

# Quarterly Acute Hospital Activity and NHS Beds Information for Scotland

Quarter ending December 2016

Publication Date – 28 March 2017



---

## About this release

The Information Services Division has updated a range of statistics on different aspects of hospital care, sourced from hospital administration systems across Scotland. These include information on trends in outpatient, inpatient and day case activity, and bed statistics.

## Main points

### Outpatients

- There were 1,029,730 total outpatient attendances in the quarter ending December 2016, a slight decrease on the quarter ending December 2015 (1,091,724), with an 11.4% increase in the last five years.
- Of the total outpatient attendances, there were 356,257 new attendances and 673,473 follow-up attendances.
- Less than one in ten patients did not attend their first outpatient appointment, which is a slight reduction compared to the same quarter in 2015.

### Inpatient and day case discharges

- In total there were 401,412 acute inpatient, day case episodes of care and transfers recorded in the quarter ending December 2016. This is a decrease of 3.2 % from 414,592 in quarter ending December 2015.
- Driven by changes in recording practices and service redesign to the emergency care services in some NHS Boards the number of transfers have increased by 1.3% to 104,518 episodes compared to the quarter ending December 2015.

### Bed statistics

There were on average 15,495 available staffed beds for all acute specialties in December 2016. This is a decrease of 0.7% since the quarter ending December 2015.

**Known Data Issues:** NHS Forth Valley figures have been resubmitted since the March 2017 publication due to data errors, which has resulted in a slight impact (around 1% difference) at NHSScotland level. The revised figures will be reflected in the June 2017 publication.

## Background

Outpatient attendances are categorised as new or follow-up (return) attendances. Less complex operations may also be undertaken in an outpatient setting.

Inpatients refers to people who are admitted and either remain in hospital overnight or are expected to remain overnight but are discharged earlier.

Day cases refer to episodes where a person makes a planned admission to an available staffed bed in a hospital for clinical care, and requires the use of a bed (or trolley in lieu of a bed). For the purposes of national data, a day case episode refers to a patient who is admitted as a day case and is discharged on the same day as planned.

Available staffed beds is the number of bed days available for inpatient or day case care over a period of time.

A transfer is where a patient will already have been admitted to hospital and is either transferred between specialties or hospital, and will be part of the same continuous inpatient stay.

## Contact

### Secondary Care Team inbox

[NSS.isdSCT@nhs.net](mailto:NSS.isdSCT@nhs.net)

### Sophie David

Principal Information Analyst

[sophie.david@nhs.net](mailto:sophie.david@nhs.net)

0131 275 6190

### Salomi Barkat

Senior Information Analyst

[salomi.barkat@nhs.net](mailto:salomi.barkat@nhs.net)

0131 275 7871

## Find out more

More information is available on the [Acute Hospital Activity](#) web pages.

Further information can also be found in the accompanying [Acute Activity Quarterly Report](#) published today.

## 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 Statistics

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. [Find out more about our statistics.](#)