

Delayed Discharges in NHSScotland

Figures for March 2017



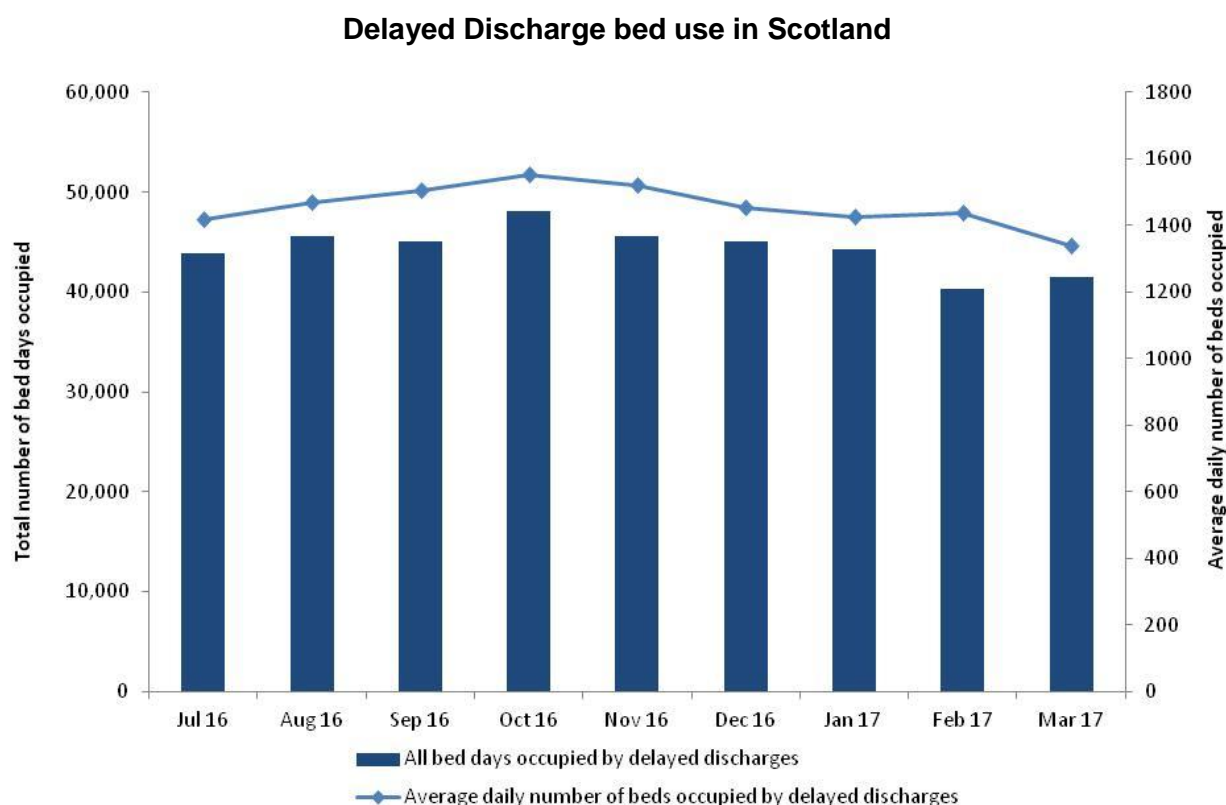
Publication Date – 02 May 2017

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 March 2017, 41,493 days were spent in hospital by people whose discharge was delayed.
- This is equivalent to an average of 1,338 beds occupied per day in March 2017. In February, the daily average was 1,437.



- At the March 2017 census point, there were 1,339 people delayed.
- Of these, 1,089 were delayed more than three days. The most common reason for delays over three days was health and social care reasons (776), followed by complex needs (266) then patient and family-related reasons (47).

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.

The average daily number of beds occupied is calculated by dividing the total monthly number of delayed discharge bed days by the number of days in the calendar month. ISD considers this daily average a better statistic for comparing month on month differences when months vary in the number of days.

[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.

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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 6 June 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](#).