National Statistics status means that the official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. They are identified by the quality mark shown above.

The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics, it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

The statistics last underwent a full assessment by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) against the Code of Practice in September 2011. The OSR is the regulatory arm of the UK Statistics Authority.

Find out more about the Code of Practice at:

Find out more about National Statistics at:
**Metadata Indicator** | **Description**
---|---
Publication title | Delayed Discharges in NHSScotland
Description | This publication provides monthly information on the number of bed days occupied by delayed discharge patients and the latest census snapshot position of hospital inpatients who are clinically ready for discharge from hospital but whose discharge has been delayed. Figures are shown for Scotland, NHS Board area of treatment and Local Authority of residence for people aged 18 and over.
Theme | Health and Social Care
Topic | Delayed Discharges
Format | PDF and Excel
Data source(s) | Information Services Division (ISD) - Delayed Discharge monthly data submission.
Date that data are acquired | The number of people delayed as at a monthly census snapshot taken on the last Thursday of the month.
The number of bed days occupied by people delayed in their discharge from hospital in the calendar month of the census.
Release date | 04 February 2020
Frequency | Monthly
Timeframe of data and timeliness | Data are available for publication within six to eight weeks of the census month.
Continuity of data | NHS Boards submit delayed discharge information to ISD for national reporting purposes.
Some NHS Boards used the EDISON system to record people delayed in their discharge from hospital. During 2018 EDISON was retired and affected Boards migrated to their own local system solutions. NHS Boards are still required to report on delayed discharges as specified in the [data definitions](#) and [national reporting requirements](#) effective 1 July 2016, therefore figures remain comparable and we do not expect any reduction in the quality of the data.
Revised [data definitions manual](#) and [national data requirements](#) were effective 1 July 2016. For detailed changes to the definitions since 2005, see page 2 of the latest Delayed Discharge Definitions Manual effective 1 July 2016 and a [summary](#) of changes and impact on national reporting. Limited trend information is available
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Revisions statement</strong></th>
<th>Figures contained within each publication may also be subject to change in future publications. See ISD Statistical Revisions Policy.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revisions relevant to this publication</strong></td>
<td>This publication has no revisions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concepts and definitions</strong></td>
<td>The delayed discharge data definitions manual (effective from 1 July 2016), national data requirements (effective 1 July 2016) and a summary of ISD validation checks are published at <a href="http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Health-and-Social-Community-Care/Delayed-Discharges/Guidelines/">http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Health-and-Social-Community-Care/Delayed-Discharges/Guidelines/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relevance and key uses of the statistics</strong></td>
<td>Key uses of delayed discharge information include monitoring policy obligations both locally and nationally, helping to troubleshoot in partnership areas with specific problems, facilitating benchmarking with other areas, identifying the potential release of resources to focus on more appropriate care and providing useful dialogue between health and social care agencies. Delayed discharge information is also used to respond to information requests (including FOI requests) from a variety of customers and parliamentary questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accuracy</strong></td>
<td>The data are considered accurate. Data are validated locally by partnerships. ISD carry out further validation checks in consultation with NHS Boards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Completeness</strong></td>
<td>100% of the data is used for analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comparability</strong></td>
<td>Data are not comparable out with Scotland. Limited trend information is available pre and post July 2016 due to the definitional changes effective from 1 July 2016. Relevant notes have been added to the published tables to explain this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accessibility</strong></td>
<td>It is the policy of ISD Scotland to make its web sites and products accessible according to published guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coherence and clarity</strong></td>
<td>All delayed discharge reports are accessible via the ISD website. Tables and charts are presented within an interactive Excel workbook with drop down boxes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Value type and unit of measurement</strong></td>
<td>Number of delays by length and reason at the census point. Number of bed days occupied by delayed patients in a calendar month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disclosure</strong></td>
<td>The ISD protocol on Statistical Disclosure Protocol is followed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Official Statistics designation</strong></td>
<td>National Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UK Statistics Authority Assessment</strong></td>
<td>The statistics last underwent a full <a href="#">assessment</a> by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) against the Code of Practice in September 2011.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last published</td>
<td>14 January 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next published</td>
<td>3 March 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Date of first publication** | Historic quarterly data published from December 2000  
Monthly data published from June 2015  
First annual publication in June 2016 |
| Help email | [nss.delayeddischarges@nhs.net](mailto:nss.delayeddischarges@nhs.net) |
| Date form completed | 16 January 2020 |
Early Access details (including Pre-Release Access)

Pre-Release Access

Under terms of the "Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008", ISD are obliged to publish information on those receiving Pre-Release Access ("Pre-Release Access" refers to statistics in their final form prior to publication). The standard maximum Pre-Release Access is five working days. Shown below are details of those receiving standard Pre-Release Access.

Standard Pre-Release Access:

- Scottish Government Health Department
- NHS Board Chief Executives
- NHS Board Communication leads
- Chief Officers of Integrated Joint Boards formed under the <a href='https://www.scottishgovernment.gov.uk/publications/public-bodies-joint-working-scotland-act-2014/'>Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014</a>

Early Access for Management Information

These statistics will also have been made available to those who needed access to ‘management information’, i.e. as part of the delivery of health and care:

Early Access for Quality Assurance

These statistics will also have been made available to those who needed access to help quality assure the publication:

Delayed Discharge Policy Manager within the Primary & Community Care Directorate, Partnership Improvement & Outcomes Division at Scottish Government.
Information Services Division (ISD) and Official Statistics

About 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.

Information Services Division (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 and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

Purpose: To deliver effective national and specialist intelligence services to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Scotland.

Mission: Better Information, Better Decisions, Better Health

Vision: To be a valued partner in improving health and wellbeing in Scotland by providing a world class intelligence service.

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. 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.

ISD’s statistical publications are currently classified as one of the following:

- National Statistics (ie assessed by the UK Statistics Authority as complying with the Code of Practice)
- National Statistics (ie legacy, still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- Official Statistics (ie still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- other (not Official Statistics)

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.

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.