

**STATISTICAL PRESS NOTICE**  
**MONTHLY DELAYED TRANSFERS OF CARE DATA, ENGLAND, MARCH**

**Main Findings – MARCH 2015:**

**Delayed Transfers of Care**

- There were 4,946 patients delayed at midnight on the last Thursday of the month, of which 3,215 were acute patients.
- There were 140,307 total delayed days during the month, of which 91,441 were acute. 65.2% of all delays were attributable to the NHS, 26.9% were attributable to Social Care and the remaining 7.9% were attributable to both NHS and Social Care.
- The proportion of delays occurring in an acute care setting has increased to 65.2% in March 2015, compared to 64.1% in March 2014.
- The main reason for NHS delays was “patients awaiting further non-acute NHS care”, which accounted for 30.2% of all NHS delays. The main reason for Social Care delays was “patients awaiting care package in their own home”, which accounted for 29.8% of all Social Care delays. Where both the NHS and Social Care are attributable, the major reason for delay was also “patients awaiting care package in their own home”. This accounted for 36.0% of delays attributed to both NHS and Social Care.
- Data was revised for the period April 2014 to February 2015. These revisions caused some small changes in the total number of delays reported nationally.

Table 1 shows information on delayed transfers of care from March 2012 to March 2015.

Table 2 shows the number of delayed transfers of care by type of care, reason for delay and responsible organisation for March 2015.

Table 3 shows the changes caused by revisions from April 2014 to February 2015

Details of delayed transfers of care data for individual organisations are available at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/delayed-transfers-of-care/dtoc-data-2014-15/>

**Table 1 –Delayed Transfers of Care – March 2012 to March 2015**

Month	Delayed Transfers of Care	
	Patients Delayed	Total Days Delayed
March 2012	4,028	119,736
April 2012	3,954	108,482
May 2012	3,857	119,331
June 2012	4,086	110,348
July 2012	4,031	117,200
August 2012	3,961	120,094
September 2012	4,102	114,264
October 2012	4,115	116,881
November 2012	3,894	116,169
December 2012	3,448	107,652
January 2013	4,188	125,716
February 2013	4,007	109,180
March 2013	4,053	115,158
April 2013	4,046	113,297
May 2013	4,184	120,550
June 2013	3,888	112,984
July 2013	3,961	111,951
August 2013	4,084	122,337
September 2013	4,231	118,864
October 2013	4,147	123,852
November 2013	4,200	116,932
December 2013	3,649	112,629
January 2014	4,221	124,289
February 2014	4,276	112,845
March 2014	4,327	123,061
April 2014	4,207	116,261
May 2014	4,516	126,779
June 2014	4,363	124,118
July 2014	4,612	133,903
August 2014	4,704	137,613
September 2014	4,960	138,267
October 2014	4,930	142,927
November 2014	5,063	140,949
December 2014	4,475	139,025
January 2015	5,221	150,413
February 2015	4,946	134,458
March 2015	4,946	140,307

Notes:

1. A change from weekly to monthly data in Aug-10 led to data quality issues with the first few months of delayed transfers of care data in the monthly collection.
2. Information on the numbers of people delayed on the last Thursday of the reporting period and the total number of Delayed Days are not directly comparable because the first is a 'snapshot' and the second a cumulative total.

**Table 2 – Delayed Transfers of Care by Type of Care, Reason for Delay and Responsible Organisation – March 2015**

Type of Care	Reason For Delay	Patients Delayed			Total Days Delayed		
		NHS	Social Care	Both	NHS	Social Care	Both
Acute	A) Awaiting completion of assessment	458	160	79	12,589	3,737	2,384
	B) Awaiting public funding	47	10	6	1,384	415	149
	C) Awaiting further non-acute NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc)	818	NA	NA	23,926	NA	NA
	Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	222	98	46	6,453	2,763	896
	Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	90	109	NA	2,932	3,501	NA
	E) Awaiting care package in own home	161	226	83	4,043	6,336	2,629
	F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	70	10	8	2,110	235	178
	G) Patient or family choice	406	30	NA	12,104	667	NA
	H) Disputes	31	2	NA	910	53	NA
	I) Housing – patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	45	NA	NA	1,047	NA	NA
Non-Acute	A) Awaiting completion of assessment	130	107	41	3,334	2,872	1,059
	B) Awaiting public funding	36	41	30	1,208	1,258	859
	C) Awaiting further non-acute NHS care (including intermediate care, rehabilitation services etc)	128	NA	NA	3,666	NA	NA
	Dii) Awaiting nursing home placement or availability	107	113	50	3,216	3,495	1,484
	Di) Awaiting residential home placement or availability	117	196	NA	3,337	5,727	NA
	E) Awaiting care package in own home	69	189	50	1,857	4,899	1,375
	F) Awaiting community equipment and adaptations	30	11	2	697	278	117
	G) Patient or family choice	145	39	NA	3,762	1,159	NA
	H) Disputes	14	10	NA	497	291	NA
	I) Housing – patients not covered by NHS and Community Care Act	76	NA	NA	2,419	NA	NA

