

# Delayed Discharges in NHSScotland

Figures for February 2017



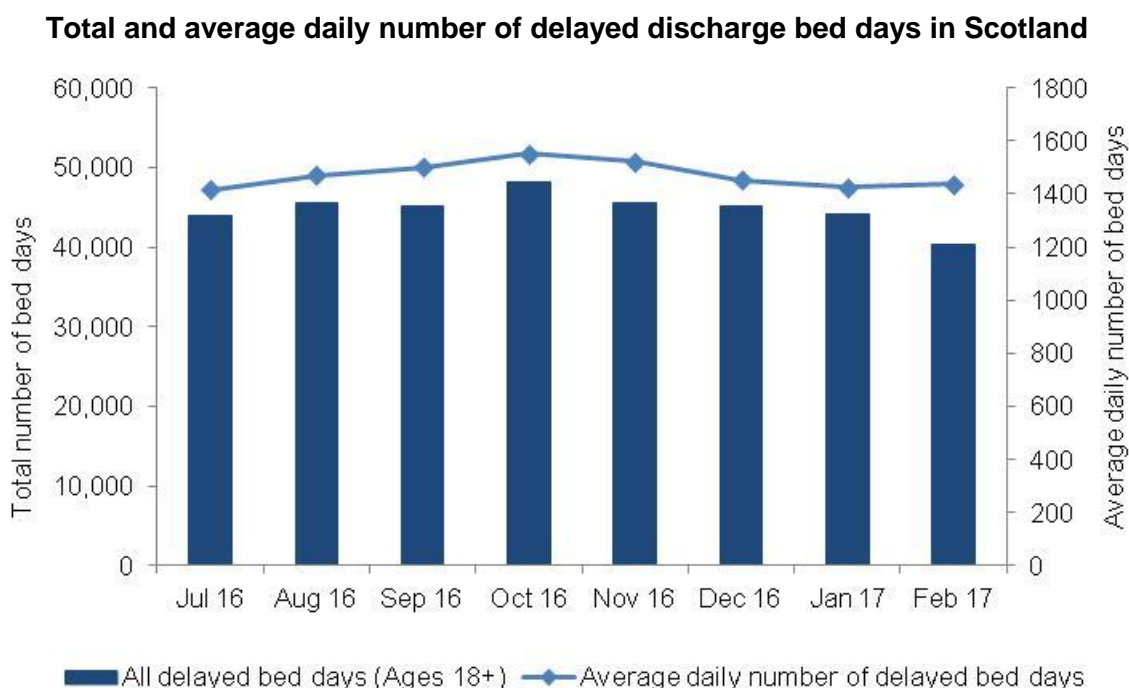
Publication Date – 04 April 2017

## 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 people aged 18 and over.

## Main Points

- In February 2017, 40,246 days were spent in hospital by people delayed in their discharge.
  - The number of bed days occupied by delayed discharges has fallen gradually since October 2016.
  - While there was a fall in bed days in February, this is largely due to the fact that February has fewer days than January.
  - The average daily number of bed days occupied by delayed discharges in February was 1,437, compared with 1,427 in January.



- At the February 2017 census, there were 1,439 people delayed. Of these, 834 (58%) were delayed more than three days for health and social care reasons.

## 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.

The impact of the definitional changes is 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.

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.

It should be noted that figures presented in this publication are not directly comparable with other UK countries, due to differences in definitions and data reporting.

## Contact

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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 2 May 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.

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## 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](#).