

# Publication Summary



## Delayed Discharges in NHSScotland

### Occupied Bed Days in July 2015 and Census Figures for August 2015

Publication date – 22 September 2015



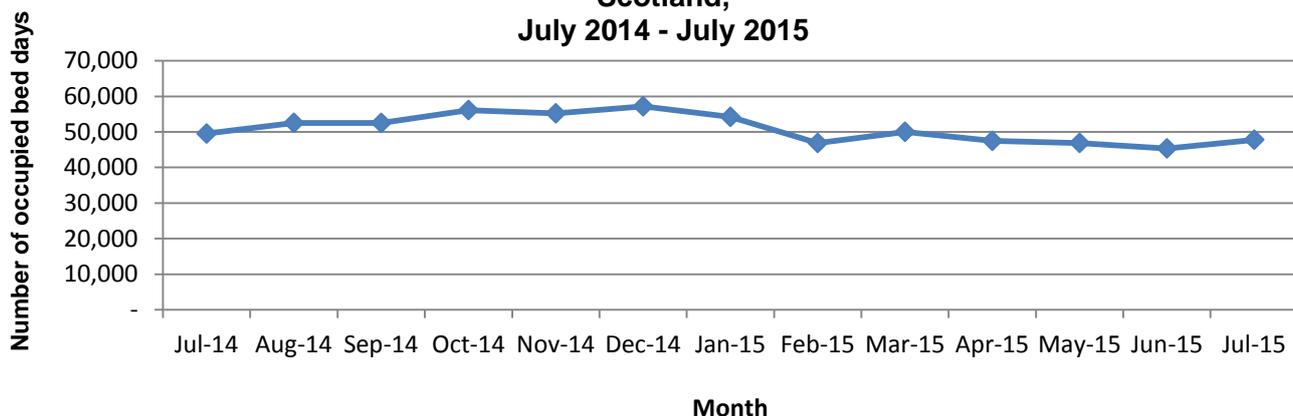
### About this Release

Information Services Division (ISD) publish on a monthly basis the number of NHSScotland patients who were judged to be clinically ready for discharge but who remained in a hospital bed (Delayed Discharges). This publication reports on the number of patients classified as a delayed discharge at the August 2015 census **and** the number of hospital bed days associated with delayed discharges in July 2015.

### Hospital Bed Days associated with delays in discharge in July 2015

- In July 2015, there were 47,797 days spent in hospital associated with delays in discharge; this is a 5% increase on the previous month (45,356). This increase in part reflects a change in data recording practice by NHS Lanarkshire. Excluding NHS Lanarkshire, the number of bed days occupied by delayed discharges increased by 1% on the previous month.
- Nationally, 1 in 5 of these bed days are for patients with specific complex care needs; this varies significantly by NHS Board.

**Number of Occupied Bed Days by Delayed Discharge Patients in Scotland, July 2014 - July 2015**



### Patients ready for discharge as at August 2015 census

- 1,188 patients were delayed at the August 2015 census. This is a 6% increase on the previous month (1,124). Around one quarter of these delays (309) are for patients with specific complex care needs. The remaining 879 were standard delays.

- At the census point, there were 481 patients who were delayed over two weeks. Although this is a 10% reduction on the corresponding period a year ago, this number has been rising since April 2015.
- The main reasons for these delays were:
  - 44% (212) awaiting place availability in a care home
  - 37% (176) waiting to go home
  - 11% (52) awaiting a community care assessment

## Background

ISD publishes information on delayed discharges to support local partnerships in the arrangements they make for the patient's timely, appropriate and safe transfer to the next stage of care.

The Scottish Government has legislated for the integration of health and social care through the [Public Bodies \(Joint Working\) \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#). Underpinning this legislation are nine [health and wellbeing outcomes](#). To measure achievement against these national outcomes a [core suite of integration indicators](#) have also been developed. There are two that relate directly to delayed discharges and include:

- Number of days people spend in hospital when they are ready to be discharged.
- Percentage of people who are discharged from hospital within 72 hours of being ready.

Information to support the above indicators is not yet available but will feature on the [NHS Performs](#) web pages in the future.

## Contact

**Lisa Reddie**  
Principal Information Analyst  
0131 275 6117

**Deanna Campbell**  
Senior Information Analyst  
0141 282 2338

Email: [nss.delayedischarges@nhs.net](mailto:nss.delayedischarges@nhs.net)

## Further Information

All of our published information on Delayed Discharges is available on the [ISD website](#). This includes all the statistics in this report for NHSScotland, NHS Board and Local Authority in downloadable data tables.

[Background information with a glossary](#) and [metadata](#) are also available for this publication.

### About Information Services Division (ISD)

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

ISD is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

### Official Statistics

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. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD. Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#) [www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/)