To support the reporting of the new 72-hour indicator, a key change from July 2016 was the removal of the three day discharge rule for census delays. This was introduced in 2006. The impact of this and other changes are explained in a [technical document](#) which also describes the reporting of figures, including trend information, which were agreed in consultation with our stakeholders. [Responses](#) to this consultation can be found on our website.

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Further Information

[Data tables](#) for this publication are available along with relevant [background information](#), [glossary](#) and [metadata](#) documents. For more information on delayed discharges see the [delayed discharges section of our website](#). For related topics, please see the [health and social community care](#) pages.

The next release of this publication will be 7 March 2017.

NHS Performs

A selection of information from this publication is included in [NHS Performs](#). NHS Performs is a website that brings together a range of information on how hospitals and NHS Boards within NHSScotland are performing.

ISD and Official Stats

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. [Further information about our statistics](#).