Notes:

1. NA means the combination of reason and responsible organisation is not permitted.
2. Information on the numbers of people delayed on the last Thursday of the reporting period and the total number of Delayed Days are not directly comparable because the first is a 'snapshot' and the second a cumulative total.

**Table 3 – Revisions to Delayed Transfers of Care April 2014 – February 2015**

Month	Patients Delayed		Total Delayed Days	
	Previous	Revised	Previous	Revised
April 2014	4,212	4,207	116,278	116,261
May 2014	4,520	4,516	126,854	126,779
June 2014	4,378	4,363	124,124	124,118
July 2014	4,618	4,612	133,724	133,903
August 2014	4,709	4,704	137,954	137,613
September 2014	4,966	4,960	138,068	138,267
October 2014	4,936	4,930	143,118	142,927
November 2014	5,026	5,063	139,658	140,949
December 2014	4,480	4,475	139,156	139,025
January 2015	5,246	5,221	151,093	150,413
February 2015	4,949	4,946	134,508	134,458

## **Statistical Notes to Editors**

### **1. Delayed Transfers of Care data**

A delayed transfer of care occurs when a patient is medically fit for discharge from acute or non-acute care and is still occupying a bed. For a more detailed definition please read the guidance on NHS England's website at:  
<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/delayed-transfers-of-care/>

Data on the number of patients with a delayed transfers of care is a monthly snapshot taken at midnight on the last Thursday of each month and can fluctuate from month to month. Data on the number of delayed days is a cumulative figure for the month and therefore, the two are not comparable.

Data on delayed transfers of care is collected from providers of NHS funded care and is split by:

- Local Authority that is responsible for each patient delayed
- Agency responsible for delay (NHS, Social Services or both)
- Type of care that the patient receives (acute or non-acute)
- Reason for delay

A detailed breakdown of the data can be found on NHS England's website in CSV format at:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/delayed-transfers-of-care/delayed-transfers-of-care-data-2014-15/>

### **2. Trust and Local Authority level data**

Delayed transfers of care data covers NHS patients in English Hospitals, who may or may not reside in England and is published on both a trust and Local Authority basis.

Trust level reflects data at organisation level for those organisations that provide NHS funded care, for example acute Trusts, community providers, mental health trusts and Social Enterprise organisations.

Local Authority data reflects data on a regional population basis, i.e. Councils with Adult Social Services Responsibility (CASSRs) that are responsible for all patients who reside in their region.

### **3. Data Quality**

Monthly delayed transfers of care data has been collected and published since August 2010. Prior to August 2010, data was collected weekly and was un-validated management information.

Delayed transfers of care data published during the early months of the collection from August 2010 to October 2010 should be treated with a degree of caution as a change from a weekly to a monthly data collection led to data quality issues. Since October 2010, there has been a significant improvement in the coverage and accuracy of this data.

#### **4. Data Availability**

Delayed Transfers of Care data is published approximately 3 – 4 weeks after the end of the reference period. The next publication of this report and accompanying data will be 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015.

#### **5. Revisions**

Revisions to previous month's data are made in line with NHS England's revisions protocol for performance monitoring data. Future revisions will be made on a six monthly cycle. The revisions protocol can be found here:

<http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/code-compliance/#Unifypolicy>

#### **6. Feedback Welcomed**

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of Delayed Transfers of Care statistics within this Statistical Press Notice and those published on NHS England's website. Please email any comments on this, or any other issues regarding the SitReps data and statistics, to: [unify2@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:unify2@dh.gsi.gov.uk)

#### **Additional Information**

For press enquiries please contact the NHS England media team on 0113 825 0958 or 0113 8250959. Emails enquiries should be sent to: [nhsengland.media@nhs.net](mailto:nhsengland.media@nhs.net)

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) statistician responsible for producing these data is:

Chris Gibbins  
NHS Operations  
NHS England  
Room 5E24, Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds LS2 7UE  
For data queries, email: [unify2@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:unify2@dh.gsi.gov.uk)