

Date 4 September 2026
Your Ref
Our Ref 11823

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
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Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – DELAYED DISCHARGE

I write in response to your request for information in relation to delayed discharge.

Question:

- Of those patients who experienced delayed discharge and were discharged in (i) 2024/25, and (ii) 2025/26, how many were delayed due to health and social care reasons for (a) 1-3 months, (b) 3-6 months (c) 6-9 months, (d) 9-12 months, (e) 12-18 months, (f) 18-24 months, and (g) over 24 months?

Answer:

Total time in delay	2024/25	2025/26
>=1 and <3 months	591	453
>=3 and <6 months	130	67
>=6 and <9 months	19	22
>=9 and <12 months	5<	5<
>=12 and <18 months	5<	0
>=18 and <24 months	0	0
>=24 months	5<	0

Question:

- What was the longest any patient discharged in (i) 2024/25, and (ii) 2025/26 was delayed due to a delayed discharge based on health and social care reasons? What proportion of this delay was attributed to each of (a) assessment, (b) funding, (c) place availability, (d) care arrangements and (e) transport?

Answer:

To protect patient confidentiality, we are unable to provide information about an individual patient's time in delay. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

Question:

3. Of those patients currently experiencing delayed discharge due to health and social care reasons, how many have been delayed for (a) 1-3 months, (b) 3-6 months (c) 6-9 months, (d) 9-12 months, (e) 12-18 months, (f) 18-24 months, and (g) over 24 months?

Answer:

Total time in delay	Number of patients
>=1 and <3 months	32
>=3 and <6 months	12
>=6 and <9 months	0
>=9 and <12 months	0
>=12 and <18 months	5<
>=18 and <24 months	0
>=24 months	5<

To protect the identity of the individuals involved any figure of 5 or less has not been shown in the tables above. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

Question:

4. What is the longest any patient currently experiencing delayed discharge due to health and social care reasons has been delayed? What proportion of this delay is attributable to each of (a) assessment, (b) funding, (c) place availability, (d) care arrangements and (e) transport?

Answer:

To protect patient confidentiality, we are unable to provide information about an individual patient's time in delay. Since we do not have their consent to release this data from their records, the information is exempt under section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act i.e. to provide it would breach the Data Protection Act (2018).

Notes:

1. Health and social care delays defined using the following codes:

11A, 11B, 23C, 23D, 24A, 24B, 24C, 24D, 24E, 24F, 25A, 25D, 25E, 25F, 27A, 44, 51, 52, 61, 67, 71, 72, 73, 74

2. Time in delay calculated as the total time in delay for health and social care reasons during the whole inpatient episode

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhslothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive