

Delayed Discharges in NHSScotland

Figures for July 2016



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About this release

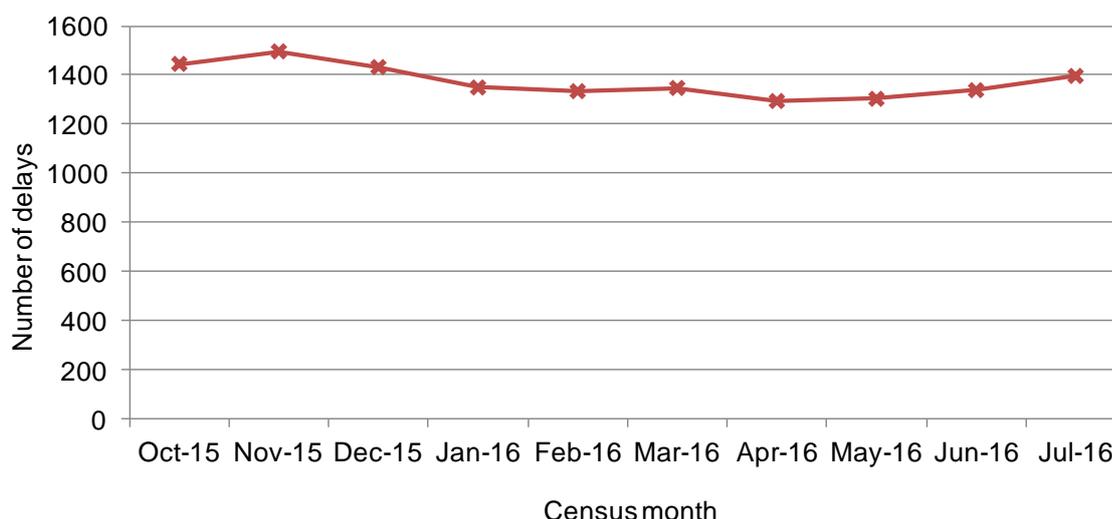
Information Services Division publish on a monthly basis the number of hospital bed days associated with delayed discharges for a full calendar month, and the number of patients classified as a delayed discharge at the monthly census.

This is the first publication under the new data definitions and national data requirements which came into effect on 1 July 2016. The revised definitions ensure improved data quality and alignment of census information and associated bed days. This provides more robust and consistent reporting across Scotland.

Main Points

- In July 2016, patients spent 43,919 days in hospital due to delays in discharge.
- There were 1,396 patients delayed at the July 2016 census. This is a 4% increase on the previous month.

Number of delayed discharges at each monthly census with the revised definitions applied; October 2015 – July 2016



- 292 (21%) of these delays were for patients with specific complex care needs.
- Of the remaining 1,104 patients delayed at the census:
 - 328 (30%) were awaiting completion of arrangements for social care support (e.g. carer) in order to live in their own home
 - 320 (29%) were awaiting place availability in a care home
 - 192 (17%) were awaiting completion of a post hospital social care assessment

Background

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

Under the [revised data definitions](#) and [national data requirements](#) (effective 1 July 2016) partnerships are required to undertake data quality and validation checks. This supports accurate reporting of information on delays both locally and nationally.

In order to support the reporting of the new 72 hour indicator a key definitional change is the removal of the three day discharge rule for census delays which 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.

Information published in previous reports cannot be used in direct comparison to currently published figures:

- In order to allow census trend information revised definitions have been applied to previous census data from October 2015 to June 2016.
- It is not possible to provide Scotland level bed day trend information because the number of bed days occupied by patients delayed due to healthcare reasons, and those in non hospital locations, is not known for historic data. It is estimated that this would account for a reduction of around 4% of bed days across previous months.

The monthly census date from July 2016 reflects the position as at the last Thursday of the month.

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Further Information

The data from this publication is available to [download](#), 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 11 October 2016.

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](#).